

## Ontario Election Primer 2018

Waterloo Region has a long history of welcoming immigrants and refugees. At the time for the 2016 Census, immigrants and refugees accounted for 22.6% of the population. They face consistent challenges to settling, working, and developing a strong sense of belonging in Waterloo Region. Members of Provincial Parliament have an important role in ensuring that Waterloo Region can address those challenges and fully benefit from the contributions of immigrants and refugees to community and economic development.

Make immigration an issue in this provincial election.

### Suggested candidate questions

Successful immigrant and refugee settlement involves commitment and partnership from all levels of government, and sustainable investment in settlement services, legal aid programs, and more. If elected, will you use your role to ensure refugee claimants, refugees and recent immigrants have access to sustainably funded legal aid and settlement programs?

Employers seeking to hire immigrants and refugees to address labour market needs face challenges. There is a mismatch between the skills prioritized in the immigration system and workforce needs in Waterloo Region which negatively impacts immigrant hiring. If elected, are you committed to working with the Immigration Partnership and the business community to address this workforce gap?

In a recent Immigration Partnership survey of over 200 immigrants, refugees and international students living in Waterloo Region, 59% reported feeling isolated in the past 12 months; 18% very much so. If elected, will you use your role to reduce social isolation among immigrants and refugees in Waterloo Region?

### Waterloo Region All Candidate Meetings

May 12, Kitchener South Hespeler (CCORIC): Country Hills Community Centre, 1:30-3:30pm

May 22, Kitchener South Hespeler (SPCCND): Sunbridge Hotel and Conference Centre, 7:00-9:00pm

May 23, Kitchener Centre (SDCKW): St John Church, 6:00-8:00pm

May 29, Waterloo (SDCKW): First United Church, 6:00-8:00pm

May 31, Cambridge North Dumfries (SPCCND): Sunbridge Hotel and Conference Centre, 7:00-9:00pm

Other meetings can be [found online](#)