

HOW WELL ARE IMMIGRANTS BEING INTEGRATED?

A research project answers some of the questions.

The Immigrant Integration Research Project assessed public perceptions related to immigration to Surrey, and Surrey as an inclusive community. The project is part of a larger research and consultation initiative led by the Surrey LIP, and will help in the development of the Surrey Immigrant and Refugee Settlement Strategy. Some of the key findings are noted below.

Access to employment is a key issue for newcomers.



KEY STAT "I have difficulty finding employment that matches my education, skills and abilities in Surrey"

41% of immigrants agree

Residents are split on whether discrimination is a problem or not.



KEY STAT "I feel that discrimination is a problem in Surrey."

54% of immigrants and **59%** of non-immigrants agree

Overall, Surrey is seen as a welcoming community.

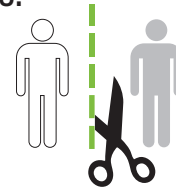


KEY STAT

"I feel welcomed in Surrey."

93% of immigrants agree

People want to connect across cultures, but some struggle to do so.



KEY STAT "I have a hard time connecting with people of ethnic backgrounds different from my own."

28% of both immigrants and non-immigrants agree

Services and programs for immigrants are key to making newcomers feel welcome.



KEY STAT "I am very comfortable accessing public programs and services such as libraries, community centres or cultural centres."

93% of immigrants agree

Additional Findings

Immigrants must be encouraged & supported in their effort to **learn English**.

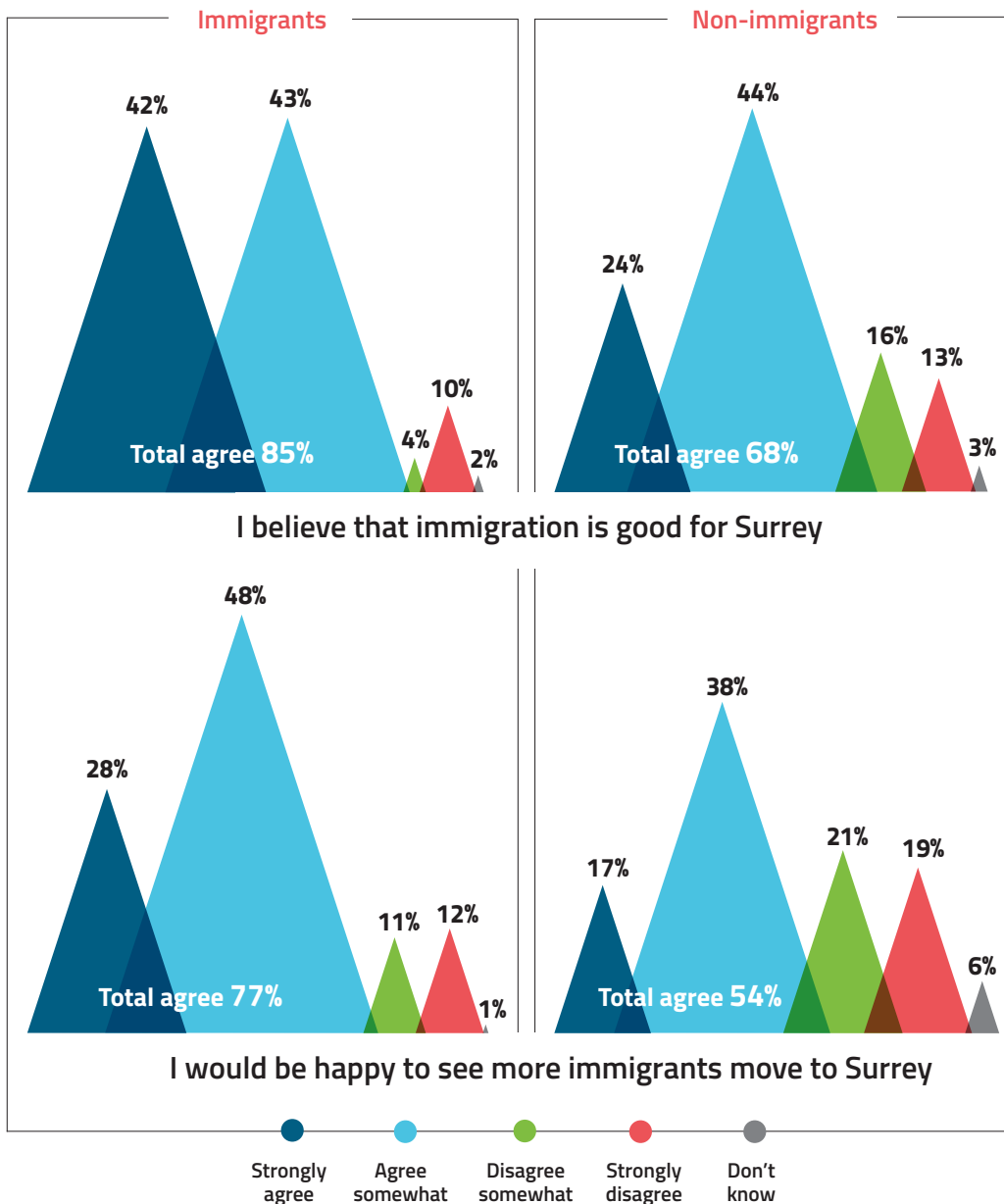
For many residents, not only immigrants, their **sense of belonging** and opportunities to have a say in their community could be strengthened.

Ethnic enclaves are seen to both help and hinder immigrant integration.

IMMIGRANTS AND NON-IMMIGRANTS

Both immigrant and non-immigrant residents of Surrey were surveyed, and showed very similar responses to most questions. But their views differed somewhat on the question of immigration's value to Surrey.

Attitudes towards Immigration in Surrey



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Immigrant Integration Research Project is part of a larger research and consultation initiative led by the Surrey LIP in 2014-2016, and will be used in the formation of a strategic community planning process. It was conducted by CitySpaces Consulting, in conjunction with Mustel Group and Kuri Huhtala + Associates.

Research elements included:

- Random telephone survey: 301 respondents, weighted to match census data
- Seven focus groups with 67 people, representing a cross-section of Surrey residents
- Public consultation: Three events gathered additional input from 112 people
- Surrey LIP Committee consultations
- Literature review
- More than 500 people involved overall

ABOUT THE SURREY LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

Established in 2014, Surrey LIP is led by the City of Surrey and governed by a committee drawn from 30 community organizations.

Full report can be accessed at: www.SurreyLIP.ca/research-and-consultation