

Immigrant Demographics City of North Vancouver, BC

2023

About the NewToBC Immigrant Demographic Profiles

NewToBC is pleased to share this 3rd edition of its Immigrant Demographic Profiles; the first edition was developed in 2013 and the second in 2018. Using Census 2021 data, profiles have been created for the 14 Greater Vancouver / Fraser Valley communities that received the greatest number of new immigrants over the last census period (2016 – 2021).

The profiles include useful data on countries of origin, languages spoken, age at immigration, education levels,

employment, income, religion, and more. Library staff and community service providers have found these profiles invaluable for service planning and funding proposals. Immigrants, the business community and others have found the information useful in understanding their communities and their newest residents.

To learn more about **NewToBC** and its work and for a glossary of terms, see the back page.

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About the City of North Vancouver

The City of North Vancouver is located on the north shore of Burrard Inlet, nestled at the foot of the majestic North Shore Mountains. It is surrounded on three sides by the District of North Vancouver.

The City of North Vancouver has one library.

Land Acknowledgement

NewToBC acknowledges that the City of North Vancouver is on the traditional and unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwəta4 (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

The National Picture

In 2021, Canada welcomed a record number of immigrants — 406,000. Immigrants made up 23% of Canada's total population, also a new high. Nearly 70,000 chose B.C. in 2021; this marked the secondhighest level of international immigration to B.C. on record.

	Total Pop 2021	Immigrant Pop 2021	Immigrant Pop Total 2021	Recent Immigrant Pop 2021	Recent Immigrant Pop Total 2021
Geography	#	#	%	#	%
Canada	36,991,981	8,361,505	23.0%	1,328,240	3.7%
Ontario	14,223,942	4,206,585	30.0%	584,680	4.2%
British Columbia	5,000,879	1,425,710	29.0%	197,425	4.0%
Quebec	8,501,833	1,210,600	14.6%	202,740	2.4%
Alberta	4,262,635	970,970	23.2%	193,175	4.6%
Manitoba	1,342,153	257,620	19.7%	58,370	4.5%
Saskatchewan	1,132,505	137,620	12.5%	43,115	3.9%
Nova Scotia	969,383	71,565	7.5%	21,385	2.2%
New Brunswick	775,610	44,120	5.8%	16,040	2.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	510,550	14,250	2.8%	4,265	0.9%
Prince Edward Island	154,331	11,765	7.8%	4,860	3.2%
Yukon	40,232	5,385	13.6%	1,125	2.8%
Northwest Territories	41,070	4,145	10.3%	815	2.0%
Nunavut	36,858	1,165	3.2%	240	0.7%

100% sample data for total population and 25% sample data for immigration status (Census 2021)

The number of immigrants settling in B.C. almost doubled between 2016 and 2021; 38,085 arrived in 2016 and 69,470 in 2021.

City of **North Vancouver**

- In Census 2021 British Columbia's 1.42 million immigrants represented 17% of the national total. Only Ontario, with 4.2 million, had more.
- ▶ 29% of all British Columbians were born outside of Canada, similar to Ontario's 30% and notably higher than the national level of 23%.
- During the census period, B.C. welcomed 14.9% of Canada's recent immigrants; Ontario welcomed 44%.
- NOTE: Census 2021 encompasses a portion of the Covid period, when immigration levels were low, and does not capture the strong post-Covid increase.

Immigration to British Columbia

These were the 20 B.C. municipalities attracting the largest numbers of immigrants during the Census period – 2016 to 2021.

- In Census 2021, 76.4% of all B.C.'s immigrants and 78.4% of recent immigrants resided in Greater Vancouver.
- Recent immigrants accounted for more than 80% of total population growth in Greater Vancouver.
- In 2021, the City of North Vancouver was the 10th largest recipient of recent immigrants to B.C.

