

DAWCC

Dauphin & Area Welcoming
Communities Coalition

Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Strategy

March 2022



Welcome!

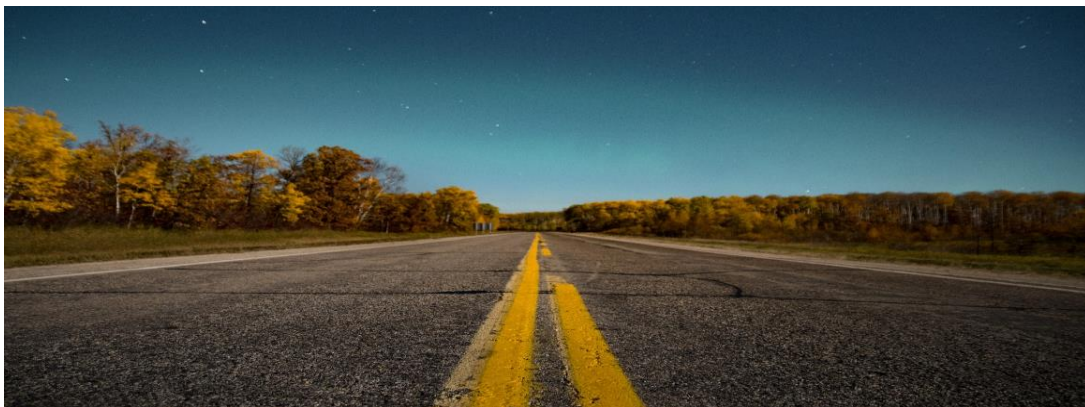
DAWCC is pleased to present its Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Strategy 2022, the preliminary document to establish the direction of our work to ensure newcomers can succeed and feel at home in our region. This strategy was created with the thoughtful input of newcomers, immigrants and Canadian-born community members, collected through focus groups, committee meetings and surveys. As we continue to listen and learn together, we will make adjustments along the way so, as communities, we remain responsive to newcomer needs.

Like many rural areas across the country, our region desires to attract and retain newcomers to grow local populations, meet labour market needs and keep our communities vibrant. Our strategy recognizes while newcomers adjust and adapt when settling in a new country, successful integration is more likely to occur in communities that create opportunities for people to learn together, work together and play together. This strategy is our initial road map. It is premised on respect and equity and focuses on building our capacity and strengthening our region's knowledge base so we can better understand and support one another. We hope community members from all backgrounds and walks of life will join us on this important journey.

Successful integration is defined as “the ability to contribute, free of barriers, to every dimension of Canadian life – economic, social, cultural, and political.

Integration is a two-way process which involves commitment on the part of immigrants and refugees to adapt to life in Canada and on the part of Canadians to welcome and adapt to new people and cultures.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada



Our Vision

Building Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Together

Our Mission

Dauphin & Area Welcoming Communities Coalition (DAWCC) is a partnership of municipal leaders, service providers, employers, community groups and community members, including people with lived experience of immigrating to Canada, who are dedicated to creating a welcoming and inclusive region.

