

Conestoga College's role in supporting growth in Immigration

This provides a brief overview of how Conestoga College is supporting the influx of immigrants/refugees and newcomers to the Waterloo Region over the upcoming months.

By the end of this year we anticipate receiving upwards of 1,150 refugees (850 through Federal promises and 300 through provincial announcements). There could also be several hundred more refugees arriving in the community in coming months through local sponsorship efforts. The projected influx of refugees exceeds Kitchener's historic yearly intake, both publicly and privately sponsored, by over 250%.

The following have been identified as immediate service areas:

The timeline for implementation is beginning of April for employment support initiatives. Other initiatives are currently happening

Essential Services	Conestoga College Services
Documents processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationally Trained Individual (ITI) advising and Employment Services provides supported and documented referrals
Temporary and long-term affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigrant Pathway Manager is currently working with Conestoga Residence and Conference Centre to establish a referral process
Health and mental health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITI advising and Employment Services provides supported and documented referrals
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITI and Employment Services provide academic coaching CE courses offered to support a balance of earning and learning Academic Upgrading, short term pre-employment programs (Discover Your Future/Focus for Change) Free workshops offered to support employment and academic goals
Language assessment and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported referrals to Conestoga College LINC programs are completed through ITI and Employment Services advising
Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITI advising and Employment Services provides supported and documented referrals Working with a local organization –

	ShamRose for understanding needs of refugees and potential interpretation services
Pre-employment and employment supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Continuing Education courses have been developed to allow individuals to work and participate in courses • Immigrant Internship Program, Employment Services all provide pre-employment and employment support • Free workshops offered to coach individuals on learning about Canadian hiring practices and systems • Workshop Series is in the development stages covering a wide variety of topics to support the assimilation and integration process for newcomers • Online advisement has been launched to support newcomers at a variety of times and geographical areas.

Summary of Services offered through Conestoga College:

1. Referrals to community services through our advisors
2. Conestoga LINC programs and assessment services
3. Pre-employment coaching offered online and in person (ITI Advising)
4. New continuing education courses, workshop series and other short term training to support efficient learning and skills upgrading
5. Employment programs such as the Immigrant Internship Program and Employment Services with job development assistance
6. Employer engagement to create awareness and education of hiring global skills
7. Professional development for staff and faculty to support the transition of a higher percentage of diversity in the classroom and accessing services
8. Outreach to local churches and organizations to engage immigrants/refugees

All services are / will be offered at the Doon, Waterloo and Guelph campuses.