

PATHWAYS TO

EMPOWERMENT

isans

Immigrant Services
Association of Nova Scotia



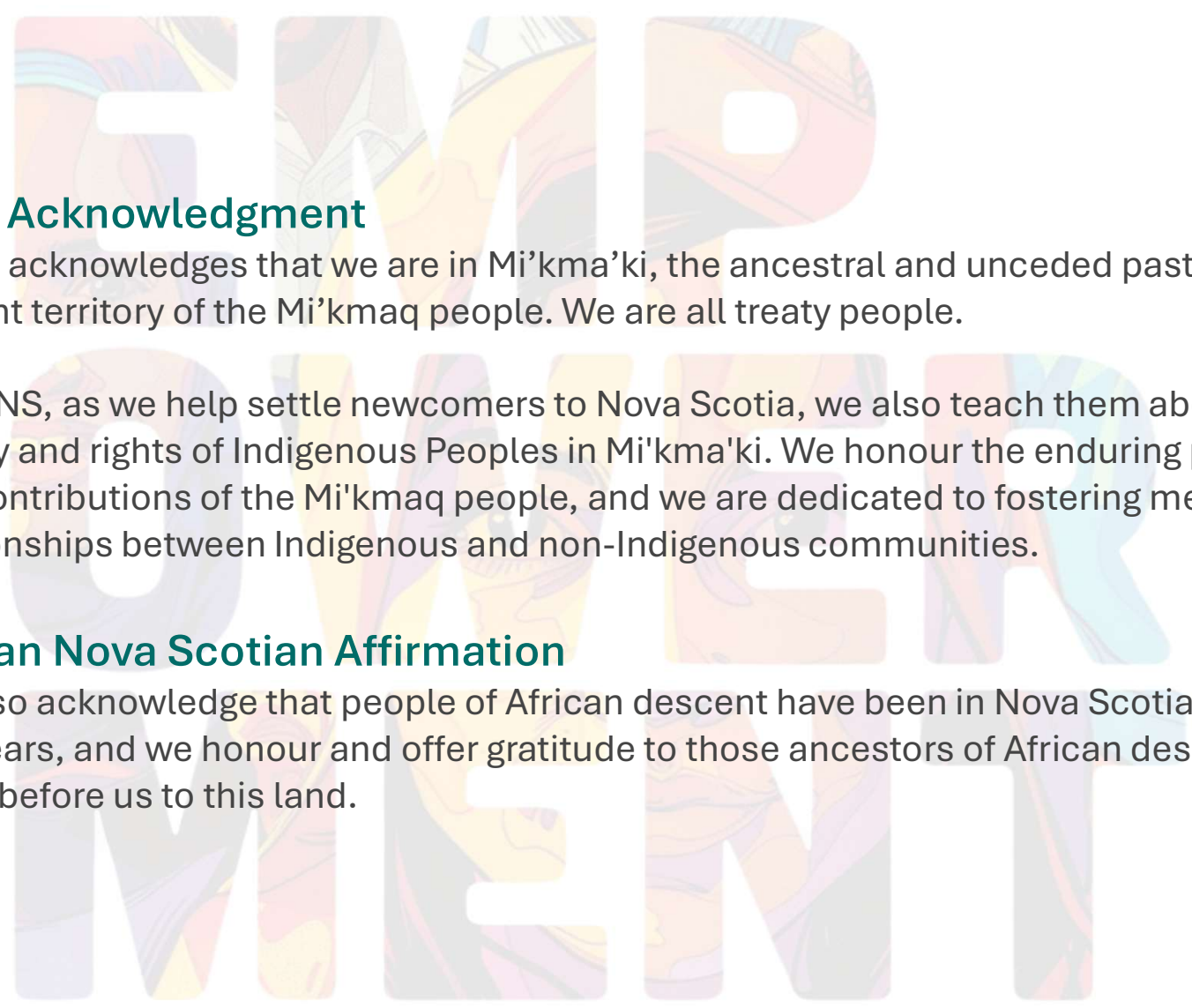
Building Welcoming Communities

Oge Chukwudozie Coordinator;
Community Capacity

PATHWAYS TO

EMPOWERMENT





Land Acknowledgment

ISANS acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded past and present territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all treaty people.

