



Addressing Newcomer Housing Experiences in **Huron & Perth Counties**



Findings from community conversations about housing with newcomers and their supporters and actions to consider

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About this guide

This research report was created by the Huron County Immigration Partnership, with support from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. A Research Working Group, with representatives from eight organizations, provided guidance and direction on the project. An external consultant, Dr. Rana Telfah, conducted the research and presented the findings/recommendations found within this report.

The Huron County Immigration Partnership aims to build a welcoming community where newcomers to Canada feel supported, have a sense of belonging and are integrated through participation in all areas of life. Huron County's Immigration Partnership collaborates with immigrants, service providers, community organizations, businesses and community members to strengthen collaboration, build capacity, organize welcoming community events, develop information and conduct research.

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Executive Summary

Over the past year and a half, we have learned that newcomers to Canada face unique challenges when looking for a place to live in Huron and Perth. We have also learned that newcomers are more likely to thrive and contribute to our collective well-being if affordable and adequate housing can be secured quickly.

This report aims to identify solutions to address housing challenges that newcomers face in Huron and Perth.

In 2024 and 2025, dozens of newcomers to Canada who live in Huron and Perth told our research team that finding a place to live is difficult. Many people told us that the cost of renting a place was often beyond their means. They highlighted that rental processes were often inaccessible for newcomers. For instance, when landlords ask for rental histories in Canada or for their credit history, they are unable to provide those key documents required to secure a place. Additionally, the limited options of available rental units made it particularly challenging for families with more than two children to find a place to live. Without a broad network of established social connections, newcomers identified gaps when searching for credible information about places to live. These findings and more were published in the 2025 *Newcomer Experiences of Housing in Huron and Perth*.

After that report was published, a quest for solutions was undertaken. Newcomers and their supporters were invited to community conversations held in July and August 2025 across Goderich, St. Mary's, Listowel, and Exeter. At these conversations, the realities captured in the *Newcomer Experiences of Housing* report were confirmed.

In addition, three new themes were identified at the community conversations. Female newcomers seeking housing drew attention to the gendered stigma in seeking housing. Participants drew attention to newcomer homelessness or precarious housing situations, with a lack of awareness about available housing support being underlined. In community discussions, many newcomers also highlighted that newcomers with limited income or references relied on shared housing arrangements with landlords. However, concerns were voiced about shared housing situations due to a lack of tenancy rights, privacy violations and exploitative practices.

Yet, the conversations did not linger on identifying challenges. Newcomers proposed dozens of solutions to address some of the housing challenges they face. Those solutions included increasing affordable housing options, increasing awareness of tenant rights, mobilizing volunteer support and looking for creative housing models, among others (see pages 14-15).

Based on this feedback, a series of recommendations were put forward, along with examples from other communities that have implemented housing solutions. The recommendations have been vetted for feasibility by the Immigration Partnership's Research Working Group, a group of representatives from eight community organizations and service providers. These recommendations are offered as practical, locally achievable opportunities for government agencies, service providers, community groups, employers, landlords, homeowners, and newcomers.

Strengthening approaches to address housing for newcomers benefits the entire community. When newcomers quickly find a safe and suitable place to live, they can focus their attention on other areas that aid their overall integration into communities and contribute to our collective prosperity.



Introduction

When immigrants arrive in Canada and find good quality and affordable housing, their ability to adapt and integrate into their new community is accelerated.

Existing research highlights that when new immigrants can find adequate and affordable housing quickly, they are less likely to require publicly funded support in other areas, “such as health, education, social assistance, and employment insurance” (Hadi & Labonté, 2011, p. 5). Similarly, new immigrants who quickly find adequate and affordable housing are more likely to have a higher quality of life, stronger social connections, be more involved in the community and have broader economic opportunities (Hiebert et al., 2006). With these opportunities for collective prosperity at stake, it’s key that action is taken to ensure adequate and safe housing is secured as quickly as possible.

However, in Huron and Perth Counties, newcomers to Canada have indicated that finding affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges they face. In the 2023 Huron Perth Immigrant Survey, finding affordable housing was identified as one of the most significant challenges, with 29% of the 195 immigrants highlighting this as the biggest challenge they faced in the past year (Nonkes et al., 2024). In the same survey, more than 30% of respondents said they spent more than 30% of their after-tax income on housing-related costs. Moreover, at Huron County Local Immigration Partnership roundtable conversations with employers who hire internationally trained talent, housing was identified as a severe challenge that impedes recruitment and retention.

To better understand newcomers’ housing experiences in Huron and Perth Counties, the Huron County Immigration Partnership commissioned a qualitative study with Dr. Rana Telfah, an expert in newcomer settlement in small and medium communities. The *Newcomer Experiences of Housing in Huron and Perth* research process engaged 40 newcomers in focus group discussions across four locations in November 2024. Among the key findings from those discussions were the challenge of finding affordable housing, particularly among people who fled war in their homeland, with participants from Ukraine and Syria indicating they dedicated 40% to 80% of their income to rent. Moreover, a lack of a credit history further complicated newcomers’ ability to find suitable accommodations, with newcomers often seeking Canadian citizens to act as a guarantor to secure a rental. Furthermore, participants flagged lengthy waiting times for rental properties, which lasted between two and four months, after which they were either accepted or refused. As newcomers, they were often refused because they were still seeking employment. The group discussions also revealed that participants with large families had challenges finding places to live and that newcomers were unaware about social support for housing insecurity (Huron County Immigration Partnership, 2025). The research also identified that newcomers primarily looked online (websites and Facebook) to search for a place to live. On the positive side, newcomers stated they enjoyed living in small and rural communities because of the connections they made with their neighbours and volunteers, and the pace of life and sense of safety experienced.

After finalizing the findings from the *Newcomer Experiences of Housing in Huron and Perth* report, it was clear that solutions to address some of the challenges and barriers could need to be considered. While service providers who provide direct support to newcomers to Canada were consulted, this report aimed to gather insight from newcomers and encourage their participation in contributing solutions to the challenges they identified.

Four community conversations were held, with participants who took part in the 2024 research invited to return to share their feedback on the key findings of the *Newcomer Experiences of*

Housing in Huron and Perth research project and contribute solutions to address some of the barriers and challenges identified in that document. In addition, community volunteers, service providers and municipal representatives were also invited to attend the community conversations. The result of the community conversations about newcomer housing experiences was the identification of four additional emerging themes that merit attention, which were not captured in the 2024 research results, along with more than 40 ideas that we contributed from the research participants. It's hoped these ideas can lead to further action to address housing for newcomers in Huron and Perth.

