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ottawa local  
immigration partnership

partenariat local  
pour l'immigration d'ottawa

# Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership

*Planning together for a more prosperous, vibrant, and inclusive Ottawa, strengthened by the contribution of immigrants*

# OLIP Overview

## About OLIP

We are a multi-sectoral partnership of 60 local organizations across five sectors working together to build capacity in the attraction, settlement, and integration of immigrants. Common vision and shared priorities guide partners' collaborative planning across sectors. A flexible and supportive governance model connects the partners and facilitates the co-designing of impactful solutions. OLIP partners work in five sectors: i) settlement; ii) language training; v) education; iii) economic development; iv) health & wellbeing;

## Impact of Covid-19 in 2020:

1. Immigrant arrivals in Ottawa decreased by 33%
2. Over-representation in essential jobs combined with poor housing conditions expose immigrants to a disproportionately high risks of COVID infection. OPH data showed that 63% of COVID positive population in Ottawa are racialized - 80% of these are immigrants.

# OLIP Rebound Opportunity

## Priorities:

1. Strengthening Ottawa's attraction of immigrants, including facilitating transition of temporary residents (temporary foreign workers and international students) to permanent status
2. Improving the economic integration of immigrant
3. Improving the working conditions of the large number of immigrants working in essential jobs across sectors

## Challenges:

1. COVID exacerbated barriers facing small, immigrant-owned businesses
2. Unemployment & under-employment → loss of major human capital and potential boost to Ottawa's economy
3. Immigrant youth unemployment requires a strategy and major investment

## Opportunities:

1. Municipal nominee program and the possibility for Ottawa to pilot implementation of this new policy
2. Growing skills gaps in multiple sectors peg an innovation for how skills demand meets immigrants' talent
3. Growing public consciousness of systemic racism demands transformative policies and strategies for equitable access to economic opportunities

# OLIP's Recommendations for Ottawa's Economic Rebound Strategy

- Work with OLIP to position Ottawa as pilot city to test the federal government's Municipal Nominee Program
- Create infrastructure for inclusive economic development planning:
  - local disaggregated employment and business development data
  - cross sectoral talent strategy to leverage immigrants' human capital in multiple sectors
  - Targeted and multi-faceted plans for supporting immigrant-owned small businesses to retool for functioning during and after the COVID pandemic (Note 1 in 3 businesses in Canada owned by an immigrant)
  - Adopt supplier diversity policy and action plan; and build the capacity of immigrant businesses to equitably compete for City contracts
- Advocate with the Ontario government to introduce paid sick leave for essential workers
- Advocate with the Ontario government to recognize the credentials of immigrant medical professionals
- Institute *community benefit agreements* in large infrastructure projects
- Invest (in 2021 budget) in the creation of economic opportunities for families living in low income neighborhoods, including micro-entrepreneurship programs, free internet access, suitable housing for large families, increased transportation lines.

# NOTES

## Municipal Nominee Program

The Municipal Nominee Program (MNP) is a regional economic immigration program for local communities to directly sponsor permanent immigrants to move to their community. Sponsorship is to be employer-driven to fill local labour needs. Federal Government introduced the MNP as a newcomer recruitment policy program in late 2019. *(Note it is not yet confirmed that MNP will be implemented as a priority program in fulfilling Canada's immigration levels plan)*

## Community Benefits Agreement

CBA is a legally binding agreement between project developers and/or public institutions and a legally constituted coalition of community groups, aiming to ensure that infrastructure developments lead to long-term community benefits. In the context of this document, OLIP is recommending that the City of Ottawa attach CBAs to current and upcoming infrastructure developments in Ottawa.

## Credential Recognition for Immigrant Health Professionals (IHPs)

There is a large number of under-employed immigrant health professionals in Ottawa; and at the same time, there is a shortage of family doctors and health professionals, which has been exacerbated by the rise in COVID cases in Ottawa and Ontario. Many countries (Argentina, Canada in some provinces, France, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, United States) have removed barriers to credentials recognition to meet the increasing demand for health professionals.