

# Welcoming Communities Coalition

## North Vancouver Island



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Immigration, Refugees  
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# What Is A Welcoming Community?

- ❑ A welcoming community is a collective effort to design and sustain a place where immigrants feel that they belong and that supports immigrants' economic, socio-cultural, and civic-political integration
- ❑ A welcoming community has structures, processes, and practices in place to meet the needs and promote the inclusion of immigrants in all aspects of life, and actively works to ensure these are effective



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# Welcoming Communities Coalition

## What is the Welcoming Communities Coalition?

We collaborate with community-based people and organizations to...

- ❖ Support **community-level research** and **strategic planning**;
- ❖ **Identify barriers** facing **newcomers**;
- ❖ Raise awareness around newcomers' **needs** and **engage** a wide range of **local actors** and collaborate with the community to **reduce** them;
- ❖ **Improve accessibility** and coordination of services that facilitate immigrant settlement and integration.

# Membership

## **Anyone can be a Coalition member**

The Coalition's work is guided by a Steering Committee made up of volunteers who represent a variety of sectors, and a volunteer Immigrant Advisory Table.

Individuals and organizations can join as members. They are invited to our community membership meetings, forums, and other events.

Members sign a letter stating that believe in the importance of community building, diversity, and inclusion.

# Membership

## **Current members include:**

- ❖ North Island College
- ❖ NIEFS
- ❖ Comox Valley Community Justice Centre
- ❖ Creative Employment Access Society
- ❖ Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association
- ❖ CV/Arts
- ❖ Eureka Support Society
- ❖ Comox Valley and Campbell River Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Comox Valley Transition Society
- ❖ LUSH Valley
- ❖ United Way of BC
- ❖ CR Maritime Heritage Society
- ❖ School District 71 & 72
- ❖ Individual community members
- ❖ RCMP
- ❖ And more...!

# WCC Vision & Purpose

## Vision

A North Island region (Comox Valley to Port Hardy) that embraces diversity and inclusivity while actively engaging with the vibrant cultures in the region, and where newcomers feel welcome, safe and respected.

## Purpose

The objective of the WCC Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) is to promote the successful settlement of newcomers at the local level and foster inclusive and welcoming communities in North Vancouver Island. The Coalition helps connect partners with newcomers to deliver responsive and coordinated settlement and community services to newcomers.

# Ways to Welcome

What can you do to help make your school community more welcoming and inclusive?

IT WAS HARD TO MAKE FRIENDS. I WOULD HAVE LIKED SOMEONE TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CULTURAL GROUPS IN TOWN, AND WHERE TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE WHO SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGES

INVITE NEWCOMERS - PERSONALLY - TO JOIN A GROUP, ORGANIZATION, OR ACTIVITY

DOWNLOAD A TRANSLATION APP ON YOUR PHONE. MAKE AN EFFORT TO LEARN A FEW WORDS IN THE LANGUAGES OF PEOPLE YOU MEET.



SHARE RESOURCES ON LOCAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY AND CULTURE

PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS WHERE NEWCOMERS ARE PRESENT SO YOU CAN CHAT, ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND BUILD CONNECTIONS

FINDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS A CHALLENGE. SHARE RESOURCES AND NETWORKS FOR FINDING HOUSING.

ADVOCATE FOR STREAMLINING THE PROCESS TO COME TO CANADA. IT CAN BE STRESSFUL AND TAKE A LONG TIME.

# Working Together for Diverse, Inclusive and Welcoming Communities

## Contact Information:

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**Visit our website to chat with us!**

**[www.immigrantwelcome.ca](http://www.immigrantwelcome.ca)**