Background to the study

Affordability, adequacy, and availability are three primary dimensions that shape the housing experiences of newcomers.

Rental vacancies in small and rural communities remain low while prices continue to rise, particularly for larger family units (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2024). In 2025, the average monthly rental unit advertised cost about \$1,980 in Huron County, and \$2,020 in Perth County (Rural Housing Information System, 2026). At the same time, immigration to rural and small-town areas grew, with newcomers increasingly settling in communities such as Huron and Perth Counties (Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada, 2025). Together, these trends place pressure on limited rural housing markets, making it difficult for newcomers to secure suitable and stable homes.

Access to affordable, adequate, and suitable housing is a cornerstone to creating welcoming communities; according to Esses et al (2023). For immigrants, securing housing is a crucial step toward achieving social and economic inclusion in their communities. Moreover, meeting immigrants housing needs in small and rural communities can bolster regionalization policies intended to attract and retain immigrants to help address skill shortages and revitalize the population" (Esses et al., 2023, p.10). Ensuring that immigrants can access stable housing is therefore not only a matter of meeting basic needs, but a foundational investment in the long-term vitality and resilience of rural communities.

The successful integration of immigrants requires that communities offer various services in a welcoming environment, educational opportunities, employment prospects that provide adequate income, and opportunities for social and cultural integration, including affordable and adequate housing (Teixeira, 2009). Housing serves as a link to education, employment, and essential services that facilitate the settlement process. Nonetheless, institutional and systemic obstacles to finding adequate housing differ in their effects across various immigrant groups and regional contexts, especially given the evolving immigrant settlement patterns (Aslam et al., 2024). As a result, understanding and addressing these layered barriers is essential to advancing conditions in which all newcomers can secure the housing that underpins successful settlement and long-term integration.

Methodology

This report draws on group discussions to provide insights into the barriers to housing for newcomers and immigrants in Huron and Perth counties in Canada.



Focus group discussions

This qualitative research utilized group discussions to gain an understanding of newcomers' housing experiences in Huron and Perth counties. Group discussions were conducted with 24 participants, including newcomers, service providers, community organization representatives and one government representative.



Participants

Participants from Goderich included eight newcomers: three from Ukraine, two from Iran, one from the Philippines, one from India, and one from Vietnam. All had been in Canada for less than three years. From St. Mary's, there were eight participants: five Ukrainian newcomers, all in Canada for under four years; two community volunteers; and one service provider (YMCA of Three Rivers settlement worker). Listowel participants consisted of five individuals: two Ghanaian newcomers, both in Canada for less than four years; one representative from a community organization (Grassroots Response); and two service providers (Centre for Employment & Learning; YMCA Three Rivers). From Exeter, three participants were included: one newcomer from Ukraine, another from Russia, both of whom have been in Canada for fewer than three years, and one government representative from the Municipality of South Huron. This study employed a qualitative, participatory approach to exploring the housing experiences of newcomers in small and mid-sized communities across Huron and Perth Counties. Data was gathered through community conversations and interviews at public libraries in Goderich, St. Mary's, Listowel, and Exeter between July and August 2025.



Community sessions

Each community session brought together newcomers and community stakeholders, including service providers, local government representatives and volunteers to ensure a wide range of perspectives. Participants were divided into small groups to facilitate more in-depth and open discussions. Each group included both newcomers and local stakeholders, enabling participants to learn from one another and develop a shared understanding of the challenges and potential solutions. A facilitator guided each group's conversation while a notetaker documented key points, ensuring that all ideas were accurately captured. The discussions began with open-ended questions such as: What has your experience with housing

been like here? What challenges have you faced? How do the findings we shared relate to your own experiences? What support or services have helped you, and what is missing?

After reflecting on personal experiences, groups moved into collective brainstorming, focusing on practical and community-driven solutions. Guiding questions included: What ideas do you have to improve housing experiences for newcomers? Who can help make these changes: community organizations, local government, landlords, or others? What supports would make the most difference? This participatory approach created space for newcomers and community partners to co-develop ideas, build mutual understanding, and generate locally grounded solutions that informed this report's findings and recommendations.



Limitations

While this study offers valuable insights into the housing challenges and opportunities for newcomers in Huron and Perth Counties, several limitations should be acknowledged when interpreting the findings. The research focused on four communities: Goderich, St. Mary's, Listowel, and Exeter, within Huron and Perth Counties. While these locations provide a valuable snapshot of newcomer housing experiences in small and mid-sized towns, the findings can not be generalized to all rural or semi-rural regions in Ontario or Canada. Each community has its own unique housing market dynamics, service structures, and demographic composition, which may differ significantly from those of other areas.

The total sample size was 24 participants, including newcomers, service providers, community volunteers, and one government representative. While this diversity enriched the discussion, it also means that individual perspectives may not represent the broader newcomer population. Some newcomer groups were not represented in the sample, and the small number of participants per site limits the ability to draw community-specific conclusions.

Although facilitators created supportive and inclusive spaces, some participants faced language challenges that may have influenced the depth of their contributions. Participants were recruited primarily through settlement agencies and local organizations, which may have resulted in the study missing the experiences of more isolated newcomers who are not connected to formal services. These individuals might face greater barriers to housing but were not directly represented in the discussions.

Finally, as with all qualitative studies, findings are shaped by the researchers' interpretation of participants' experiences and narratives. While efforts were made to accurately capture and reflect participants' voices through notetaking and validation during discussions, the analysis inevitably involves some degree of subjectivity. Despite these limitations, the study offers valuable, grounded insights into how newcomers experience housing in smaller communities and highlights practical, community-based strategies that can inform future policy and program development.

Findings

The community discussions conducted in Goderich, St. Mary's, Listowel, and Exeter reaffirmed the findings of the *Newcomer Experience of Housing in Huron and Perth* report.

These discussions provided more in-depth insights into the realities faced by newcomers regarding housing in small communities. The results are consistent with broader research on immigrant integration, demonstrating that housing is not merely a physical space but also a fundamental element for fostering belonging, stability, and active participation in community life (Kaur et al. 2021; Ager & Strang, 2008).