	Total Pop 2021	Total Pop Growth 2016-2021	Immigrant Pop 2021	Immigrant Total Pop 2021	Recent Immigrant Pop 2021	Recent Immigrant Total 2021	Immigrant Pop Growth 2016-2021	Immigrant Pop Growth 2016-2021
Geography	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
British Columbia	4,915,945	7.8%	1,425,715	29.0%	197,425	4.0%	133,040	10.3%
Greater Vancouver	2,607,010	7.5%	1,089,185	41.8%	154,815	5.9%	99,645	10.1%
Vancouver	650,380	5.2%	274,365	42.2%	41,360	6.4%	11,595	4.4%
Surrey	562,565	10.0%	250,870	44.6%	39,910	7.1%	30,715	14.0%
Burnaby	245,725	6.8%	123,795	50.4%	18,920	7.7%	8,650	7.5%
Richmond	208,400	6.0%	125,600	60.3%	13,705	6.6%	7,295	6.2%
Coquitlam	147,465	6.8%	67,540	45.8%	8,595	5.8%	6,480	10.6%
Abbotsford	150,800	8.8%	43,190	28.6%	6,130	4.1%	4,970	13.0%
New Westminster	78,055	11.7%	29,265	37.5%	5,050	6.5%	4,890	20.1%
Delta	107,270	6.4%	35,560	33.1%	4,325	4.0%	4,320	13.8%
Langley, Township	130,960	13.1%	29,890	22.8%	3,805	2.9%	7,395	32.9%
North Vancouver, City	57,505	10.2%	22,020	38.3%	3,585	6.2%	2,090	10.5%
Kelowna	141,760	14.2%	21,635	15.3%	3,545	2.5%	3,795	21.3%
Saanich	115,505	3.3%	26,040	22.5%	3,405	2.9%	1,285	5.2%
North Vancouver, District	87,385	3.0%	28,195	32.3%	3,340	3.8%	1,690	6.4%
Victoria	87,890	7.6%	17,575	20.0%	3,065	3.5%	1,635	10.3%
Nanaimo	97,020	10.7%	15,620	16.1%	2,260	2.3%	2,500	19.1%
Maple Ridge	89,860	11.0%	20,230	22.5%	2,160	2.4%	4,770	30.9%
Port Coquitlam	60,390	4.3%	20,765	34.4%	2,135	3.5%	2,335	12.7%
West Vancouver	43,385	4.1%	19,815	45.7%	2,080	4.8%	1,200	6.4%
Chilliwack	91,985	11.9%	13,600	14.8%	1,610	1.8%	2,615	23.8%
Prince George	75,160	3.6%	7,710	10.3%	1,440	1.9%	280	3.8%

20 communities in B.C. that received the most immigrants over the last census period (2016 – 2021)

Between 2016 and 2021, the City of North Vancouver continued to experience slightly faster growth in both total (10.2%) and immigrant (10.5%) population, compared to Greater Vancouver (7.5% and 10.1%).

Immigration to the City of North Vancouver

Recent censuses underline the role of immigration in the City's population growth.

	North \	/ancouver, C	ity	Grea	ter Vancouver			
	Total Pop	Immigrant Pop	Total Immigrant Pop	Total Pop	Immigrant Pop	Total Immigrant Pop		
Year	#	#	%	#	#	%		
2021	57,505	22,015	38.3%	2,607,010	1,089,185	41.8%		
2016	52,898	19,930	38.2%	2,463,431	989,540	40.8%		
2011	48,196	17,760	37.2%	2,313,328	913,310	40.0%		
2006	45,165	16,385	36.3%	2,116,581	831,265	39.6%		
2001	44,092	14,950	33.9%	1,986,965	738,555	37.5%		

- Over the past two decades, from 2001 to 2021, the immigrant population in the City of North Vancouver has increased by 47%, compared to an overall growth rate of 30%. Immigration accounted for slightly more than half (53%) of overall growth.
- ▶ The percentage of immigrants has also risen, from 33.9% in 2001 to 38.3% in 2021, a rate of increase similar to that of Greater Vancouver.

% Population Identifying as Racialized

Period of Arrival

Population and Immigration Trends: (2001 - 2021)

A significant proportion of immigrants have been living in Canada for less than 10 years.

- Census 2021 shows that recent immigrants made up 16% of the immigrant population in the City, slightly more than the regional level.
- As well, 32% of immigrants had resided in Canada for less than 10 years, compared to 26% in Greater Vancouver.