Our Service Area

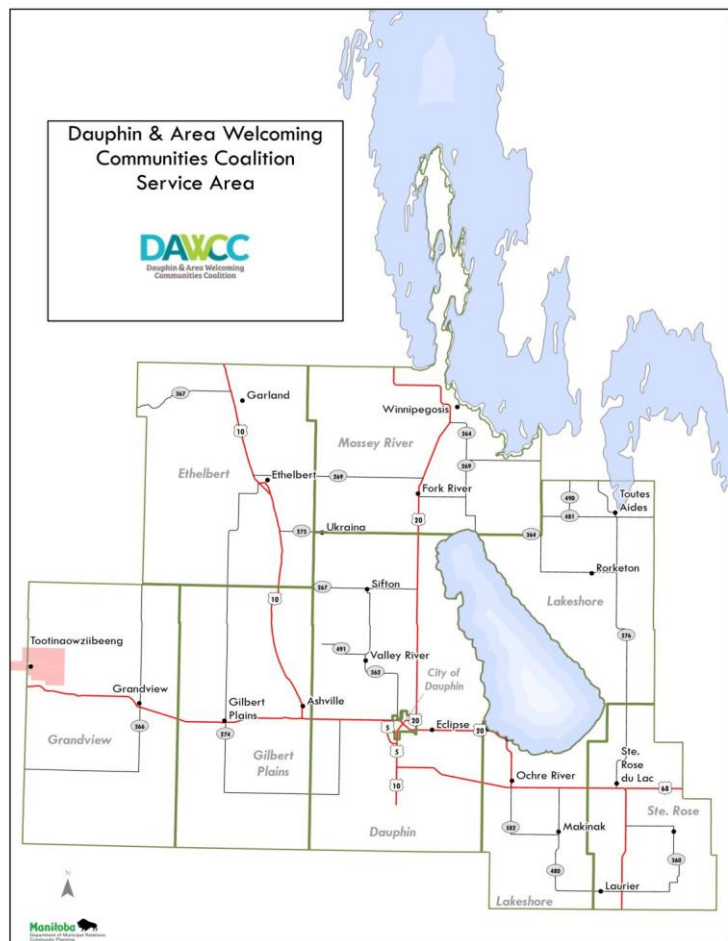
DAWCC is a regional immigration partnership covering a large rural area within Manitoba's Parkland. Our service area is located on Treaty 2 Territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis People.

The region has a combined land area of 7,900 sq. KMs and a combined 2021 Census population of 18,218.

Seven rural municipalities and one urban municipality are included within the service area:

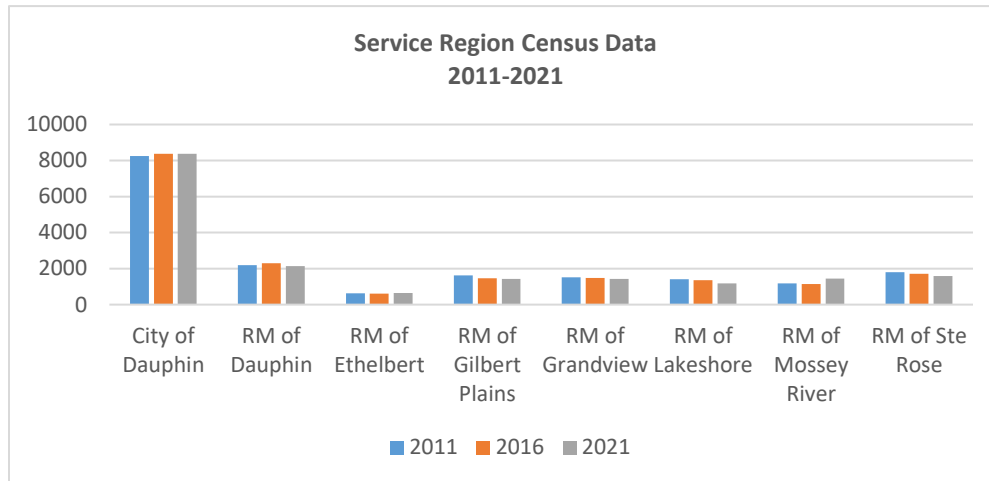
- City of Dauphin
- RM of Dauphin
- RM of Ethelbert
- RM of Gilbert Plains
- RM of Grandview
- RM of Lakeshore
- RM of Mossey River
- RM of Ste Rose

From Dauphin, the nearest urban centres are Brandon, a 2 hour drive south, and Winnipeg, a 3.5 hour drive southeast.