Housing is just one part of the settlement experience

Participants in the community conversations reaffirmed that housing is only one part of the broader newcomer settlement experience, and emphasized its connection to employment, transportation, and childcare. Additional information was shared in community conversations that expanded understanding about the connection between housing and other critical welcoming community characteristics (Esses et. al, 2023). For instance, three participants from Goderich expressed a desire for employer involvement, with strong calls for employers to support newcomer housing through advocacy, education, or direct participation in housing initiatives by offering rental units or housing allowances. In addition, in St. Marys' discussion, the connection was drawn between daycare as essential for enabling parents, especially mothers, to work and secure housing.

These findings align with recent studies that demonstrate the ongoing influence of gendered care responsibilities on newcomer women's access to housing and economic opportunities in rural Canada (Telfah, 2023). Families with young children often face limited local childcare options, which forces mainly mothers to stay home, further tightening household budgets and increasing their vulnerability to housing insecurity (Telfah, 2025).

Transportation emerged as a central theme in the community conversations, closely tied to newcomer housing and overall settlement experiences. Participants emphasized that the limited availability of affordable and reliable transportation in rural and small-town contexts significantly restricts newcomers' access to employment, education, and social networks. Furthermore, women noted the difficulty of attending language classes, health appointments, and community events when public transit was infrequent or nonexistent.

These constraints increased spatial and social isolation, especially for households without a car, and reduced the effectiveness of housing when affordable units are located far from essential services. In Goderich, a newcomer explained, "Without a car, we cannot live here... Housing and transportation are so tied together." Commuting costs and limited transit options affect which communities newcomers can consider. In some cases, people cannot move to towns with more affordable housing because winter roads or lack of public transit make commuting impossible.

Existing literature highlights that transportation is a key dimension of social inclusion and a determinant of successful integration. According to Walton-Roberts (2021), inadequate rural transit systems often exacerbate the barriers faced by newcomers, creating “mobility poverty” that limits access to employment and community engagement. Similarly, Allen et al. (2021) argue that reliable transportation infrastructure is as critical as housing in supporting social and economic integration. For women caregivers, access to transportation intersects with gendered responsibilities, influencing their ability to engage in paid work or community life (Schwan et al., 2020).



Affordable housing challenges

Again, as captured in the *Newcomer Experiences of Housing* report, community conversation discussions revealed that affordability is the most pressing issue across all communities. Many participants reported paying over 40 to 50 per cent of their household income on rent and utilities, with limited availability of affordable family-sized units. One participant from St. Mary’s shared the voice of Ukrainian newcomers, “Rent prices were and are unfairly high (for newcomers). And many of us did not know that when we arrived.” The cost of housing was perceived as outpacing their wages, reflecting a broader national trend where rural rents have risen faster than average household earnings (CMHC, 2024).

Participants called for rent subsidy programs, government investment in affordable housing, and rent guarantee funds for newcomers with limited credit history. These findings are consistent with other Canadian studies that highlight how limited rental stock, stagnant wages, and insufficient social housing options make rural communities increasingly unaffordable for newcomers and low-income families (Preston et. al., 2009; Jones & Ley, 2016).

During discussions, participants proposed the following strategies to improve housing experiences in their communities: The most prevalent recommendation across various communities includes rent guarantee funds, subsidy initiatives, and enhanced public investments. Additionally, many participants endorsed the suggestion of integrating tenant rights education into ESL and community programs, with materials translated into numerous languages. Furthermore, there were repeated appeals for the development of a centralized online platform to list rental options, prices, and landlord requirements. Ultimately, participants emphasized that fostering relationships between newcomers and residents is crucial for ensuring safety and a sense of belonging.

These ideas reflect broader Canadian trends in rural housing precarity, where smaller municipalities face increasing affordability challenges due to limited supply, competition from urban out-migration, and limited social housing options (Bragg, 2024; Phipps et al., 2021). Research indicates that newcomer families frequently allocate a substantial proportion of their income to rent, encounter discrimination from landlords, and experience difficulties in securing appropriate housing owing to credit or rental history barriers (Esses & Carter, 2019; Earle et. al, 2025). The emphasis on employer engagement and rent-guarantee mechanisms signifies an emerging community-based innovative approach, aligned with scholarly advocacy for local partnerships to address structural obstacles (Teixeira & Drolet, 2018; Hyndman et al., 2021).



Housing adequacy

Housing inadequacy refers to the lack of housing that is affordable, habitable, accessible, sufficiently close to employment and services, culturally appropriate, and secure in tenure (Phipps et al., 2021). Although discussed less frequently than affordability, participants expressed serious concerns about the adequacy of available housing—particularly for larger families.

Refugee newcomers struggle to find homes that can accommodate their household size. Several participants shared stories of families with as many as 13 people living under one roof, describing the stress and discomfort this creates. This shortage of larger, family-sized rental units reflects a report indicating that, although newcomer families prefer large rental units in Toronto, such units have not been developed for nearly three decades; therefore, newcomer families are often forced into overcrowded or unsuitable housing because there are not enough multi-bedroom options (Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council, 2020).

Adequate housing is not just about having a roof over one's head; it is tied to overall well-being and integration. As Ager and Strang (2008) note, housing serves both as a marker and a means of integration. When families live in cramped or inadequate spaces, it can affect their physical and emotional health, children's ability to study or sleep properly, and women's participation in community life (Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council, 2020).

Participants explained that most of what is available in their towns are one- or two-bedroom units, typically costing between \$1,600 and \$2,000 per month. Larger homes with three to five bedrooms often range from \$2,800 to \$3,500, well beyond the reach of most newcomer families. To manage these high costs, some families share homes, though this often leads to overcrowding. As one participant explained, "Sometimes you have to put three kids in one bedroom just to make it work."

Others pointed out that even when families are willing to share space, landlords can be reluctant to rent to large households, especially if the unit is small.

These findings are consistent with other research about newcomer housing experiences in rural Alberta and Saskatchewan. Bragg (2024) identifies a substantive lack of three or four bedroom units for larger families, which is not only a challenge for newcomers but the broader community as well. The lack of housing options present a particular barrier for newcomers as they are more likely to rely on renting and may face discrimination from landlords when trying to access housing, Bragg asserts.

In short, the lack of affordable, adequate, and family-appropriate housing not only affects newcomers' quality of life but also limits their ability to settle and integrate fully into the community.





Accessing reliable information about tenant rights and responsibilities

Across all four communities, participants consistently emphasized the urgent need for newcomer education on tenant rights and landlord responsibilities. Many newcomers arrive in Canada unfamiliar with rental procedures, housing regulations, and their legal protections as tenants. As a result, they are often vulnerable to unfair treatment, misunderstandings, and even exploitation in the housing market.

