



YMCA Immigrant Services

As a multi service organization committed to building healthy communities the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth offers a variety of programming that supports newcomer settlement and integration with a focus on families, being place based, being active and being engaged in community.

Child & Youth Settlement Programming

Since 1992 the YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth has identified newcomer children and youth as requiring specific support to meet settlement and integration needs. Newcomer children and youth are entering the settlement process at a time when their emotional and physical development is already in upheaval. Language barriers, racism, balancing cultural identities, parental conflict, academic challenges, isolation and shifting familial roles are compounded by occurring at a point in time when their sense of identity, relationships with others and view of the world are being formed in the most basic ways.

Our child and youth settlement programming includes:

School Settlement Program on site in 34 schools in HRM and 20 schools across the province with the objective of supporting newcomer parents and children to be actively engaged in new school communities .

- On-site School Settlement Workers
- Orientation Sessions
- Home & School Engagement
- Awareness Raising Presentations
- Linking and referral to school and community resources
- Supporting involvement in school based activities (clubs, meetings, events)

Youth Outreach programming for young people aged 13-18 that develops leadership skills, independence and a social network that are essential to sense of belonging.

- Homework Clubs
- Gender specific programming
- Leadership Development
- Community Involvement & Service Leadership
- Recreational & Social activities

Saturday Study Skills for ages primary to grade six offers an interactive & age appropriate curriculum designed to clarify and reinforce school routines and practices in a safe and supportive environment where students can ask questions and have a better understanding of, and comfort level with, the classroom setting. Currently offered each Saturday morning at two locations:

- YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs in Fairview
- Community YMCA on Gottingen Street

Canadian Orientation Abroad Refugee Youth Program (COA) As part of a YMCA network across Canada we offer pre arrival services to refugee youth:

- Information & Orientation
- Referrals
- Resources

Active Living

Active Living is an integral part of a healthy lifestyle, an important part of successful settlement and a useful tool for integration. Being physically active, and being active in your community reduces and prevents stress, and isolation, and at the same time builds capacity to participate in, and contribute to, building healthy communities.

Through our Active Living programs clients can be involved with sessions like:

- Active Living Fitness Sessions
- Bridging to community events and programming (ie. Swim to Survive)
- Sewing social with the Atlantic Sewing Guild
- Seniors Group
- Family Fun Days
- Weekly Talking Circles for all levels
- Health & Wellness Information Sessions

Canada Connects & Volunteer Coordination

YMCA Canada Connects is a volunteer based matching program focused on intercultural interaction and learning to provide support in the settlement and integration process. This programming is needs driven and supports newcomers to become fully engaged in Canadian life by increasing awareness and understanding of the social, political, cultural and economic context of the new community.

- One-on-one matching
- Family matching
- Two hours per week

Employment & Education Navigation

The primary focus of the Employment and Education service area is to support the settlement needs of young adults, and adults, with a specific focus on helping to navigate post-secondary opportunities and to provide targeted, practical employment interventions that support securing predominantly entry level and transitional employment positions.

- One-on-one support
- Group sessions
- Information and referral

Crisis Intervention, Prevention and Integration

YMCA Immigrant Services collaborates with settlement organizations, mainstream service providers and community partners to identify challenges and opportunities, and to look for creative and effective solutions that support successful settlement, community engagement and the contribution of new Nova Scotians.

- Mobile Crisis
- One-on-one Navigation
- Service Connection Sessions
- Integration & Engagement

YREACH

With a focus on community and multi-sectoral partnerships YREACH Settlement & Language Services delivers a province-wide, coordinated approach to language, settlement and integration services ensuring that eligible participants can access local resources, build networks and thrive in communities all across Nova Scotia.

We are able to work collaboratively with our colleagues in smaller centres in ways that respect the fact that local residents have the expertise about their own communities. We believe this is critical to successful capacity building and engaging the larger community in successful settlement initiatives.

The objective of this program is to provide in-person settlement and language services that are

- Local to community of residence (place based)
- Work collaboratively with partners organizations to build welcoming communities
- Support retention in smaller centres

Gender Based Violence Prevention Project (GBVP)

The Gender Based Violence Prevention project provides information to people who are supporting newcomers who are experiencing GBV or want to engage newcomers in better understanding the issue.

- Capacity Building
- Workshops & Presentations
- Resource Guide and Tools



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