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

Funded by: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financé par : Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada