

BARRIERS TO HOUSING FOR IMMIGRANTS IN GUELPH-WELLINGTON



November 2019 | Full report available: www.guelphwellingtonlip.ca

Finding suitable, adequate, and affordable housing is difficult for some immigrants in Guelph-Wellington

Primary barriers to finding housing in Guelph-Wellington, according to immigrant survey participants

LANGUAGE

86% of those with poor or moderate English language skills reported that finding housing was difficult

LOW-INCOME

Low-income immigrants are more likely to live in unaffordable and overcrowded housing that requires repairs, compared to other immigrants.



LENGTH OF TIME

79% of those arriving in Canada within the last five years stated that finding housing was difficult

HOUSING PRICES



67% had difficulty finding affordable housing

DISCRIMINATION

24% reported experiencing discrimination during their housing search based on their race, gender, language, income source and/or immigration status

Guelph-Wellington is a desirable place to live for immigrants

Main reasons immigrant survey participants settled in Guelph-Wellington:



Education



Economic opportunities



Join friends & family



Quality of life

Securing housing is challenging for some immigrants in Guelph-Wellington

Even if suitable, adequate, and affordable housing is found, immigrants can face unique barriers in securing it

33%

of those applying for a mortgage reported they were turned down due to lack of credit history.



84%

accessed informal supports to find housing. Only 25% accessed formal services.

Maintaining housing is challenging for some immigrants in Guelph-Wellington

Many immigrants in Guelph-Wellington experience challenges even after housing has been secured



21% of immigrant survey participants reported that their current housing situation is overcrowded

61% of immigrant survey participants reported spending more than 30% of their household income on shelter costs



RECOMMENDATIONS



Increase affordable housing supply and update overcrowding guidelines



Develop and strengthen informal supports through a Community Connections program



Improve collaboration between housing-specific service providers and settlement services



Increase awareness of immigrant-specific mortgage programs and rent guarantor programs



Provide housing orientation for immigrants and educate landlords renting to immigrants.

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