	North Vancou	uver, City	Greater Vano	Greater Vancouver			
	#	%	#	%			
Total Immigrants	22,015	100%	1,089,185	100%			
2016 to 2021	3,590	16%	154,815	14%			
2011 to 2015	3,565	16%	133,920	12%			
2001 to 2010	5,035	23%	259,830	24%			
1991 to 2000	4,215	19%	255,480	23%			
1980 to 1990	2,070	9%	126,865	12%			
Before 1980	3,540	16%	158,270	15%			



% Population

Identifying as Racialized

Immigration is a key economic Only 4% of recent immigrants were solution to Canada's aging aged 65 or over, compared to 24% of immigrants and 14% of the population. In 2021, the average age of recent immigrants in the Canadian-born.

Census data illustrates the emphasis placed on those of core working age within Canada's

Immigration is playing a In 2021, core working-age significant role in addressing immigrants (25-54 years) Canada's low birth rate and accounted for 73% of recent its aging population. immigrants and 50% of immigrants, significantly higher than the 43% among the Canadian-born.

Immigrants by Age Group

immigration system.

Canadian-born.

City was 36, compared to 50.5

for immigrants and 38.5 for the

► The Canadian-born population showed a notably higher proportion (19%) of young people between the ages of 0-14, compared to immigrants (3%) and recent immigrants (10%). In part, this is due to the influx of young adult immigrants over the past couple of decades, now with children.

	North Vancouver, City								Greater Va	ncouver		
	Canadian	n-born	Total Imm	igrants	Recent Imn	nigrants	Canadian	-born	Total Immi	grants	Recent Imi	migrants
Age	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	32,310	100%	22,015	100%	3,585	100%	1,350,620	100%	1,089,180	100%	154,815	100%
0 to 14 yrs	6,170	19%	670	3%	360	10%	315,040	23%	35,330	3%	19,650	13%
15 to 24 yrs	3,495	11%	1,380	6%	300	8%	194,025	14%	65,190	6%	14,425	9%
25 to 54 yrs	13,765	43%	11,030	50%	2,625	73%	513,995	38%	536,500	49%	107,135	69%
55 to 64 ys	4,260	13%	3,660	17%	150	4%	153,285	11%	191,990	18%	5,920	4%
65 yrs +	4,625	14%	5,280	24%	155	4%	174,260	13%	260,165	24%	7,690	5%

Age Distribution - North Vancouver, City (Census 2021)

Approximately two-thirds of both immigrants and recent immigrants in the City identify as members of a racialized group, also known as visible minorities, compared to 15% of the Canadian-born.

► The proportion of racialized groups is significantly lower than in the Greater Vancouver region.

The percentage of the total immigrant population identifying as racialized is significantly lower in the City of North Vancouver (63%) than **Greater Vancouver (80%).**

% Population

Identifying as Racialized

Countries of Origin

Iran is the predominant country of origin for immigrants, followed by a diverse assortment of countries.

- ► Almost one of five recent immigrants in the City was born in Iran, followed by the Philippines (15%) and the United Kingdom (7%).
- About 13% of Greater Vancouver's recent immigrants from Iran live in the City of North Vancouver. As well, some 9% of Greater Vancouver's South African immigrants live here.
- ► The municipality is one of very few in B.C. where neither China nor India account for more than 5% of immigrants or recent immigrants.

North Vancouver, City						B.C.		Greater Vancouver			
	#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Total Immigrants	22,015	100%	Recent Immigrants	3,590	100%	Recent Immigrants	197,425	100%	Recent Immigrants	154,820	100%
Iran	5,040	23%	Iran	750	21%	India	39,390	20%	India	30,545	20%
Philippines	2,890	13%	Philippines	555	15%	China	31,450	16%	China	28,970	19%
U.K.	2,175	10%	U.K.	260	7%	Philippines	21,220	11%	Philippines	15,090	10%
Korea, South	855	4%	Brazil	185	5%	U.S.	8,760	4%	Korea, South	6,125	4%
China	830	4%	India	165	5%	U.K.	7,670	4%	Iran	5,615	4%
U.S.	750	3%	U.S.	150	4%	Korea, South	7,225	4%	U.S.	5,460	4%
India	715	3%	China	140	4%	Iran	5,850	3%	Brazil	4,625	3%
South Africa	485	2%	Korea, South	130	4%	Brazil	5,125	3%	U.K.	4,555	3%
Germany	395	2%	South Africa	105	3%	Syria	4,955	3%	Syria	3,380	2%
Hong Kong	390	2%	Mexico	90	3%	Australia	3,280	2%	Mexico	2,460	2%
Other places	7,490	34%	Other places	1,060	30%	Other places	62,500	30%	Other places	47,995	29%

Immigration Arrival Categories

Almost three quarters of immigrants to the City of North Vancouver arrived in the economic class.

