

# QUINTE IMMIGRATION NEWSLETTER



## QUIS OPEN HOUSE



QUIS held an Open House on October 3rd, welcoming clients, partner agencies, municipal officials and the City of Belleville's Mayor Neil Ellis to meet our staff, learn about our programming and meet each other.

There were draws, prizes, food, a photo booth and a QUIS suggestion page. We were overjoyed with the support and participation from our partners and clients! We would like to thank all the participants who came out to learn about QUIS and our programming and to meet us.

Thank you also to our fantastic staff that organized this very successful and fun event!



# NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Keep your eye on our social media and your email for more information about these upcoming events:

The very first QLIP Temporary Foreign Worker Holiday Dinner event was held on December 13th at Hillcrest Community Centre from 6:30-9:30PM. We enjoyed providing information and a holiday meal to temporary workers in our region.

The Annual QUIS Children's Holiday Party is back! After this very popular holiday event at QUIS was on hiatus for several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to hold our first large gathering of clients since 2019 on December 8th! Clients and their children had the opportunity to get photos taken with Santa, do arts and crafts, receive gifts and enjoy snacks and drinks together while spreading holiday cheer.

Thank you so much to all who participated!



## QUINTE LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (QLIP)



QLIP has been very busy in past few months with a variety of projects with our community partners. What have we been doing?

### Employer Toolkit for Hiring Newcomers:

Launching December 2023! This important Toolkit for employers in the Quinte region is almost ready! The Toolkit is a comprehensive resource designed to inspire employers in the Quinte Region to successfully hire, retain, and integrate immigrants into their workforce, particularly using Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) as a guiding principle. Keep an eye out for our online soft launch including an Employer Toolkit Webpage very soon!

### City of Belleville Workplace Inclusion Charter:

Did you know that the City of Belleville as implemented a Workplace Inclusion Charter for the City and that QLIP supports that project? This is an exciting project that gives employers in Belleville a chance to sign on to the Charter to commit to reaching goals for diversity, equity and inclusion in their workplace. Find out more about the Charter at: <https://www.belleville.ca/en/home-and-property/workplace-inclusion-charter.aspx>



# NEWSLETTER

## QLIP WORKING GROUP



The sub-committee of the QLIP partnership is a group of dedicated partner agencies that is committed to raising awareness in the community of the diverse needs of newcomer workers.

Some workers don't always have access to the services and programming of other newcomers so the committee is working to find community solutions.

## QLIP UKRAINE SUPPORT WORKING GROUP

This very active working group is facilitated by QUIS's new Community Engagement Coordinator for Ukraine, Myra Symonenko.

The committee is made up over 30 partner agencies that work collaboratively to create a safety net for displaced Ukrainians living in our region.

QLIP and the Ukraine Support Working Group most recently presented their unique strategy for integrating Ukrainians into the community at the National Pathways to Prosperity Conference in November 2023.

See resources for Ukrainians here:

<https://www.quinteimmigration.ca/resources-and-supports-for-ukrainians/>



...a better community for everyone



## PARTNER WITH US!

QLIP is always happy to welcome new partners. If you see gaps in programming that your agency would like to help with for newcomers/immigrants in our community, contact us to let us know. We want to work with you!

Call Cat Fisher Andrews at 613-784-0652 or go to our website at:

<https://www.quintelip.ca>



# NEWSLETTER

## NEWCOMER WOMEN'S CIRCLE

A Newcomer Women's Circle will be formed in January 2024.

The Circle will give newcomer women an opportunity to hear from community partners on interesting topics and meet women who are leaders in the community.

The Newcomer Women's Circle will also be open to our partner agencies' clientele. Stay tuned for details in future announcements.

## CUAET LOYALIST COLLEGE TOUR

QLIP partner Loyalist College, hosted a tour and info session for clients who arrived in Canada under the Canada Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) on December 7th at 5 pm.

This tour helped Ukrainian newcomers learn about Canadian post-secondary education and plan for their children's future studies, demonstrating to them potential ways to settle long-term within our welcoming local community.



## TEMPORARY UKRAINIAN FAMILY REUNIFICATION PATHWAY

Starting October 23, 2023, the Canadian government put a temporary public policy in place to help families affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine reunite in Canada.

To read more about this temporary family reunification pathway and other resources available for Ukrainian displaced persons go to the QUIS Resources and Support for Ukrainians:

Quinte Immigration Services Webpage:  
<https://www.quinteimmigration.ca/resources-and-supports-for-ukrainians/>

# NEWSLETTER

## IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA UPDATES - DECEMBER 2023



### **Parent & Grandparent Sponsorship:**

IRCC has announced that they will once again select applicants from the previous 'Interest to Sponsor' forms received in 2020. This is the third year that IRCC has chosen not to hold a new intake and instead draw from the 2020 applicant pool. They plan to randomly select 24,000 potential sponsors and invite them to apply to sponsor parents and grandparents for permanent residence in Canada.

### **PR Pathway for Ukrainians with Canadian Relatives:**

IRCC is focusing on family reunification for Ukrainians who have relatives in Canada by offering a new opportunity for permanent residence. Both the family member and the Ukrainian national must already be in Canada and the family member must be a citizen or permanent resident. IRCC has broadened their definition of family member for this program to include siblings, parents, grandparents, and adult children. Ukrainian nationals need to have valid identification and valid status in Canada.



