

CANADA

The Place I Call Home



Newcomer Youth Reflections

What Does Home (Canada) Mean To You?
Newcomer Youth Reflections, August 2025

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Welcoming Week is celebrated across Canada (and around the world) to bring people together and show that everyone belongs, no matter where they come from.

It's a time to celebrate diversity, friendship, and community.

The theme for Welcoming Week 2025 is "The Stories We Share." This theme emphasizes the power of shared experiences in uniting people.



For one day in August 2025, ISGW staff and a group of newcomer youth gathered to connect, share, and enjoy activities that helped them feel more at home — together. Participants were encouraged to share their thoughts and stories by using the prompt:

“What does Home (Canada) mean to you?”



What Does Home
mean to you?

Canada means home
to me because I feel
peace and being accepted
by society.

Kindness and meeting
different cultures and
people all together
is what makes Canada
feel like home to me.

What does [does] Home mean to you?

Canada means home to me because I feel peace and being accepted by society.

Kindness and meeting different cultures and people all together is what makes Canada feel like home to me.

ISGW provides a safe space and gentle encouragement for youth to feel comfortable sharing their stories about what “home” means to them.



Home is where the air
feels lighter.

The surroundings feel safer.

The words feel warmer.

Home is where I feel I
Belong.



Home is where the air feels lighter. The surroundings feel safer. The words feel warmer. Home is where I feel I belong.



The participants were invited to make a vision board that depicted ways in which they saw themselves getting more established in Canada, as their “home.”



Home means ~~to be~~ where
I feel safe and together
we have our memories
together I call Home
because where I feel safe
and support.



Home means where I feel safe and together we have our memories together. I call home because [it's] where I feel safe and support [ed].

Home is a place where
 I feel safe and truly
 love myself ^{love} Home
 is not just a place it's
 memories we made and
 brilliant place it's mean
 a lot to me my anything
 where I learn ~~teach~~ and
 and ~~grow~~ grow to be
 strong person I will do
 everything where I smile!
~~where I~~ ~~learn~~ 


Home is a place where I feel safe and truly love myself. Home is not just a place [place], it's memories [memories] we made and brilliant place. It's mean a lot to me, my anything where I learn and grow to be [a] strong person. I will do [everything] where I smile!

- Home is a place where you feel safe
- Home as Canada means seeing Canada as more than just a country - it feels like family. It's a place where I feel safe, free & ~~accepted~~ respected. Even if I wasn't born here, Canada gives me a sense of belonging. People are friendly & everyone is welcome no matter their background. Home as Canada means peace, chances to grow & a fresh start. It [is] where I feel proud to live & where I can dream a better future.

Home as Canada means seeing Canada as more than just [a] country – it feels like family. It's a place where I feel safe, free and ~~accepted~~ respected. Even if I wasn't born here, Canada gives me a sense of belonging. People are friendly and everyone is welcome no matter their background. Home as Canada means peace, chances to grow and a fresh start. It [is] where I feel proud to live and where I can dream better future.

Home (Canada) is like a place of comfort and peace. In terms of Canada it's like a homeland, a place where we build a foundation for ourselves and should be strive to achieve our goals to be anyone we want to be.



Home (Canada) is like a place of comfort and peace. In terms of Canada, it's like a homeland, a place where we build a foundation for ourselves and should be strive [ing] to achieve our goals to be anyone we want to be.

Home isn't just building, it's a place where
you can find love and peace.

Canada is a helping home with the nicest
people, that help you when you get down.

When I think of home, I also remember Canada
because it's a welcoming home and ~~excepts~~ ^{accepts} everyone
no matter what.

Home isn't just [a] building, it's a place where you can find love and peace.

Canada is a helping home with the nicest people, that help you when you get down.

When I think of home, I also remember Canada because it's a welcoming home and accepts [accepts] everyone no matter what.

When I think of Home, I don't only think about where I live.

I see home as reuniting with your family.

Sharing jokes, laughter in the dining room.

Home isn't just a building, it is a place where you overcome problems together, face challenges and care for each other.

Home is a place where the [buifull] beautiful rainbow doesn't end.

Home is a place where happiness is united. Home is beyond a place you live. It is a place you start to walk and lern [learn].

- When I think of Home I don't only think about where I live.
- I see home as reuniting with your family, Sharing JOKES, laughter in the dancing room.