- Census 2021 reported that 72% of recent immigrants in the City arrived in the economic class. Although this figure is approximately 10% higher than the 63% for Greater Vancouver, it indicates a 5% decline compared to the Census 2016 period.
- Conversely, the proportions of recent immigrants arriving under the family class and as refugees increased slightly.

		North Van	couver, City			Greater \	/ancouver	Recent Immigrants			
	Total Immig	jrants	Recent Im	migrants	Total Immig	rants	Recent Immi	grants			
Immigration Category	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%			
Total Immigrants	18,475	100%	3,590	100%	930,915	100%	154,820	100%			
Economic immigrants	12,920	70%	2,600	72%	554,240	60%	97,715	63%			
Principal applicants	5,750	31%	1,350	38%	225,255	24%	52,940	34%			
Secondary applicants	7,170	39%	1,250	35%	328,990	35%	44,775	29%			
Immigrants sponsored by family	3,895	21%	770	21%	282,705	30%	43,515	28%			
Refugees	1,535	8%	210	6%	81,155	9%	12,880	8%			
Other immigrants	120	1%	0	0%	12,805	1%	710	0%			

Number of Immigrants by Immigration Category (2021). Reflects admission category and applicant type for the immigrant population in private households who landed between 1980 and 2021 - 25% sample data

*Note: 'Other immigrant' refers to a person who was granted permanent resident status under a public policy or humanitarian and compassionate cases.

Iran, the Philippines and the U.K. were the top three source countries for recent immigrants to the City of North Vancouver.

Top 10 Places of Birth, by Total and Recent Immigrant Populations (Census 2021)

Languages Spoken

Less than half of all immigrants speak non-official languages at home.

- ► At 49%, the proportion of recent immigrants in the City speaking non-official languages at home is notably lower than the regional level.
- In line with source country data, Iranian (Persian) maintains its position as the most spoken home language among both immigrants (15%) and recent immigrants (17%).

North Vancouver, City							
	#	%		#	%		
Total Immigrants	22,020	100%	Recent Immigrants	3,590	100%		
Non-official languages	8,850	40%	Non-official languages	1,745	49%		
Iranian (Persian)	3,245	15%	Iranian (Persian)	600	17%		
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	1,145	5%	Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	280	8%		
Korean	635	3%	Portuguese	150	4%		
Mandarin	610	3%	Korean	125	3%		
Spanish	380	2%	Mandarin	115	3%		
Russian	245	1%	Spanish	85	2%		
Yue (Cantonese)	235	1%	Russian	40	1%		
Portuguese	225	1%	Ilocano	35	1%		
Ilocano	190	1%	Afrikaans	30	1%		
Punjabi (Panjabi)	185	1%	Czech	30	1%		
Other non-official languages	1,755	8%	Other non-official languages	255	7%		

Greater Vancouver					
	#	%			
Recent Immigrants	154,820	100%			
Non-official languages	86,615	56%			
Mandarin	21,675	14%			
Punjabi (Panjabi)	13,095	8%			
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	6,160	4%			
Korean	4,515	3%			
Yue (Cantonese)	4,180	3%			
Iranian (Persian)	4,105	3%			
Arabic	3,670	2%			
Spanish	3,505	2%			
Portuguese	3,335	2%			
Hindi	2,510	2%			
Other non-official languages	19,865	13%			

Top 10 Non-official Languages Spoken at Home (Census 2021)

Percentage of population with English as a mother tongue

- Over time, there has been a decrease in the comparatively high percentage of residents who speak English only as their mother tongue.
- ► The percentage of English-only speakers declined from 69% in 2001 to 61% in 2021, mirroring the regional situation.



Language Trends (2001-2021) - By % of Population with English Only as a Mother Tongue

Languages Spoken at Work

The vast majority of immigrants speak English at work, and the proportion is growing.