Participants suggested practical and accessible ways to bridge this information gap—such as integrating tenant-rights education into English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, offering multilingual community workshops, and hosting public information sessions or panels that specifically target newcomers and their support networks. These suggestions reflect a strong awareness within communities that education is key to preventing housing-related vulnerability.

This concern is consistent with findings from previous studies, which show that newcomers in smaller towns often lack reliable information about tenancy laws and may hesitate to report housing issues due to fear of conflict or limited language skills (Teixeira & Drolet, 2018). Research also suggests that when tenant-rights education is delivered through trusted institutions—such as settlement agencies, ESL programs, or local faith groups—it not only builds awareness but also enhances newcomers' sense of empowerment and housing stability (Preston et al., 2011).

Participants also raised concerns about the growing challenges newcomers face when navigating rental requirements, particularly credit checks. For many newcomers who have recently arrived and do not yet have a Canadian credit history, these requirements create significant barriers to securing housing. Some participants noted that identifying landlords who do not require credit checks—or who are open to alternative forms of verification—can make a crucial difference in accessing suitable housing.

Another issue mentioned was the surge in rental prices during periods of increased migration. For example, several participants observed that when Ukrainian newcomers arrived, some landlords raised rents dramatically, capitalizing on families' urgency to find housing. In several cases, families used nearly all their available savings to secure a place to live, assuming they would quickly find employment—but that was not always the case. These experiences highlight the importance of stronger oversight, community education, and tenant advocacy to ensure fairness and prevent exploitation in rental markets.



Emerging themes

The group discussions identified continuity and expansion of previous themes with new focus areas:



Availability

Participants consistently reported a severe shortage of affordable and family-sized housing units. This scarcity has intensified due to rising rents, limited new construction, and competition in the private rental market. According to two participants from Goderich, one participant quoted, “I could not find any accommodations to meet my needs.” Moreover, another quoted: “Goderich does not have enough houses for renting.” Furthermore, participants in Goderich shared that they continue to build townhouses and large homes, but there are very few apartments. For instance, the new building on Bennett St. will be quickly filled. “It is not enough for what is needed.” Families described long waiting lists for subsidized housing and frequent relocations due to unaffordable rent increases. These findings align with national research showing that limited housing availability disproportionately affects newcomer families with children (CMHC, 2023). Participants widely recommended government incentives and streamlined approval processes for housing development to address this structural shortage.

Existing literature highlights that transportation is a key dimension of social inclusion and a determinant of successful integration. According to Walton-Roberts (2021), inadequate rural transit systems often exacerbate the barriers faced by newcomers, creating “mobility poverty” that limits access to employment and community engagement. Similarly, Allen et al. (2021) argue that reliable transportation infrastructure is as critical as housing in supporting social and economic integration. For women caregivers, access to transportation intersects with gendered responsibilities, influencing their ability to engage in paid work or community life (Schwan et al., 2020).



Single women's vulnerability

Single women, particularly newcomers, face safety concerns and discrimination in rental markets. A growing area of concern not explicitly identified in the *Newcomer Experiences of Housing* report consultations was the experience of single newcomer women. Participants described experiences of discrimination and gendered stigma in rental markets. Single women often reported being denied leases or pressured into unsuitable shared housing arrangements due to a lack of local references or income stability. This finding aligns with feminist housing literature, which emphasizes that gender, migration status, and socio-economic vulnerability intersect to produce distinct housing insecurities (Hanley et al., 2019). Single women newcomers may also experience isolation and limited access to culturally appropriate supports, underscoring the need for targeted programs addressing gendered safety and empowerment within settlement services. One female participant shared, “I think it might be worse if you are a single woman. It is my first experience renting in my life... If you are here as a woman, it is tough.”



Homelessness and a lack of knowledge about support

Across the consultations, participants spoke about how a lack of awareness of available housing supports—such as rent subsidies, emergency shelters, or housing stability funds—has left some newcomers in highly vulnerable situations, including homelessness or near-homelessness. Several participants explained that while some programs do exist, information about them is scattered, difficult to access, and often only available in English. Many newcomers are unsure where to turn for help when facing eviction, sudden rent increases, or financial hardship.

This lack of clear and accessible information has consequences. As one participant noted, “If you do not know where to ask for help, you end up sleeping in your car or staying with friends for weeks.” Some families reported that they would have sought assistance earlier if they had been aware of the available programs and how to apply. Others described finding out about support only through word of mouth or after experiencing a crisis.

These experiences align with findings from AMSSA (2024) who emphasize that information gaps can exacerbate vulnerability among recent arrivals unfamiliar with Canada’s housing system. For many newcomers, navigating the housing market without proper guidance leads to instability, stress, and feelings of isolation. Several participants also reflected on the broader challenges of living in small or rural towns. They wanted future newcomers to understand that housing availability is very limited in these areas. One participant advised, “If you are moving here, know there is not much housing. Maybe even buy a car before coming—it could be the only place to sleep if you cannot find a rental right away.”

Others pointed out that rental costs in some rural towns are comparable to prices in larger cities. However, employment opportunities are fewer, especially for people with health concerns or accessibility needs. Towns like Exeter and Clinton were mentioned as somewhat more affordable, but participants said that harsh winter conditions and long distances make commuting between communities challenging. Overall, the consultations highlighted an urgent need for stronger communication networks and outreach through trusted sources such as settlement agencies, ESL programs, and online newcomer platforms. Clear, multilingual, and consistent information about housing supports could help prevent many newcomers from falling into homelessness or precarious living conditions.



Shared housing with landlords offers no rights to tenants

Many newcomers, particularly those with limited income or references, rely on shared housing arrangements—renting rooms within private homes or sharing spaces with landlords. However, participants voiced concerns about unclear tenancy rights, privacy violations and exploitative practices. There was strong community support for standardizing and monitoring shared housing, ensuring tenants’ rights are respected. One participant from Goderich shared, “I am willing to rent a house and help with cleaning, removing snow, painting or whatever. I am a technician, and I can do any job. Speaking to affordability. I want a place where I can afford.” Research confirms that informal housing markets often operate outside legal frameworks, exposing newcomers to instability and exploitation (Walton-Roberts, 2021). Strengthening education on tenant rights and establishing oversight mechanisms for shared housing could improve transparency and trust between landlords and tenants.

Community feedback

Dominant solutions

Across all consultations, participants consistently emphasized the urgent need for coordinated and practical action to address the housing challenges facing newcomers in Huron and Perth Counties. While the specific concerns varied by community, there was broad agreement on several key priorities and forward-looking solutions.



