Basic Needs & Belonging
Highlights from the 2016 Guelph Wellington Immigrant Survey Report

Affordability & Access

Only **58%** of survey respondents said they *always* had access to healthy food. Some also mentioned having difficulty accessing culturally familiar foods.

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Immigrants surveyed find housing:

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Respondents who had been in Canada for less than 7 years were more likely to find housing not affordable.

85% find transportation to be affordable, but some identify issues related to reliability, coverage and frequency of public transit.

Health and Safety

71% and 78% of survey participants reported “good” or “excellent” physical and mental health.

98% reported feeling safe “always” or “often”.

Sense of Belonging

About **1 in 3** respondents have felt out of place at work, at school, or in their neighborhood due to their culture, language, race or religion.

77% feel welcome “often” or “always” in Guelph and Wellington, whereas 23% feel welcome only “sometimes”, “rarely”, or “never”.

43% respondents find it easy to meet others and build social relationships, while 22% find it difficult.

Connection and Participation

81% reported having friends from different cultures

66% of respondents indicated that they have access to community spaces for cultural events.

Volunteer involvement varies: some feel connected and engaged in the community, others are limited by awareness of volunteer opportunities, poor response to applications, or the need to financially support their families.

Recommendations Include

- Ensure that information about food supports is accessible to immigrant communities.
- Improve promotion and communication about housing assistance resources, including specific strategies to reach immigrant communities.
- Consider innovative approaches to increase access to transportation in rural areas such as community car shares, or ride-sharing programs.
- Develop initiatives to increase inclusion in neighbourhoods, workplaces and schools.

Data drawn from a survey of 218 immigrants living in Guelph and Wellington (August-October 2016).

For more information, access the full 2016 Guelph Wellington Immigrant Survey Report at [www.guelphwellingtonlip.ca](http://www.guelphwellingtonlip.ca)

Alternate accessible formats available upon request at 519-822-1260.

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