

# Belonging in Surrey- Newcomer Youth Forum

March 3, 2023 | Surrey BC

Surrey Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) supported the Surrey Youth Newcomer Council (SYNC) in gathering youth in the community for a Newcomer Youth Forum with the theme of belonging in Surrey. This space was created for youth **to gather, to voice their opinions and share their thoughts on their experiences** with belonging in their community and their vision for an inclusive and welcoming Surrey.

The **roadmap** to Belonging in Surrey is:

- Listening to **youth voices**
- Recognize and support the **talent, passion and ability** of youth
- Include youth voices in **decision-making**, bring them to the table

**50 + Youth**  
ATTENDEES

**3**  
POWERHOUSE YOUTH  
PANELISTS

**1**  
INSPIRING KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER



## HOW DO WE CREATE A CULTURE OF BELONGING IN OUR COMMUNITY?

1

- "Encourage people to **feel welcome** and safe "
- "**Be kind and be brave** to take actions"
- "**SAFE PLACE**"
- "LISTEN AND SHARE"
- Create a "**culture cafe**" system for people from different cultures

## WHAT CHANGE NEEDS TO HAPPEN FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A SENSE OF BELONGING IN SURREY?

2

- **Get comfortable with "being uncomfortable!"**
- Reducing the "**eligibility barriers**"
- "**Bridge**" Resources
- Increase "**Awareness**"
- More mentorship "**opportunities**"

## COMMON THREADS

3

- **Friendships**: addressing isolation experienced by newcomer youths
- **Educational and professional networking**: providing spaces to help each other to navigate an upward mobility as newcomers to Surrey and Canada
- **Civic stewardship**: drive and passion to be a part of decision making and changemaking initiatives.

## WORDS OF BELONGING

4

Connection kindness No gatekeeping  
Collective Life Inclusiveness People Acceptance  
Real talk Sharing resources Home  
Happiness Together Safe Peace  
Love Support **HOPE** Inclusion Included  
Opportunity Friendships Uniqueness Family  
Community Understanding Respect  
Communicating Invitations Kindness  
Helping each others