



BACKGROUND:

Courtenay is home to people from many cultures and backgrounds. The City of Courtenay wants to make sure everyone can enjoy public recreation — like swimming pools, parks, and community centres. But there has not been much research on how immigrant and racialized families experience these spaces in British Columbia. This project helps fill that gap.

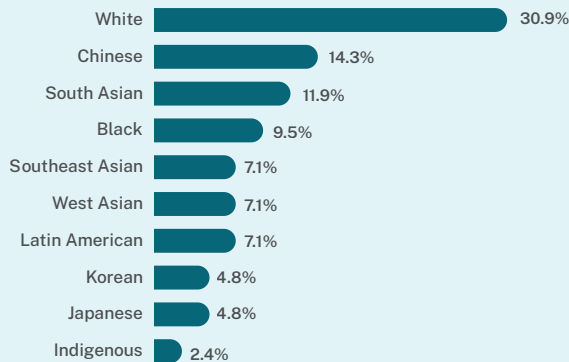
We talked to immigrant and newcomer families in Courtenay about public recreation such as parks, recreation programs, community centers like swimming pools. Many people shared their experiences through surveys, interviews, and small group conversations. This handout shares what we have heard so far.



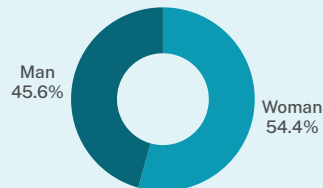
Who did we hear from?

We heard from 111 people in total through our survey. This data is from the 47 respondents who have lived in BC for 6 years or less.

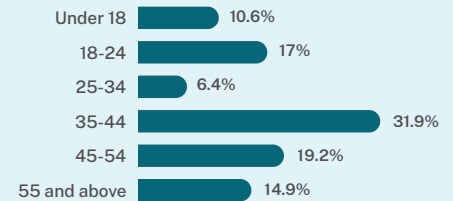
ETHNIC BACKGROUND



GENDER



AGE



TIME LIVING IN B.C

65.9%
1-3 years

21.3%
Less than 1 year

12.8%
4-6 years



How do newcomers feel about recreation?

BELONGING



5 out of 6

feel welcome in places like parks and community centres.



5 out of 6

see people like themselves in recreation activities.

BELONGING + DIGNITY



5 out of 6

feel like they fit in when joining recreation activities.



5 out of 6

feel comfortable sharing their ideas about recreation activities.

DIGNITY + JUSTICE



4 out of 6

feel that there are enough recreation activities in the community.



4 out of 6

feel that the recreation activities in the community are right for them.



How do newcomers find out about recreation opportunities?

59.6%



Friends or family

40.4%



Social media

34.0%



Community or cultural groups



Why do newcomers participate?

72.3%



To relax

70.2%



To enjoy nature

59.6%



To have fun



What recreation activities do newcomers participate in the most?

63.8%



Parks and playgrounds

44.7%



Swimming and pool activities

34.0%



Community events or festivals

"Recreation is like... activities that help me relax and then have fun. Also, it's connect(ing) with others. So I really enjoy spending time outdoors, like walking, bird watching, and spend time with my family, friends, doing some games. Yeah, so it really helped me be happy and refreshed."



What stops newcomers from joining recreation opportunities?

27.7%



Lack of information

27.7%



Language barrier

27.7%



Lack of time

"Because the information is like only English, right? So, actually, she didn't get the right information. it will be great (to have) the translated information."

"I want to try [swimming], I don't know where, or when"

"it would be nice for more flexible hours, so she can join more because she's currently running her own business so it's hard to choose the time."

"people don't work with regular nine to five anymore, so there's like lots of classes that people want to take... but they don't offer it later in the day, or the classes are too late."



Swimming in Courtenay

CAN SWIM



5 out of 6

FEEL COMFORTABLE SWIMMING



3 out of 6

WHAT STOPS PEOPLE FROM GOING SWIMMING?

21.3%



Don't know how to swim

17.0%



Worried about safety

14.9%



No one to go with



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