At ISANS, as we help settle newcomers to Nova Scotia, we also teach them about the history and rights of Indigenous Peoples in Mi'kma'ki. We honour the enduring presence and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people, and we are dedicated to fostering meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

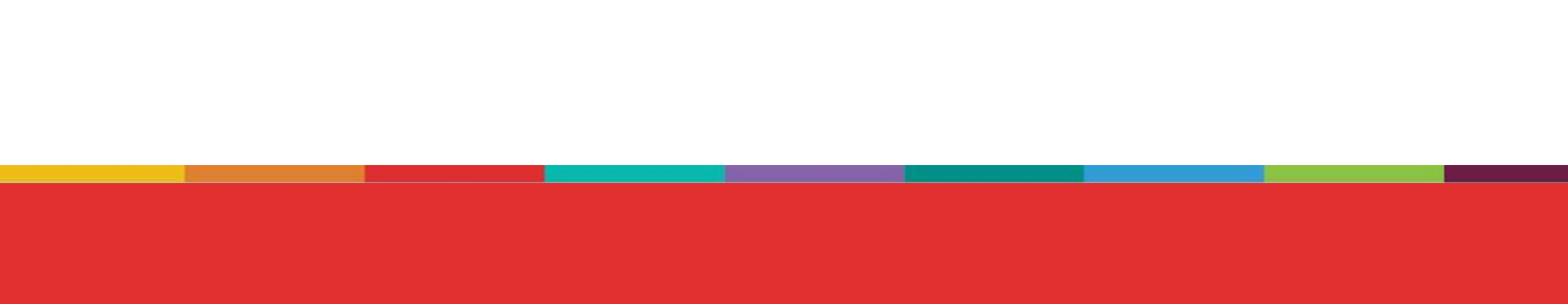
African Nova Scotian Affirmation

We also acknowledge that people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years, and we honour and offer gratitude to those ancestors of African descent who came before us to this land.

Agenda

- Why welcoming communities?
- Understanding newcomer experience
- Explore the concept of safer space and being an ally





What is a Welcoming Community?

- A welcoming community is a collective effort to design and sustain a place where newcomers/immigrants feel that they belong and that supports immigrants' economic and socio-cultural integration
- A welcoming community has structures, processes, and practices in place to meet the needs and promote the inclusion of immigrants in all aspects of life, and actively works to ensure these are effective

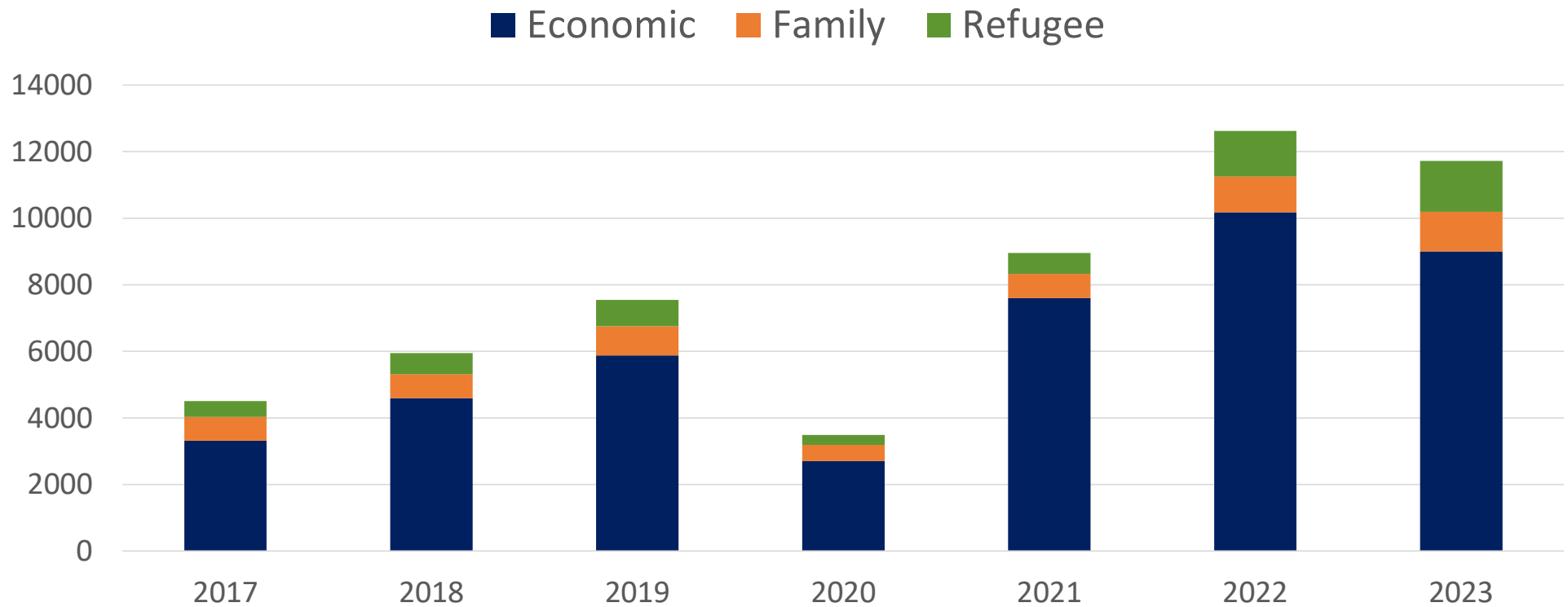
(Introduction to the new welcoming communities' toolkits. Pathways to Prosperity Partnership)



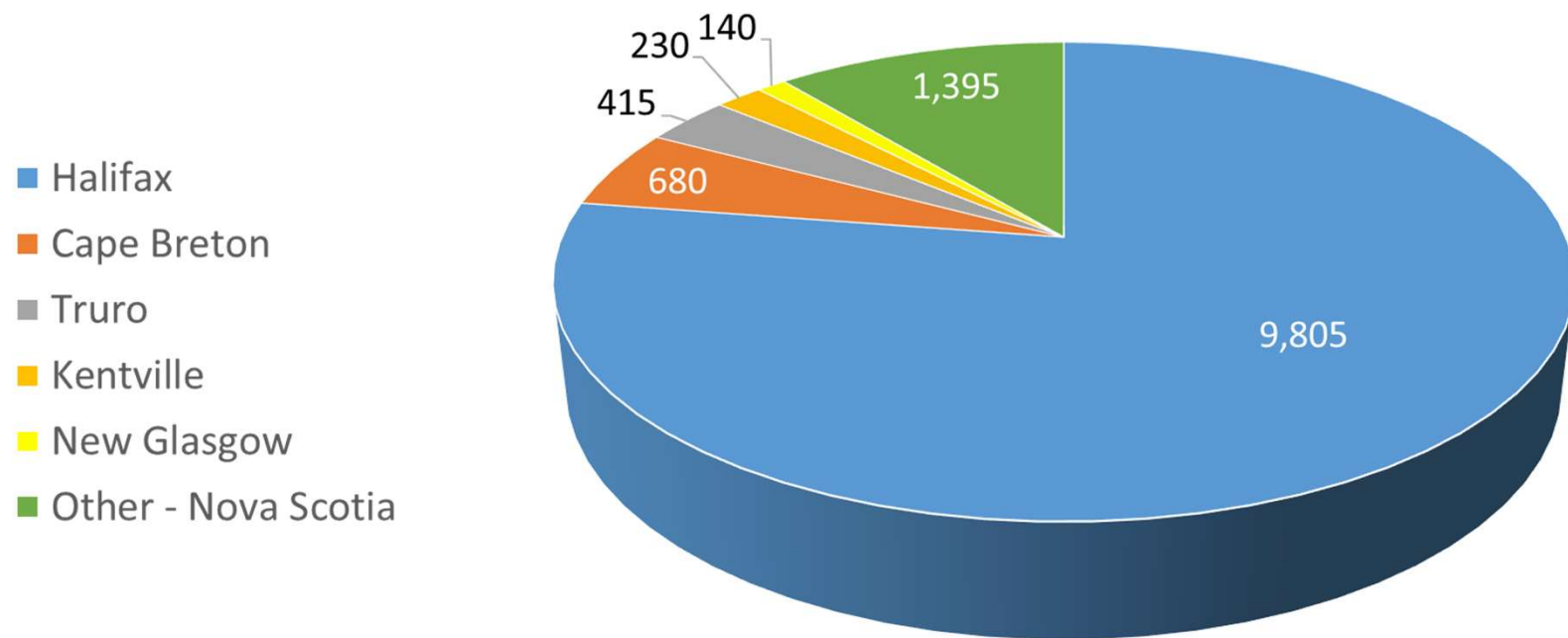
Why is it essential to have Welcoming Communities?

- Successful integration of immigrants is essential because:
 - ⑩ **2025-2027 Immigration Levels Plan means that average of 380, 000 permanent residents are expected to arrive in Canada each year**
 - ⑩ **Canada's immigration plan targets immigrants to support the economy and address labour market needs**
 - ⑩ **Maintaining the vitality of smaller Canadian communities, and of Francophone Minority Communities, often depends on the attraction and retention of (Francophone) immigrants**

Immigration to NS has been growing steadily



NS New Permanent Residents By Location 2022



Benefits of immigration to Canadian sectors

Economic impact of immigration

Immigrants contribute to every sector of Canada's economy. Immigrants 25 - 54 account for

- over 36% of people working in accommodation and food services
- nearly 38% of those working in the transportation and warehousing sector
- over 34% of those working in professional, scientific and technical services
- over 20% of those working in construction

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

PATHWAYS TO

EMPOWERMENT

**Understanding
newcomers'
experience**



Do you remember?