Demographics & Context

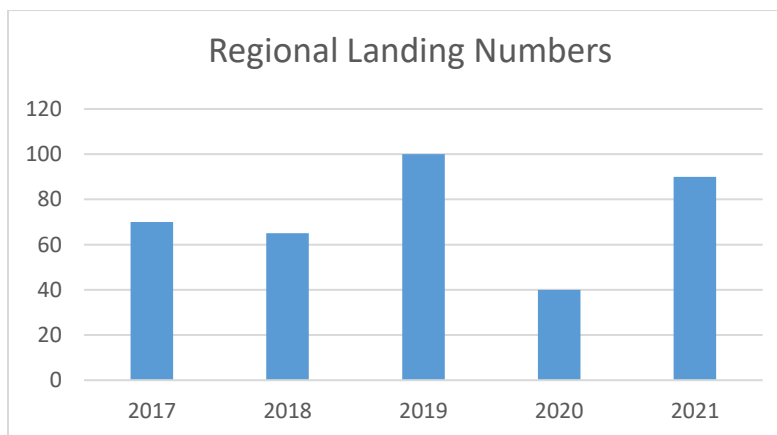
Our combined service area population decreased by 2% over the past 10 years. Stalled population growth combined with a regional labour market shortage has heightened local interest in immigration. A regional committee is now exploring immigrant recruitment programs as a strategy to boost economic and regional growth.



Statistics Canada, Census Profiles 2011 - 2021

Immigrant landing numbers record the number of newcomers declaring our region as their destination when arriving in Canada. While these numbers are an important feature when tracking immigration trends, they reveal only a portion of our region’s immigration story. Many newcomers arrive in our area through secondary migration, often moving here for job opportunities after landing in another Canadian location. Arrivals by secondary migration cannot be counted with any accuracy, but data from Regional Connections indicates a significant portion of our region’s newcomers arrive by secondary migration.

Our region’s landing numbers decreased significantly during the COVID pandemic, as seen in 2020. Landing numbers can be expected to increase now that travel restrictions have eased.



Permanent Residents – Monthly IRCC Updates

Demographics & Context

The impact of immigration varies greatly between communities in our service area. The majority of the region's newcomers settle in Dauphin, but a growing number of newcomers and immigrants are moving to and working in the surrounding rural municipalities. Rural municipal involvement in immigration partnerships, such as DAWCC, is often linked to the current amount of immigration to a rural area.

The top three source countries of newcomers in our region:

- Philippines
- India
- Nicaragua

Canada's economic and social wellbeing depends on immigration. The Conference Board of Canada predicts almost 100% of Canada's population growth will be through immigration by 2035. Rural populations are especially affected as they usually have aging populations and high rates of youth outmigration.



History & Background

In 2013, in response to increasing newcomer arrivals, a newcomer-serving office, Dauphin & Region Immigrant Services, opened to provide direct services to newcomers settling in our region. Since that time, demand has increased as new community members from a growing number of source countries continue to move to our region.

The Dauphin settlement service office joined Regional Connections in April 2020. Regional Connections is a multi-site rural settlement provider with over 30 years' experience delivering newcomer services. The accomplishment significantly boosted our region's capacity to serve newcomers. Staff, clients and community members now have access to a wide range of programs, resources and supports.

Over the years, as the Dauphin settlement office partnered and collaborated with regional stakeholders in the delivery of settlement services, awareness of and interest in a Local Immigration Partnership developed. Service providers, municipal leaders and stakeholders recognized that community-level collaboration and planning was an important factor in newcomer success and retention.

Local Immigration Partnerships (often referred to as a 'LIPs') are initiatives funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC.) They do not provide direct services to newcomers, but work at the community level to provide a platform for municipalities and stakeholders to collaborate and coordinate on plans to reduce barriers to newcomer integration. In our case, we refer to DAWCC as a 'regional' immigration partnership, rather than local, because our partnership covers a large rural region with numerous communities of different sizes.

A feasibility study to assess the region's interest in a local immigration partnership took place in 2019. The resulting September 2019 report concluded there was substantial support for the creation of a LIP in Dauphin and surround region.

DAWCC was launched in November 2020 and our Regional Partnership Council (RPC) and Immigrant Advisory Table (IAT) were formed shortly after. RPC members are multi-sector stakeholders who will oversee our strategic plan and put it into action. They are informed and guided by the ideas and expertise of our IAT members who have lived experience immigrating to Canada and settling in our region.

Over the past 16 months, DAWCC's RPC and IAT members have been meeting and information-gathering to learn about regional newcomer needs. This preliminary strategy is the product of that work and the feasibility study, focus groups, surveys and data collection.