Investment

First and foremost, participants called for greater investment in affordable housing construction, particularly the development of family-sized rental units. Many newcomers, especially those with children, struggle to find homes with sufficient space at an affordable cost. Participants emphasized that increasing the supply of larger, multi-bedroom units is crucial for reducing overcrowding and enhancing long-term housing stability.



Education

A second priority was education and awareness around tenant rights and housing supports. Participants observed that newcomers often lack knowledge of existing programs such as rent subsidies, housing stability funds, or tenant protection laws. They recommended sustained outreach efforts through settlement agencies, ESL classes, and community organizations—to ensure newcomers understand their rights, responsibilities, and available supports. In Exeter, participants emphasized the importance of integrating tenant rights education into existing ESL and settlement programs. They explained that newcomers often sign rental agreements without fully understanding their rights or responsibilities, leaving them vulnerable to unfair treatment. Providing this information in accessible formats and languages could help prevent misunderstandings and empower newcomers to advocate for themselves.



Collaboration

Participants also underscored the importance of stronger collaboration among municipalities, employers, and nonprofit organizations. They highlighted the need for a more integrated approach that connects housing with employment opportunities and transportation services. For example, coordinating job placements near affordable housing or improving transit options could help newcomers remain in smaller communities and reduce the pressure to relocate to urban centers.



Creativity & innovation

In addition to these main priorities, participants shared several innovative ideas that reflect local creativity and commitment to community-based solutions. These included expanding volunteer-based housing support programs, where trained community members assist newcomers with rental searches, application processes, and communication with landlords.

Furthermore, encouraging faith-based and community organizations to invest in transitional housing can provide short-term accommodation for newcomers who are still establishing financial stability or awaiting permanent housing.

In addition, creating localized housing resource hubs in smaller towns can serve as one-stop access points for listings, legal information, and referral services.

Collectively, these recommendations underscore a strong community commitment to working collaboratively toward long-term, sustainable solutions that make small communities more welcoming and inclusive for newcomers.

Other ideas – solutions

During the consultations, participants shared a range of practical and creative ideas aimed at addressing housing challenges for newcomers and improving stability across Huron and Perth Counties. Many of these suggestions were grounded in local realities and reflected a strong sense of community collaboration and innovation.

In St. Mary's, participants discussed the potential for co-operative housing and community land trust initiatives as long-term solutions to housing insecurity. These models, which emphasize community ownership and control, could help ensure ongoing affordability while giving residents a stronger voice in how housing is managed and maintained.

Others recommended establishing temporary arrival accommodations, such as short-stay hubs or arrival hotels, to support newcomers during their initial settlement. These would serve as safe and affordable transition spaces while families search for permanent housing.

Alongside this, participants suggested implementing rapid-response rent subsidies to prevent short-term homelessness among newcomers facing unexpected rent increases or employment gaps.

In Listowel and Exeter, participants proposed landlord–newcomer meet-and-greet sessions and landlord education workshops to encourage open dialogue and mutual understanding. These sessions could also introduce landlords to alternative tenant-screening practices—such as accepting references from settlement agencies instead of relying solely on credit checks—which would make it easier for newcomers to secure housing.

Finally, participants in St. Mary's highlighted the need for daycare expansion, noting that limited childcare options prevent many parents—especially mothers—from accessing full-time employment. Stable childcare access would enable more families to maintain a steady income and, in turn, secure and sustain housing.

Together, these suggestions reflect a strong community desire to move beyond short-term fixes and toward collaborative, sustainable solutions that address both the housing and social needs of newcomers in smaller towns.

Next steps: Action to consider

The following recommendations were co-developed through consultations and are informed by research on newcomer integration, housing policy, and rural community development. They emphasize multi-level collaboration and actionable strategies to address the systemic barriers that newcomers, particularly women and families, face in accessing secure and affordable housing.

Government



Partner with organizations supporting affordable housing

Local governments are already taking significant steps to address local housing needs experienced by many different socio-economic groups struggling with affordable housing. This support includes building and managing affordable housing units, running homelessness prevention programs and supporting individuals who become unhoused. With limited funding, and many needs within the community, these programs are run at capacity and often have a waitlist. This report encourages those supportive and critical programs, and the people who deliver this work, to continue their lifesaving efforts.

If additional funds could be accessed, local governments in Huron and Perth could look towards other areas and agencies to build partnerships and gain knowledge. In other areas, municipalities are working with non-profit organizations to further strengthen and expand affordable housing approaches.

Some areas have developed partnerships with equitable housing non-profits including Habitat for Humanity, an organization dedicated to building and rehabilitating affordable housing with volunteer support. The organization collaborates with low- to moderate-income families, local governments, and private donors. By leveraging volunteer work, donated materials, and interest-free mortgages, Habitat helps lower housing costs and fosters long-term stability and community bonds. In Windsor-Essex, Habitat runs a grant-funded home repair program that assists lower-income homeowners impacted by age, disability and family circumstances, who struggle to maintain their homes due to many factors in their lives. The repair program prioritizes critical repairs and harnesses the power of a dedicated team of volunteers, corporate partners and sponsors who undertake repairs at an affordable cost and offer a payment plan to recover the costs. This program preserves existing housing stock and makes sure units remain safe and habitable, preventing additional pressure being placed on the housing market. Discussions among various stakeholders, including government, funding agencies, and Habitat could explore the feasibility of offering a repair program locally.

In addition, in Kitchener-Waterloo, local governments are partnering with Reception House, a community-based organization that assists refugees and newcomers by offering a range of integrated services, including housing support. Reception House helps newcomers navigate competitive rental markets by providing temporary accommodations, assisting with housing searches, mediating landlord-tenant disputes, and referring to affordable and supportive housing

options. Recently, the city of Kitchener partnered with Reception House, offering them land to build 30 transitional housing units for refugees. Partnering with a newcomer-serving agency to construct housing may be an opportunity to create affordable housing specifically for newcomers in the future.

Locally, United Housing Perth Huron is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to developing affordable rental housing. It works with local governments, community groups, and funding partners to build and manage these properties. The organization's approach focuses on maintaining long-term affordability, fostering mixed-income communities, and partnering with social service providers to assist tenants with various needs, including newcomers. Through its projects, United Housing helps increase the availability of purpose-built rental homes in areas facing ongoing affordability challenges.



