

Guelph-Wellington
Local Immigration
Partnership

**Executive Summary:
Understanding Newcomer Seniors
Needs, Challenges and Barriers to
Settlement**

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June 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objective

This literature review provides an overview of the needs, challenges, and barriers to newcomer settlement in Ontario as well as opportunities for improving these experiences related to their settlement and integration in Canada. The objective of this study is to increase our understanding of the diverse experiences of newcomer seniors in Ontario so that community partners can consider them when creating policies, practices, and programs.

Key Findings

1. Newcomer seniors in Ontario face a complex set of challenges, including linguistic difficulties, social isolation, inequitable access to healthcare, and labor market barriers, which are further aggravated by their age. This intersectionality intensifies their settlement and integration difficulties.
2. There is a significant gap in specialized services tailored to the unique needs of newcomer seniors. Existing research indicates a paucity of programs and policies that specifically address the diverse cultural and socioeconomic perspectives of this demographic group, highlighting the need for more targeted support.
3. The reluctance of some immigrant seniors, particularly older women, to seek available support services is a critical barrier. Overcoming this reluctance is essential to improving access to necessary services and facilitating better integration outcomes for newcomer seniors.

Recommendations

1. Implement targeted policies to ensure equitable healthcare access, focusing on culturally and linguistically appropriate services by hiring diverse staff, increasing funding, and expanding community programmes.
2. Encourage participation in social activities and community-based programs, including educational opportunities, vocational training, language acquisition, and cultural immersion, to enhance integration and social inclusion.
3. Develop tailored housing support programs for senior immigrants and improve public transportation infrastructure to increase accessibility to amenities, especially in rural areas.
4. Enhance access to language training and community-based workshops in native languages to facilitate labor market participation. Ensure adequate funding for successful outreach programs.
5. Improve cultural competency among settlement service providers and promote greater collaboration between provinces and municipalities to address unique cultural experiences and challenges.
6. Facilitate community involvement through volunteer opportunities and address employment challenges, including eligibility, language proficiency, and technical skills.

Conclusion

This review highlights the complex challenges and barriers faced by newcomer seniors in Ontario, including linguistic difficulties, social isolation, and inequitable access to healthcare. Existing research indicates a lack of specialized services for this demographic, emphasizing the need for policies and programmes that cater to diverse cultural and socioeconomic perspectives. Overcoming these challenges requires a holistic approach involving various stakeholders to ensure efficient and meaningful interventions. Creating an inclusive and supportive environment will also empower newcomer seniors to thrive and integrate seamlessly into Canadian society.



Funded by:

Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada