

Newcomer Inclusion

Winnipeg's immigrant population is about 25% with an expected growth of 8,100 annually. Winnipeggers who have lived experience as immigrants or refugees make up 26% of the City's workforce contributing greatly to the economy through taxes, volunteerism, and the culture of the city. However, they encounter many barriers to their integration and settlement such as accessing services, learning a new language, finding suitable housing, etc.

The City's adoption of the Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy in February 2020 had no dedicated budget for initiatives, absence of Access without Fear Policy including an effort to allow permanent residents the right to vote in municipal elections.

Winnipeg can be a more welcoming and inclusive city by resourcing the policy and committing to systemic change.

At the municipal level, Canadian cities such as Toronto, Hamilton, and Vancouver have adopted Sanctuary City ordinances and declared themselves as Sanctuary Cities or Access Without Fear of Deportation cities. As well, Vancouver allows permanent residents to vote in municipal elections with similar ongoing proposals in Hamilton, Calgary, and Toronto. The adopted Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy has failed on these two calls for action.

How can our city be more welcoming and inclusive for Winnipeggers with lived experience as immigrants and refugees?

The Alternative Municipal Budget proposes:

1. A dedicated budget of \$108,200 to hire a full-time staff at Community Services to oversee the implementation of the policy including \$20,000 towards programming.
2. A dedicated budget of \$76,900 to hire a full-time staff at the Indigenous Relations Division to support the bridge-building initiatives including \$15,000 towards programming.
3. A Call for inclusion of an Access Without Fear Policy, municipal election voting rights for permanent residents, and setting up an Equity Office to support the development of an Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Policy including annual funding of \$150,000 to support newcomer settlement agencies.

Questions for your candidate:

- Winnipeg's Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy has five strategic priorities:
 - *A Welcoming City*
 - *A city without Racism*
 - *Equitable and Accessible Services*
 - *A Representative Workforce*
 - *Active Implementation.*
- Do you support an Access without Fear Policy? How will you help make Winnipeg a welcoming and inclusive city especially for immigrants and refugees without status?
- Do you support a voting right policy for permanent residents to vote in municipal elections? If so, how?

If elected, how will you support its implementation?

There are alternatives. Budgets are about choices.
See the Alternative Municipal Budget at policyalternatives.ca

