

Engaged, inclusive communities

Building towards increased inclusion
in our communities

Deputation to Council – Town of Newmarket

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Diverse and inclusive cities and communities have more social, economic and physical resilience in the face of unforeseen challenges because community members are equipped with the values of equity, diversity and inclusion to adapt to changes and create positive opportunities for community-(re)building.

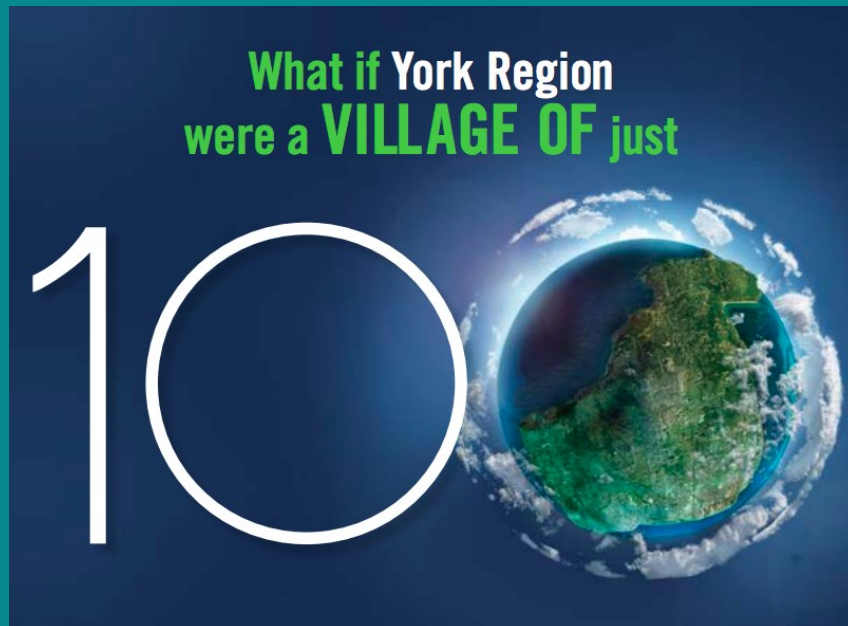
Building Inclusive Cities Case Study – Cities of Migration

... today

- Why this? Why now?
- What being proposed
- Deliverables
- Impact
- Closing

... why

York Region



Our communities

- Lack of specific data
- Our communities are changing
- We want to engage meaningfully with our communities
- Gain better understanding of the diversity in our communities
- Growth and opportunity

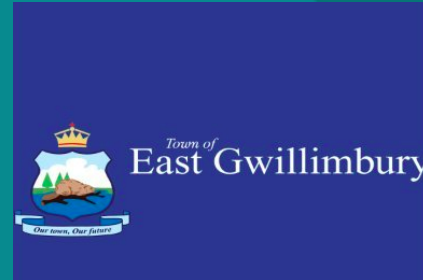
... why

- Engage more effectively
- Inform program and policy development
- Ensure reflective and inclusive communications
- Provide deeper connection and engagement
- Encourage growth, economic opportunity and sense of community belonging



... what

A collaborative approach
looking at diversity,
inclusion & belonging.



... what

- Looking at shared challenges and opportunities
- Taking an integrated approach to avoid duplication and find efficiencies
- Researching the specific needs of each individual community where growth, increased development and change is rapid

...what

... deliverables

- A summary report that overviews inclusion work and opportunity including:
 - Summary of work at municipalities
 - Snapshot demographic information within 3 communities based on 2016 census data
 - A summary of organizations and initiatives within 3 communities doing this work
 - Recommendations and opportunities identified—a framework for action and engagement
 - A break out report for each individual municipality
 - Promising practices in other areas
- Inclusive engagement workshops
- Listing of organizations and stakeholders around inclusion in each municipality
- A framework for potential future integrated-collective work including:
 - Securing and sourcing potential broader funders and partners
 - Potential activities and a plan that includes items such as:
 - An inclusive communities forum
 - Speaker series
 - Deeper collective community engagement
 - Capacity building/training
 - Media engagement

The evidence is mounting that geographical openness and cultural diversity and tolerance are not by-products but key drivers of economic progress. Proximity, openness and diversity operate alongside technological innovation and human capital as the key engines of economic prosperity. Indeed, one might even go so far as to suggest that they provide the motive force of intellectual, technological, and artistic evolution.

Richard Florida "How Diversity Leads to Economic Growth," CityLab

... impact

- Increased understanding of your community leads to:
 - Better connection, engagement and relevance with constituents
 - Increased effectiveness of policy and decision making
 - Better informed programming
- Building together in this way is fiscally responsible
 - Leveraging and sharing knowledge and resources



... in closing

- Where from here?
- What required?
- Questions?