Make information about moving to a rural or small town available, straightforward and easy to access

Federal and provincial newcomer portals should include region-specific information about rural and small-town housing, transportation, employment, and healthcare. For example, a *Rural Living Information Toolkit* could help families make informed decisions before relocation, reducing housing mismatches and secondary migration. A *Rural Living Information Toolkit* on various levels of government webpages for newcomers could feature region-specific profiles for rural and small-town communities like Huron County. It would detail average rental costs and availability, common housing types, transportation options (including lack of public transit), proximity to healthcare, childcare services, and local jobs. The toolkit might also include short testimonial videos from newcomers, checklists comparing rural and urban living conditions, and practical advice on questions to ask landlords or employers before relocating. Sharing this information early helps newcomer families make informed settling decisions, reduces housing mismatches, and minimizes secondary migration caused by unmet needs and expectations.



Leverage municipal coordination structures

Local Immigration Partnerships and immigrant housing working groups are effective coordination mechanisms in other areas. Piloting an immigrant housing task group could improve system navigation, reduce service gaps, and respond more effectively to housing instability among newcomers. Municipal representatives, service providers, landlords, and employers could be invited to sit on this group. This group should monitor trends, identify emerging needs, and be informed about local housing initiatives. Piloting an immigrant housing task group could also work towards improving system navigation, reducing service gaps, and responding more effectively to housing instability among newcomers.



Expand efforts to recognize and address hidden homelessness

Government officials who lead efforts to recognize and address hidden homelessness in small communities could invite settlement service organizational representatives to the table. In Huron County, a coordinated access system is in place for those experiencing homelessness or precarious housing. Households are case conferenced at meetings attended by service providers directly involved in assisting with homelessness efforts based on information collected from a By Name List consent. Homelessness services typically become available to households once they have been in Huron County for six months. Ensuring that settlement services are knowledgeable about data collection efforts around homelessness and encouraging collaboration with settlement and housing-support agencies can decrease the risk of newcomers becoming unhoused.



Support cross-sector and grassroots housing models

Grassroots and community-led housing initiatives, such as guesthouse models, should be supported as part of a broader housing continuum. For instance, Matthew House in Ontario (with locations in Toronto and Ottawa) provides short-term, community-based housing for newly arrived refugees and claimants through shared homes, host arrangements, and settlement support. These programs offer low-barrier, temporary accommodation while newcomers find permanent housing, build credit and references, and connect with local services. Such models show how faith-based and community organizations can crucially help newcomers access the housing market initially when integrated with formal settlement systems.

Service providers



Offer information about housing and tenant rights in ESL classes

Newcomers often learn best about housing norms and rights in language classes or early settlement programs. Embedding this information ensures consistent outreach, helps prevent exploitation and expands understanding on landlord and tenant responsibilities. For instance, learning how to read a lease, understanding deposits, filing complaints, and accessing tenant boards could expand knowledge.



Build opportunities for landlords and newcomers to connect through facilitated sessions

One of the key recommendations that emerged from the consultations is the need to create more opportunities for landlords and newcomers to connect directly. Many challenges in housing—such as mistrust, stereotypes, or misunderstandings from a lack of communication and personal interaction. To address this, communities could organize regular “Meet Your Tenant/Landlord” sessions where both sides come together in a facilitated setting to share experiences, ask questions, and learn about each other’s expectations.

These sessions provide landlords with a better understanding of newcomers’ situations, such as why they may not yet have a Canadian credit history or local references, while newcomers can learn more about the rental process and landlords’ responsibilities. This kind of dialogue can go a long way toward breaking down misconceptions, building trust, and encouraging fairer rental practices. Over time, such efforts can help reduce discrimination and make housing more accessible to newcomer families, while also increasing landlords’ confidence in renting to diverse tenants.

An example of organized community involvement aimed at supporting newcomer housing in Canada is the Waterloo Region Immigration Partnership’s Newcomer Landlord Award. Launched in 2016 after Syrian refugees were resettled, the award honors local landlords who excel in offering affordable and welcoming homes for immigrants and refugees. It emphasizes positive landlord behaviours and encourages others to follow their example. In 2024, the award continued to recognize landlords who foster supportive tenant–landlord relationships and assist newcomers in finding stable housing. This initiative demonstrates how community recognition and collaboration can foster a better understanding of newcomer needs and help reduce obstacles within the rental market. Additionally, community legal clinics and settlement service providers organize tenant

and landlord rights education sessions, such as newcomer tenant workshops in York Region and sessions on tenant and landlord rights, which operate across Ontario to promote mutual understanding and reduce discrimination.

When engaging with landlords who are hesitant due to clients' lack of credit histories or references, Reception House staff primarily rely on advocacy and relationship-building skills. Reception House experiences with newcomers describe this process as akin to sales, where establishing trust and clear communication are crucial. A key tool is providing landlords with proof of income through the Refugee Assistance Program program, which many are unfamiliar with. This documentation frequently enables clients to access the rental market for the first time.



Extend post-move-in housing support

Settlement support should extend beyond lease signing. Providing post-move-in assistance, such as household orientation and landlord communication coaching, helps prevent tenancy breakdowns and promotes long-term housing stability. Additionally, raising awareness of tenants' rights and responsibilities is necessary.



Develop navigation services for housing systems

Participants also suggested creating navigation supports to help newcomers understand and navigate the complex housing system. Many newcomers struggle with rental applications, credit checks, or searching for affordable listings, especially when language barriers or limited digital skills are involved. Pairing newcomers with settlement workers and trained volunteers who can guide them through the process one-on-one would make a significant difference. Settlement workers can help with completing forms, understanding lease agreements, and identifying landlords who are open to renting to newcomers without strict credit requirements. Meanwhile, volunteers can assist newcomers by going with them to view apartments, sourcing furniture, or identifying available units.



Employment-focused service providers develop a deeper understanding of housing initiatives

Finally, participants emphasized that housing challenges cannot be solved in isolation. Access to housing is closely tied to employment and transportation, especially in rural and small-town contexts. For instance, newcomers may find more affordable housing in smaller communities like Exeter or Clinton but face difficulties commuting to work or accessing essential services. To support successful employment, employment support staff must understand housing and transportation considerations. Understanding housing networks, pointing clients to reliable housing information sources, offering transportation subsidies, and encouraging employers to link job opportunities with available housing would make rural settlement more sustainable and inclusive. Together, these strategies would create a more supportive environment for newcomers moving to the Huron and Perth communities.