### **New PR Pathway for Colombian, Haitian & Venezuelan Nationals:**

Details are emerging about the commitment Canada previously made to bring 15,000 people from Central America & the Caribbean. Using an 'anchor' relative as a sponsor in Canada, IRCC has announced it will welcome up to 11,000 Colombians, Venezuelans and Haitians over the next year. The 'anchor' relative will act as a sponsor and provide basic needs & support for their family members including orientation to life in Canada, school enrollment for children, and navigating government programs and benefits. Settlement services will be available to family members upon their arrival to Canada.

### **Update on Afghanistan Resettlement:**

Canada has officially met its commitment of welcoming 40,000 Afghans for long term resettlement. Given the serious situation and complexity in Afghanistan, IRCC will continue to process applications they have received from eligible applicants. Afghans have arrived to provinces across the country since special measures were announced in 2021 and have been welcomed and supported in over 180 communities.

# NEWSLETTER

**IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA UPDATES - DECEMBER 2023  
CONTINUED...**



## **Changes Coming to the International Student Program:**

The number of international students arriving in Canada to study at colleges and universities has significantly increased over the last 5 years and this increase has also highlighted the serious challenges that face many international students in integrating into Canada. IRCC has announced it is making several changes to the way it manages the international student stream including greater responsibility sharing between provincial and federal governments. Designated Learning Institutions (colleges & universities) will also be required to follow much more strict recruitment practices and provide greater levels of support and resources to international students. Starting in December 2023, all DLI's will be required to confirm student's acceptance letters directly with IRCC as a means of preventing fraudulent documents being created.



## **FREE HOLIDAY EVENTS IN THE QUINTE REGION**

### **Belleville Santa Claus Parade**

- On Sunday, November 19th, the parade began at 4:30 PM at the Tim Horton's on Bridge and Sidney Street, ending at Bridge and Herchimer Avenue. The parade featured over 60 decorated floats, live music, and choir groups.

### **The Side Hustle Christmas Market**

- This free event took place on Saturday, November 25th, from 10 AM to 4 PM at Venue 1906, 34 Victoria Avenue, Belleville, ON. Attendees had the opportunity to shop and support over 30 artisans from the Bay of Quinte Region.

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## Holiday Events in the Quinte Region Continued...



### The Belleville Festival of Lights

-Starts November 17th to January 7th, 2023 at the Jane Forrester Park in Belleville (30 South John Street).

### Enchanted Holiday Market

-Experience the Enchanted Holiday Market downtown Belleville including; ice skating, horse and carriage rides, local shopping, dining and pictures with Santa from November 17th to December 18th.

### Fun Holiday Facts:



**Evergreens are an ancient tradition:** The custom of Christmas trees dates back to ancient civilizations such as the Egyptians and Romans. They adorned their surroundings with evergreens during the winter solstice, symbolizing the anticipation of spring's resurgence. The presence of evergreens served as a reminder of the lush foliage that would flourish with the sun's return.

**Hanging stockings started by accident:** According to legend, the tradition of hanging stockings by the chimney with care stems from a tale of a destitute widower who struggled to afford dowries for his three daughters, hindering their chances of marriage. In a heartwarming turn of events, the benevolent St. Nick discreetly deposited a bag of gold down their chimney, landing neatly in the stockings the girls had hung by the fire to dry. This generous act became the origin of the enduring tradition we know today.

**The 8 reindeer have had lots of names:** Rudolph came close to being named Rollo or Reginald, and his companions went through a range of other potential names. The alternate options included Flossie, Glossie, Racer, Pacer, Scratcher, Feckless, Ready, Steady, and Fireball.



# NEWSLETTER

## Meet the Board of Directors of Quinte Immigration Services



The Board of Directors provides oversight of the mission, values, policies and finances of Quinte Immigration Services.

There are 9 positions on this Board. The Annual General Meeting of Quinte Immigration was held on October 30th, 2023, where the following individuals were confirmed to comprise the Board for the next year:

Paul Osborne: President, Colleen Tripp: Vice President, Connie Gallupe: Secretary, Gregory Burns: Treasurer, Gordon Gazley: Meeting Facilitator, Karen Kitchen: Director, Jeremy Ashley: Director, Hardik Patel: Director, and Jopcy Joseph: Director.



Future issues of the Newsletter will feature individual Directors. We are proud to have a board that reflects diversity on many levels.





# NEWSLETTER

## Winter Holidays Around the World

### Dec. 18-26: Hanukkah – Judaism

This is the eight-day Jewish festival of lights, which celebrates the Maccabean revolt in Israel. Eight candles are lit with a menorah to honor the holiday.



### Dec. 21: Winter Solstice – Indigenous and Neo-Pagan

Solstice is the point in the year "when the earth is most inclined away from the sun. It is the most southern or northern point depending on the hemisphere," according to Interfaith Calendar. Pagans and Wicca believers will celebrate that event through Yule, but indigenous people on Turtle Island have celebrated Winter Solstice since time immemorial. The solstice honors the ending of the year and the birth of the sun.

(<https://www.deseret.com/2018/11/27/20577947/12-religious-holidays-believers-celebrate-in-december>)

### Beginning of New Year: Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is the festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. In Chinese, the festival is commonly referred to as the Spring Festival as the spring season in the lunisolar calendar traditionally starts with lichun, the first of the twenty-four solar terms which the festival celebrates around the time of the Chinese New Year. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese\\_New\\_Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_New_Year))



*Happy Holidays*

On behalf of Quinte Immigration Services staff and board of directors, our best wishes for the holiday season and a very Happy New Year!