In 2021, only 4% of recent immigrants spoke non-official languages often at work, representing a significant decrease from the 7.2% reported in 2016. This decline suggests a shift towards increased

English language proficiency and integration into the local workforce.

	North Vand	couver, City	
Total Immigrants		Recent Immigrants	s
	%		%
Non-official languages	3.5%	Non-official languages	3.7%
Iranian (Persian)	1.5%	Iranian (Persian)	1.7%
Korean	0.6%	Korean	0.9%
Mandarin	0.5%	Mandarin	0.6%

Greater Vancouver	
Recent Immigrants	5
	%
Non-official languages	10%
Mandarin	4%
Punjabi (Panjabi)	2%
Yue (Cantonese)	1%

Languages Spoken Most Often at Work By % of immigrant population aged 15 years and over (Census 2021)

Religious Affiliation

A large and growing proportion report having no religion.

	North Vanc	G.Van.	
	Total Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Recent Immigrants
Religion	%	%	%
Total	100%	100%	100%
Buddhist	2%	1%	3%
Christian	41%	36%	30%
Hindu	1%	3%	8%
Jewish	1%	1%	1%
Muslim	15%	13%	10%
Sikh	1%	1%	11%
Traditional (N. American Indigenous) spirituality	0%	0%	0%
Other religions and spiritual traditions	2%	1%	1%
No religion and secular perspectives	37%	44%	38%

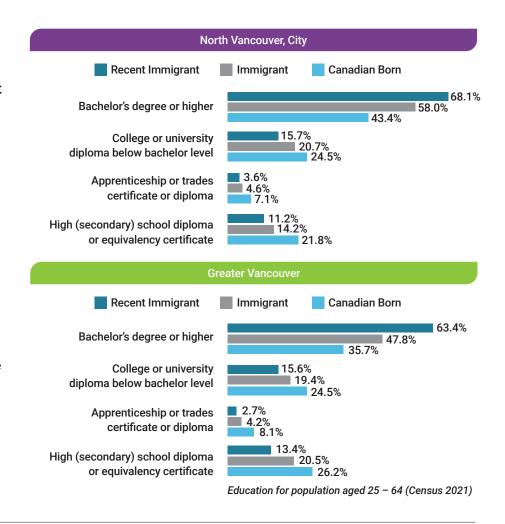
Immigrants and religious affiliation (Census 2021)

- ▶ 44% of recent immigrants in the City identify as having no religion, compared to 38% in Greater Vancouver.
- Among those reporting a religion, Christianity is predominant, with Islam also ranking above regional levels.

Education Levels

Immigrants are highly educated, with recent immigrants the most educated of all.

- ▶ Recent immigrants in the City between the ages of 25 and 64 are more likely to have advanced education, with 68.1% holding a bachelor's degree or higher. This proportion is significantly higher than Canadian-born residents (43.4%) and the total immigrant population (58%).
- Compared to the previous census period, education levels rose significantly. In 2016, 63.6% of recent immigrants and 51% of immigrants had a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Across all groups, educational attainment in the City of North Vancouver is notably higher than in Greater Vancouver across all groups.



Labour Force Participation

As in Greater Vancouver, recent immigrants reported a much higher participation rate.

- At almost 80%, the participation rate of new immigrants in the City significantly exceeded regional levels.
- Immigrants and recent immigrants accounted for 41% and 7% of the labour force, respectively, consistent with levels observed in the prior census and slightly below regional levels.
- Unemployment was essentially equal for all groups, in the range of 7%. It should be noted that rates were temporarily elevated due to the effects of Covid-19.

	North Vancouver, City			Greater Vancouver		
	Canadian Born	Total Immigrants	Recent Immigrants	Canadian Born	Total Immigrants	Recent Immigrants
Population aged 15 years and over	26,145	21,350	3,225	1,035,580	1,053,850	135,165
In the labour force	18,735	14,390	2,560	708,255	655,110	101,265
Participation rate (%)	71.7%	67.4%	79.4%	68.4%	62.2%	74.9%
Employment rate (%)	66.4%	62.2%	73.2%	62.8%	56.5%	68.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	7.3%	7.7%	7.6%	8.2%	9.0%	9.1%

Employment / unemployment rates for population aged 15 years and over (Census 2021)

Occupations

Recent immigrants are increasingly prevalent in the professional, scientific and technical sector.