- Your first day of school? Or the first day of a new job?
- The day you travelled to someplace new for the first time??

How was the experience; good, not so good? What contributed?

Cultural Adjustment Process



Facts and myths about immigrants





Myth 1: Immigrants are a burden on the Canadian economy

The immigration laws of Canada are designed to draw in more talented people than any other category of immigrants, which is a useful strategy for boosting the country's economy.

The majority of immigrants to Canada have degrees in a variety of areas, bringing with them experiences and languages from throughout the globe. They are a priceless asset that will provide Canada a competitive edge on the world market.



Myth 2: Immigrants take jobs from Canadians

Immigrants due to lack of prior Canadian life experience find it difficult to compete with Canadians for the same employment.

This factor may force new immigrants to accept lower-paying professions because the exceptionally high work qualifications they achieved in their home countries (such as medical or legal degrees) do not convert to Canadian counterparts.



Myth 3: Internationally trained professionals are not as qualified as Canadian professionals

Forty percent (40%) of professionals who immigrated to Canada after receiving their professional training abroad are currently employed in the same field.

Before they can practice their chosen profession in Canada, these experts must complete extensive training, obtain further accreditation, and pass stringent testing to demonstrate that they are equally prepared as Canadian professionals.



Creating safer
spaces

PATHWAYS TO

EMPOWERMENT

The word 'EMPOWERMENT' is rendered in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Each letter is filled with a different, vibrant comic book-style illustration of a person's face or eyes. The colors are bright and varied, including shades of purple, yellow, orange, red, and blue. The background of the entire slide is a light blue-grey, featuring a faint, larger-scale illustration of a person's face, similar in style to the one in the letters.

Individual reflection exercise – on menti

What is your idea of a safe(r) space?

Join menti at
menti.com use code
6243 2817



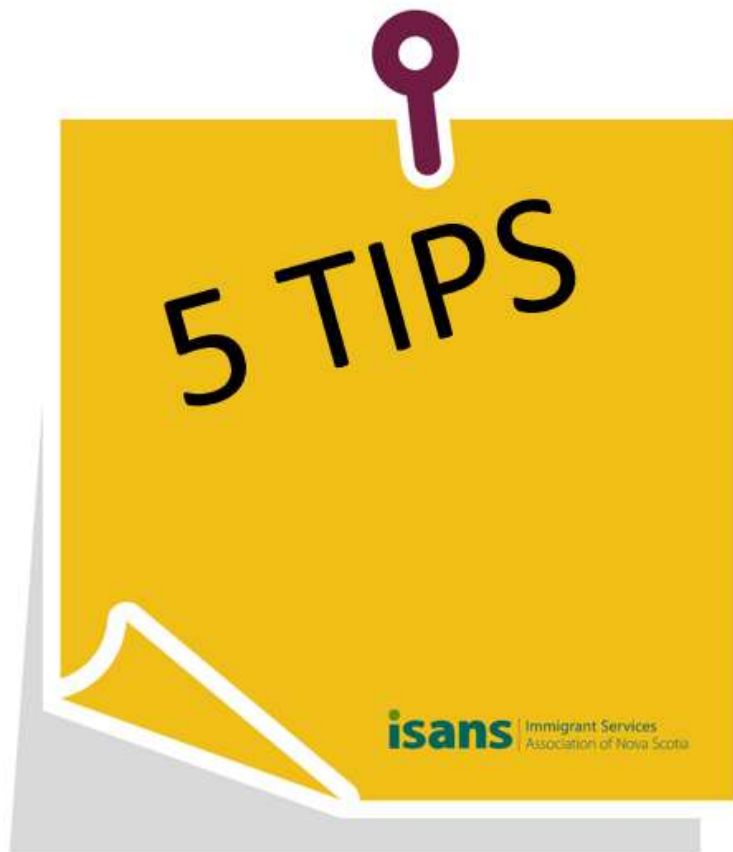


Personal reflection

What are the key take away for you from the points and discussions?

Following the discussions, in what ways can you support in making your environment safe for newcomers?

Building safer spaces...



How to be an A L L Y...

- Understand your privilege and bias.
- Listen, and do your homework.
- Speak up, but not over.
- Realize that you're going to make mistakes and apologize when you do.
- Saying you're an ally is not enough (use your voice for good).



Practical ways to support newcomers

- Share information about your community and local services.
- Introduce newcomers to others with common interests to help build networks.
- Donate clothing and furniture.
- Share a favourite Canadian pastime.
- Learn about their culture and heritage, and share your own and the community's culture and heritage.
- Invite a newcomer to a local sporting event.
- Encourage others in your community to engage with newcomers

Source: [Government of Canada Welcoming Communities](#)

