



2021 GRANDE PRAIRIE LOCAL IMMIGRATION ACTION PLAN

Towards Greater Immigrant Integration

ABSTRACT

This Action Plan is based on the 2021 Immigrant Survey and 2019 GPLIP Priorities document.

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2021 Grande Prairie Local Immigration Action Plan

Background

In 2019 The Grande Prairie Local Immigration Partnership (GPLIP) identified 6 priorities: housing, education/language, employment, health and wellness, settlement services, and inclusion in their work towards improving the integration of immigrants into the community.

Immigrants were invited to complete a survey to ensure these are the correct priorities and put them in order of priority, and to learn what other issues immigrants face in Grande Prairie. They were also invited to share how COVID-19 has affected them.

Results from the 2021 Immigrant Survey and the 2019 Priorities Document have informed the development of this Action Plan. Priorities have been reordered based on the Immigrant Survey results.

1. Housing
2. Employment
3. Health & Wellness
4. Education/Language
5. Inclusion*
6. Settlement Services
7. Communication* (added as a result of feedback from 2021 survey)

Step 1 – Share draft action plan items* with each of the sub-committees for endorsement and feedback – identify which organizations would be part of the Resources

Step 2 – Finalize action plan

Step 3 – Source funding

Step 4 – Update at each GPLIP meeting

2021 – 2023 Grande Prairie Local Immigration Partnership Action Plan

5. INCLUSION

Action Item	Success Indicator(s)*	Resources	Timeline
Create a newcomer support group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a mentor program for newcomers to partner with established immigrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Volunteers in the community with lived experience as newcomers take part in the mentorship of newcomers ✓ Host community members attend the events and has a better understanding of the newcomer experience ✓ Host community members develop compassion towards newcomers and some get more involved in newcomer integration programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone to develop, promote and deliver the program ▪ Locations to host connections ▪ Funding for above GP Public Library – conversation classes 	Years 1 & 2
Hold events where newcomers can share their stories with the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Newcomers take part in sharing their stories and report that they feel better understood ✓ Community members ✓ Host community members attend the events and has a better understanding of the newcomer experience ✓ Host community members develop compassion towards newcomers and some get more involved in newcomer integration programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone to develop, promote and deliver the events ▪ Location for the events ▪ Funding for above Heritage Day, Multicultural Day, etc. 	Year 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Host community members attend the events and has a better understanding of the newcomer experience ✓ Host community members develop compassion towards newcomers and some get more involved in newcomer integration programs 		
Host “Welcome to Grande Prairie” events in collaboration with The City of Grande Prairie, Chamber of Commerce and Neighbourhood Associations/Community Halls. Invite banks, realtors, accountants, lawyers, police, PCN, and other services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organizations in the community partner to host the events ✓ Newcomers attend the events and report learning more about the community that will help them integrate better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone to develop, promote and deliver the events ▪ Location for the events ▪ Funding for above <p>Welcoming Week in September</p>	Year 3
Host community cultural events in collaboration with local cultural groups – Multicultural Day, Heritage Day, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Host community members and newcomers attend the events and report learning more about each other and celebrate differences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone to develop, promote and deliver the events ▪ Location for the events (Muskoseepi Park?) ▪ Funding for above 	Year 3

7. COMMUNICATION

Action Item	Success Indicator(s)*	Resources	Timeline
Update GPLIP website: Have tabs for each of the priorities Update search on <i>Resources</i> page to include and clearly tie to the priorities list, for example there are a number of different topics to search for that could be rolled up into one priority:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased numbers of hits on the website ✓ Newcomers report being better able to find the information they are looking for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone to update the website ▪ Funding for above 	Year 1 Update in Years 2 & 3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing: Affordable Housing, Buying (what?), Emergency Shelters, Housing, Renting, Seniors Housing • Employment: Finding Work, Getting Ready to Work, Self Employment • Health and Wellness: Health and Medical, Support and Counselling, • Education/Language: ESL Linc (will people know what that is?) • Inclusion: Arts and Culture, Community Connections, Cultural Associations, Faith, Neighbourhood Associations, Parks and Trails, • Settlement Services: Newcomer Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Service providers report an increase in the numbers of people accessing their services and programs 		
<p>Share information about immigrant services on the Immigrant Advisory Table's Facebook Page and other social media accounts Post on them regularly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a communications plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Newcomers report being better able to find the information they are looking for ✓ Service providers report an increase in the numbers of people accessing their services and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone to create the communication plan and create content to be shared ▪ Funding for above 	Years 1, 2 & 3
<p>Improve access to information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clearer instructions on websites if that's where people are supposed to go for information • Provide good service over the phone to help reduce stress and anxiety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Newcomers report being better able to find the information they are looking for ✓ Service providers report an increase in the numbers of people accessing their services and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$0 	Years 1, 2 & 3
<p>Create a hashtag for GP immigrants to follow/search for information #New2YQU? #New2GP? Ask IAT and GPLIP members to use it on their posts, newsletters, email signatures, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the hashtag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Newcomers report being better able to find the information they are looking for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small group to come up with a hashtag ▪ \$0 	Year 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Service providers report an increase in the numbers of people accessing their services and programs 		
Send out monthly/quarterly email updates to those interested in connecting with GPLIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Newcomers and those interested in assisting with newcomer integration report being better informed about community events and services and programs for newcomer integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone to create the communication plan and create content to be shared ▪ Funding for above 	Years 1,2 & 3
Advertise number to call if immigrants are struggling with COVID-19 or other issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Newcomers report being better able to find the information they are looking for ✓ Service providers report an increase in the numbers of people accessing their services and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 211/Help Seekers 	Year 1

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