Community organizations

Create a centralized online and physical housing hub

Create a regional “Housing Help Hub” that consolidates verified rental listings, clarifies local requirements, such as credit history and income verification, and provides resources accessible in multiple languages. For example, Grey County Housing Programs and Services simply and clearly provide information about their affordable housing and homelessness prevention initiatives. Their website quickly highlights how Grey County manages rent-geared-to-income housing, distributes rent supplements, and runs programs for home repairs and accessibility. The website also details how the municipality collaborates with non-profit organizations to provide affordable and supportive housing solutions. Collectively, these programs strive to enhance housing stability and housing information throughout Grey County.

At Reception House Waterloo Region, online resources highlight the benefits of renting to newcomers to Canada. Developing similar informational products reflecting renting in rural or semi-rural areas to newcomers could enhance knowledge and address information gaps that lead to misunderstandings between landlords and newcomers.

Strengthen dedicated landlord engagement roles

Organizations can invest in dedicated landlord liaison positions. These roles are critical for building trust, maintaining ongoing communication, and responding quickly to unit availability. Consistent engagement helps position settlement agencies as reliable partners rather than one-time intermediaries.

Develop community-based hosting or room-rental programs

Responding to the war in Ukraine and people fleeing the violence, thousands of people opened their homes and welcomed newcomers from Ukraine from 2022 to 2024. Organizations like Grassroots Response to the Ukrainian Crisis developed a host program that safely connected homeowners with available rooms to newcomers through a managed platform that included screening, matching, and volunteer support. Programs like this offer inspiration for continued assistance to respond to newcomers’ housing needs. An ongoing project that goes beyond supporting Ukrainians is Open Homes Hamilton. Open Homes Hamilton is a multi-church network that offers refugee claimants a temporary place to stay after a leadership team completes careful screening. Open Homes Hamilton hosts are supported by volunteers who offer additional support to newcomers staying with a host.

Provide cultural competency training for new staff, volunteers and landlords

Community organizations can lead workshops that help landlords understand newcomers’ experiences, trauma sensitivity, and intercultural communication. Volunteer Canada’s 2009 *A Guide for Cultural Competency: Application of the Canadian Code* is a good resource for beginning to learn about cultural competency and outlines steps organizations can take.



Engage faith-based organizations to invest in supportive housing projects

To develop more affordable housing units, faith-based organizations may play a role. In Ottawa, the Multifaith Housing Initiative was founded in 2001, when Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities united to address homelessness and the lack of affordable housing. By working together to build and purchase rental buildings, the organization offers rent-geared-to-income and below-market rental units. As of 2024, the initiative has managed 422 units, benefiting more than 1,000 people, with a variety of one, two, and three-bedroom apartments available to families and others in need. Similarly, in Markham, a coalition of 17 churches is working together to provide affordable housing for their community. Run as a volunteer-led non-profit, the Markham Inter-Church Committee for Affordable Housing builds and manages four apartment/townhouse buildings that offer 328 units, housing hundreds of residents.



Expand short-term financial supports for housing access

Short-term, repayable deposit loan programs play an important role in helping newcomers access housing without requiring guarantors. Expanding these programs through public or philanthropic funding could reduce entry barriers while maintaining landlord confidence. For example, the Jubilee Fund in Manitoba provides interest-free or low-interest loans to newcomers and refugees to cover rental deposits and initial housing costs, allowing households to secure accommodation quickly while repaying the loan over time. Such models demonstrate how modest revolving funds can leverage limited capital to support housing stability, promote financial inclusion, and strengthen trust between landlords and newcomer tenants. Scaling similar initiatives through municipal partnerships, settlement agencies, and community foundations could substantially improve housing access in high-pressure rental markets.

Employers



Showcase employer-led best practices

Employers can share successful housing or transport support strategies through Chambers of Commerce and sector associations. Examples include housing allowances, rental guarantees, or shuttle services for rural workplaces. For example, in Ontario, some employers have implemented direct housing assistance benefits to help employees overcome affordability challenges. For instance, an engineering firm located in Collingwood, Ontario, provides qualifying employees with up to \$20,000 towards a home down payment as part of their compensation package, aiming to mitigate housing barriers and promote long-term community stability. This employer-led initiative exemplifies how private sector entities can extend their support beyond wages to facilitate housing access in markets characterized by high costs.



Develop employer-community partnerships

Employers can collaborate with the community to address housing shortages that affect workforce recruitment and retention. Some health, agricultural and manufacturing employers in Huron and Perth Counties have co-invested in employee housing or subsidized rent. For example, the Huron-Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA), a major regional employer in the health sector, has launched a housing referral initiative to assist employees seeking housing in the region. Through this program, HPHA invites residents and property owners to list vacant homes, apartments, or rooms available for sharing with current and prospective employees, helping connect job candidates with available housing. This initiative addresses both workforce recruitment and local housing shortages by leveraging employer networks, property owners, and community contacts to support employee relocation and retention in a region with tight rental markets.

Landlords



Develop a deeper understanding of newcomers' realities

Landlords would benefit from participating in tailored training sessions designed to build awareness of newcomers' lived experiences, communication styles, and the systemic barriers they often face when entering the Canadian housing market. Such sessions could include practical discussions about cultural differences, language challenges, and how trauma or displacement may shape interactions with tenants. By fostering empathy and understanding, landlords can build more inclusive, trusting relationships that support tenant stability.



Formalize proof-of-income pathways for newcomers

Clear, standardized proof-of-income documentation, such as confirmation of Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) support or employment, should be more widely recognized by landlords. Policymakers and organizations could work together to increase landlords' awareness of federal resettlement programs and newcomers' early settlement experiences, thereby reducing barriers to credit and rental history.



Remove restrictions that prevent people from renting their first place

Many newcomers encounter obstacles when seeking their first rental residence in Canada due to stringent prerequisites, such as credit checks, Canadian rental history, and local references.

Participants advised landlords to consider employing alternative evidence of dependability, such as employment letters, references from settlement workers, or community endorsements. This strategy facilitates a quicker establishment of housing stability for newcomers while assuring landlords of their tenants' dependability.

Establishing forums for continuous dialogue, such as local Landlord–Tenant Roundtables, can prove highly beneficial. These gatherings would enable landlords to exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and learn from one another while also receiving up-to-date information on

housing policies, newcomer programs, and available support mechanisms. Additionally, they can act as a conduit between landlords, settlement agencies, and municipal authorities, thereby strengthening community cooperation to address housing shortages and discrimination.