Recent immigrants were somewhat more likely to work in retail trade and manufacturing, less likely in health care and social assistance. Immigrants and the Canadian-born showed very similar distribution, with only minor exceptions.

Historically a prominent domain of recent immigrants, the accommodation and food services sector was temporarily depressed due to Covid 19.

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)								
Industry		Canadian Born City of North Van	Total Immigrants City of North Van	Recent Immigrants City of North Van				
54	Professional, scientific and technical services	14%	14%	15%				
62	Health care and social assistance	11%	14%	9%				
44-45	Retail trade	10%	13%	15%				
61	Educational services	8%	7%	7%				
23	Construction	8%	7%	8%				
52	Finance and insurance	5%	5%	5%				
81	Other services (except public administration)	4%	5%	4%				
72	Accommodation and food services		5%	6%				
31-33	Manufacturing	4%	5%	7%				
51	Information and cultural industries	6%	4%	7%				

Distribution of Top Ten Occupations - By % labour force population aged 15 years and over. Sorted by % immigrant labour force

Income

The income of immigrants has risen significantly, and now approaches that of the Canadian-born.

Total Income

- Census 2021 reported a notable increase in income across all groups in the City.
- The median income of recent immigrants almost doubled, from \$21,709 in 2015 to \$40,800 in 2020. Also rising significantly was the median income of immigrants and the Canadian born, up by 33% to \$41,200, and 45% to \$54,000 respectively.
- ► The local labour force earned around 10% more than counterparts in Greater Vancouver.

Employment Income

- ▶ Rising overall incomes were mostly due to better employment outcomes. Approximately 40% of the recent immigrant labour force worked full-time for an entire year in 2020, a significant increase from 25% in 2015.
- ▶ In 2015, recent immigrants who worked full-time and for an entire year had earnings of \$61,200, a 35% increase from \$45,090.

(continued on page 12)

Low Income

Despite these improvements, recent immigrants were still more likely to live on a low income. In 2020, 13.8% of the recent immigrant population aged 15 years and over were in the low-income bracket, compared with 12.2% of immigrants and 8.4% of the Canadian-born.

In 2020, 13.8% of the recent immigrant population aged 15 years and over were in the low-income bracket.

Glossary of Terms

Census refers to the population Census of Canada, which is taken at five-year intervals and counts persons and households and a wide variety of characteristics to provide a statistical portrait of the country.

Total Population refers to the total population counts in private households of a specific geographic area, regardless of immigration status on Census Day.

Canadian-born refers to a person who was born in Canada. The Canadian-born population also includes a small number of persons born outside Canada who are Canadian citizens by birth.

Immigrant refers to a person who is or has ever been a landed immigrant or permanent resident. Such a person has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. In the 2021 Census of Population, 'Immigrant' includes immigrants who were admitted to Canada on or before May 1, 2021.

Recent immigrant refers to a person who obtained landed immigrant or permanent resident status in the five years preceding a given census. In Census 2021, this refers to the period from January 1, 2016, to May 11, 2021.

Greater Vancouver is a regional district (Census Division) often known as Metro Vancouver. It is comprised of 21 municipalities, one electoral district and one First Nation (Tsawwassen). It borders the Strait of Georgia to the west, the U.S. border to the south, Abbotsford, and Mission to the east, and unincorporated mountainous areas to the north.

Notes:

- Total population data in each chart or table may vary slightly due to different data sources, i.e. 100% data and 25% sample data from Census profiles.
- Totals in each chart or table may vary slightly due to rounding.



The Library Link For Newcomers

NewToBC partners with libraries and community service providers to develop, deliver, and promote services and resources that support immigrant settlement and integration in communities across British Columbia. NewToBC uses innovative approaches and emerging technologies to deliver three key activities.

- **NewToBC** operates the **Library Champions** Project in communities across B.C.
- 2. NewToBC develops, updates, and disseminates a variety of library and settlement information resources for new immigrants and B.C.'s community of Service Provider Organizations that are available via the NewToBC website.
- 3. NewToBC uses social media platforms to share information about settlement resources, volunteer opportunities, and no cost workshops, training and community events of interest to new immigrants.

Go to our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn feeds to find out more.

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