Priority Area 1 - Social Inclusion

We believe social inclusion is often the foundation of newcomer success. It can lead to better employment outcomes, higher participation in committees and leadership roles and a greater sense of belonging. We recognize newcomers leave behind support groups and connections when moving to a new country. Without social capital, it can be difficult for a person to access help and information or participate in a new community. We believe connections and feelings of belonging are more likely to occur in communities where people have accurate information and a range of opportunities to learn about and meet one another.

Our goals:

- Our region publically celebrates diversity.
- Our region creates opportunities for community members from diverse backgrounds to learn about and meet one another.
- Our region promotes the benefits of immigration and the contributions of immigrants.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Newcomers and immigrants have strong social networks.
- Newcomers enjoy their rights and act on their responsibilities in Canadian society.
- Our region has a positive attitude towards diversity and positive relationships with newcomers, immigrants and Indigenous people.
- Our communities foster welcoming and inclusive environments for immigrants.



Priority Area 2 - Building Support Services and Improving System Capacity

We recognize newcomers and immigrants are often disproportionately affected by shortages in housing and crucial support services, such as daycare and transportation. We also recognize service providers may not know how to support newcomers or recognize when they have difficulty accessing services. From our conversations with newcomers and immigrants in our region, we learned it can be difficult to locate information about services and resources because local information-sharing often relies on pre-existing knowledge about facilities, activities and programs.

Our goals:

- Our region shares and advertises information in ways that are accessible to newcomers.
- Our region creates initiatives and partnerships to reduce barriers for newcomer access to housing and support services.
- Our region promotes Settlement Services and encourages collaboration and partnerships between Settlement Services, stakeholders and service providers.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Newcomers are accessing accurate and timely community and regional information.
- Regional stakeholders and service providers are aware of newcomer needs.
- Partnerships are sustained at the community level and deliver responsive and coordinated settlement and community services.



Priority Area 3 - Improving Labour Market Outcomes

We understand it can be difficult for newcomers to learn about our region's employers and job opportunities and we acknowledge many newcomers and immigrants are employed in jobs that underutilize the skills and experience they acquired outside of Canada. Often, Canadian employers look for Canadian-work experience and can overlook a newcomer's skills and competencies. We recognize immigration plays an important role in meeting regional labour market shortages and bringing new business to our area.

Our goals:

- Our region promotes employment services and creates opportunities for targeted employment supports for newcomers.
- Our region creates opportunities for newcomers and employers to meet and learn about one another.
- Our region promotes and creates support for newcomer small businesses and entrepreneurial projects.

Targeted Outcomes:

- Newcomers and immigrants have a good understanding of and access to regional employment opportunities and employment services.
- Newcomers find employment commensurate with their skills and experience.
- Newcomers contribute to the economic development of our communities.



What's Next

Our Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Strategy is the next step towards helping our region grow its capacity to welcome and embrace newcomers so they can thrive and feel at home.

Now that our preliminary strategy is complete, DAWCC's RPC and IAT members will create an action plan by identifying projects and initiatives to move us towards our goals. Working Groups will be established for each of the three priority areas and members will be responsible for transforming ideas into reality. We encourage interested community members to reach out any time and join us as volunteers and participants.

While the groundwork and coordination of our initiative is done by DAWCC members, DAWCC is a region-based partnership. Our success depends on participation and collaboration with stakeholders, business leaders and community members from across the region. Together, we can build welcoming communities.



Acknowledgements

DAWCC would like to recognize Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for its support and funding of our Local Immigration Partnership. Our work is just beginning, yet, in the short time RPC and IAT members have been meeting, our collective understanding of regional newcomer needs has already increased.

DAWCC also acknowledges the many contributions of our host organization, Regional Connections, for supporting the growth of our LIP and contributing a vast amount of knowledge and experience to guide us as we develop our partnership.

Recognition is also due to DAWCC's RPC and IAT members who, despite busy work schedules and personal commitments, contribute their energy, insights and ideas to ensure our partnership is a success.

Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

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2021-22 Immigrant Advisory Table

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