Collectively, these initiatives promote a more informed, compassionate, and community-focused approach to tenancy—one that benefits both landlords and newcomer tenants and fosters long-term housing stability within rural communities.

Homeowners

For many rural and small-town communities, housing shortages are compounded by a lack of short-term or transitional options for newcomers. One practical and community-driven solution raised during consultations was to encourage residents with extra bedrooms or secondary units to open their homes to newcomers. When managed thoughtfully, such arrangements can address immediate housing needs while fostering intercultural understanding and stronger social ties.



Participate in community hosting initiative

Homeowners with spare rooms can partner with local settlement organizations or municipalities to join Community Hosting Programs. These programs follow clear guidelines and oversight, ensuring that both hosts and newcomers are supported through agreements, safety checks, and cultural orientation. Hosting arrangements may last from a few weeks to several months, giving newcomers a chance to settle while seeking longer-term housing. Developing a standard rental agreement is important to clearly define rights and responsibilities.

Many communities and post-secondary institutions have partnered with the online platform Happipad, a social enterprise that matches newcomers seeking housing with homeowners interested in renting a room. Beyond sharing space, the goal is to decrease social isolation and build “inter-generational and multicultural connections that go beyond sharing physical space” (Happipad, 2025). Developing a deeper understanding of this model and considering its implementation, or a similar model, may help alleviate the housing availability challenges identified in this research.

Newcomers

Newcomers play a central role in ensuring their own successful settlement, particularly in rural and small-town contexts where housing, transportation, and employment opportunities are often limited. Consultations highlighted practical strategies for newcomers to prepare, connect, and protect themselves when accessing housing.



Gain knowledge about rural and small-town realities

Newcomers benefit from clear, place-based information before arrival, especially about housing, transportation, jobs, and services in rural and mid-sized communities. Pre-arrival orientation programs, combined with immigrant-led vlogs that show everyday life in small towns, can help set realistic expectations. For example, immigrant vloggers featured by CBC in Prince Edward Island share practical experiences related to housing, work, and community life. Supporting similar short, multilingual videos in other rural areas could help newcomers make informed choices and reduce secondary migration. Early connection with local networks is equally important. Newcomer associations, community centres, and faith-based groups often provide informal housing leads, practical guidance, and social support. These early relationships help newcomers navigate local rental markets, understand community norms, and feel less isolated in smaller communities.



Learn about tenant rights and legal support

Understanding the local rental system is essential for housing stability. Newcomers should familiarize themselves with provincial tenant laws, housing assistance programs, and dispute resolution mechanisms. This knowledge allows them to confidently navigate leases, understand their rights, and avoid unsafe, illegal, or exploitative housing arrangements. Community workshops, ESL-integrated lessons, and online resources can all help newcomers build this critical awareness. By taking proactive steps to understand local realities, build connections, and access legal knowledge, newcomers are better equipped to secure stable housing and integrate successfully into small and rural communities.

Conclusion

When newcomers to Canada thrive, an entire community benefits in both the short and long term. An essential component of helping newcomers thrive is to ensure they have suitable housing.

This research project demonstrated that when newcomers and their supporters are engaged in creating solutions, they offer ideas that go beyond conventional approaches. As newcomers and their supporters are closest to the challenges of finding appropriate and affordable housing in Huron and Perth, they have unique knowledge of the processes and practices that can act as barriers. By understanding those barriers, and identifying specific groups that may need extra support, tailored solutions can be developed.

The community conversations revealed a strong awareness of the interconnectedness between settlement and housing in rural and small-town Canada. An underlying theme of this research project was a deep commitment to strengthening Huron and Perth's approaches to make communities more inclusive, supportive and welcoming for newcomers.

More specifically, the suggested solutions can be grouped into the key themes:

- Expanding the range of affordable and suitable housing options
- Increasing newcomer awareness and empowerment around tenant rights and responsibilities
- Strengthening collaboration among municipalities, employers, community organizations, landlords and newcomers
- Harnessing community-based and grassroots approaches by engaging volunteers, homeowners and faith-based communities
- Exploring non-traditional housing approaches such as temporary arrival hubs and co-operative housing
- Improving the availability of credible information sources about local housing options

The suggestions of the participants in this research project can contribute to broader provincial and national conversations about immigration and housing. Research in other communities in Canada about immigration and housing underlines the importance of creating multi-sectoral, place-based solutions that include employer engagement, government investment, faith-community involvement, rent-guarantee programs, and education (Teixeira & Drolet, 2018; Teixeira, 2011).

Lessons from other communities and organizations are offered for further exploration to improve newcomer housing experiences in Huron and Perth. While the recommended actions span multiple stakeholders, the overarching message is clear: everyone has a role to play in strengthening newcomer housing experiences. Even small, collective efforts can have meaningful impact and help newcomers feel at home.

Indeed, we are all interconnected. When newcomers thrive, our communities benefit. By strengthening newcomer housing experiences, we accelerate integration, leading to enhanced economic vitality, increased community engagement, and richer social and cultural experiences for all.



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Learn more: Next steps resources

Grey County Housing Program & Services

<https://www.grey.ca/resident-services/community-services/housing-programs-and-services>

Grassroots Response to the Ukrainian Crisis

<https://www.wrgrassrootsresponse.ca/>

Habitat for Humanity, Windsor-Essex Repair Program

<https://www.habitatwindsor.org/repair-revolution>

Happipad

<https://happipad.com/solutions/homesharing/>

Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance, Housing for Healthcare

<https://www.hpha.ca/housingforhealthcare>

Jubilee Fund

<https://jubileefund.ca/>

Markham Inter-Church Committee for Affordable Housing

<https://micahinmarkham.ca/>

Matthew House

<https://www.matthewhouse.ca/>

Multifaith Housing Initiative, About Us

<https://www.multifaithhousing.ca/>

Open Homes Hamilton

<https://www.iafr.ca/open-homes-hamilton.html>

Reception House Waterloo Region, Rent to Refugees

<https://receptionhouse.ca/rent-to-refugees/>

United Housing Huron-Perth

<https://unitedhousingperthhuron.ca/>

Volunteer Canada, A Guide for Cultural Competency Application of the Canadian Code

<https://volunteer.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Cultural-Competency-Application-of-CCVI-2009.pdf>

Waterloo Region Local Immigration Partnership, Newcomer Landlord Award

<https://www.immigrationwaterlooregion.ca/en/business-opportunities/Awards.aspx>



This project was informed by the Huron County Immigration Partnership's Research Working Group, with representatives from:

