

GOOD NEIGHBOUR TEAMS AT COMPASS

WHAT IS THIS ROLE ALL ABOUT?

The second pillar of our mission at COMPASS is to accompany refugee claimants and others with uncertain immigration status as they work to settle in our community. All of us have experienced being “new”, whether new to a school, a neighbourhood, a job, a faith group, or even a sports team. Our feeling of belonging begins when others reach out and come alongside.

The Good Neighbour Teams Program is designed to:

- give opportunity to community members to reach out and come alongside in an organized and supported way.
- provide the networking, bridge-building, and relational support that newcomers need.
- model and promote welcome, assuring newcomers they are seen, heard, and valued.



Our community is stronger when we are all involved in helping those new to us find their place and begin to bring what they have to offer to us. The Good Neighbour Team program is adapted from a similar successful program in Toronto called The Together Project, and we are thankful for what we have learned from it.

WHAT KIND OF TIME COMMITMENT IS NEEDED

- 2-3 hours per week from the team as a total for up to 6 (six) months.
- Hours could include evenings and weekends.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BE ABLE TO DO?

We have people from 80 countries, each discovering what it means to be in Canada. Our volunteers are comfortable as global citizens who are eager to welcome and learn from others. We are constantly working on deepening our cultural humility and growing our cultural proficiency so that no one feels excluded. We understand that familiarity and affinity help in the learning curve but ask that our volunteers be open to supporting whoever needs support, regardless of where they come from. Specific things needed:

- Basic knowledge of services available in the community.
- Provide a positive vulnerable sector screen valid within the past 6 months.
- Be 18 years old or older; (youth volunteers are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult)
- Be fluent in English; a second language is an asset especially Spanish, Arabic, or Tigrinya.
- Have lived in Canada for more than one year.
- Willingness and availability for orientation and ongoing development.
- Be open to work with COMPASS for a best match through a DEI lens (e.g., single moms, LGBTQ+, families with young children, seniors, singles).
- Meet our culturally sensitive dress code during program time.
- Include newcomers in some recreational and leisure activities.
- Create social connections meaningful to the newcomers you are supporting.

OUTCOMES

- Newcomers will find belonging in our community and be empowered to THRIVE.
- Volunteers will find purpose in helping clients integrate into Canadian culture and community.
- Volunteers will build clients’ confidence to navigate independently in the community.
- COMPASS will be assured that clients are well supported throughout their journey as newcomers in the community.