Home isn't just a building
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Home is a place where
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~~is~~ a place you live it
 is a place you start to walk in
 term.

By sharing their stories, it becomes apparent that some youth see Canada as a home in which they are not only “seen and heard,” but also accepted.



The meaning of “home” can include both the simple pleasures of life as well as more complex feelings associated with the concept of belonging.



Home (Canada) mean[s] a place where I feel safe, respected, and free to be myself. It's where diversity is celebrated, where different cultures come together and where I have opportunities to grow and build a better future. Even if I wasn't born here, Canada has welcomed me with kindness and support to me. Home (Canada) mean [s] belonging not just to a place but to [a] community that cares.

→ what does home canada mean to you

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what Home dream may to you Canada

Home as Canada

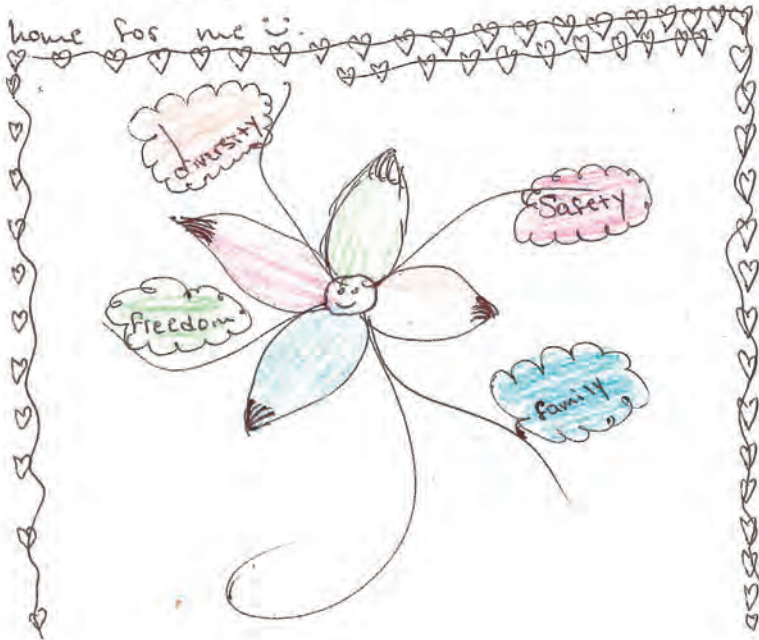
Home for me is where family is. It's where opportunities are, where I can express my opinions freely. I see Canada as a place to reunite, a diverse place where everyone is welcomed.

Even though I had a home, my family wasn't complete, but here it's different, everything is different. I have a completed family, a freedom of speech, opportunities and everything else.

In Canada I feel accepted, seen, heard, and that's what makes a home feel like home for me.

Home as Canada

Home for me is where family is. It's where opportunities are, where I can express my opinions freely. I see Canada as a place to reunite, a diverse place where everyone is welcomed. Even though I had a home, my family wasn't complete, but here it's different, everything is different, I have a completed family, a freedom of speech, opportunities and everything else. In Canada I feel accepted, seen, heard, and that's what makes a home feel like



Learning from each other about how much “freedom” is valued as Canada begins to feel more and more like home.



What does Home mean to me

When I think of Home

What does Home (Canada) mean to me?
According to me when I think about home honestly I think about where you can take a rest. And when we think more we can see it's not only where you take a rest it's where you are happy where you can do all you want where you can get this freedom to do what you love and in my home (Canada) you have this freedom.

What does home mean to me? When I think of home...

What does Home (Canada) mean to me?

According to me, when I think about home, honestly, I think about where you can take a rest. And when we think more, we can see it's not only where you take a rest, it's where you are happy. Where you can do all [that] you want. Where you can get this freedom to do what you love and in my home (Canada) you have this freedom.

Home (Canada) is where you can sit and feel peace also safe where you can imagine your future with your family and remember the best things you do and you accomplished in (before) part [of] life.

There is no more explanation than home you can rest.

*Home is everywhere [] you feel safe, healthy and peaceful. No doors
No windows No yards*

It is just home!!!

Home (Canada) is where you can
sit & feel peace also safe where you
can imagine your future with your
family and remember the best things you
do and your accomplishments in past life
(before).

There is no more explanation
than
Home you can rest

Home is Everywhere if you feel

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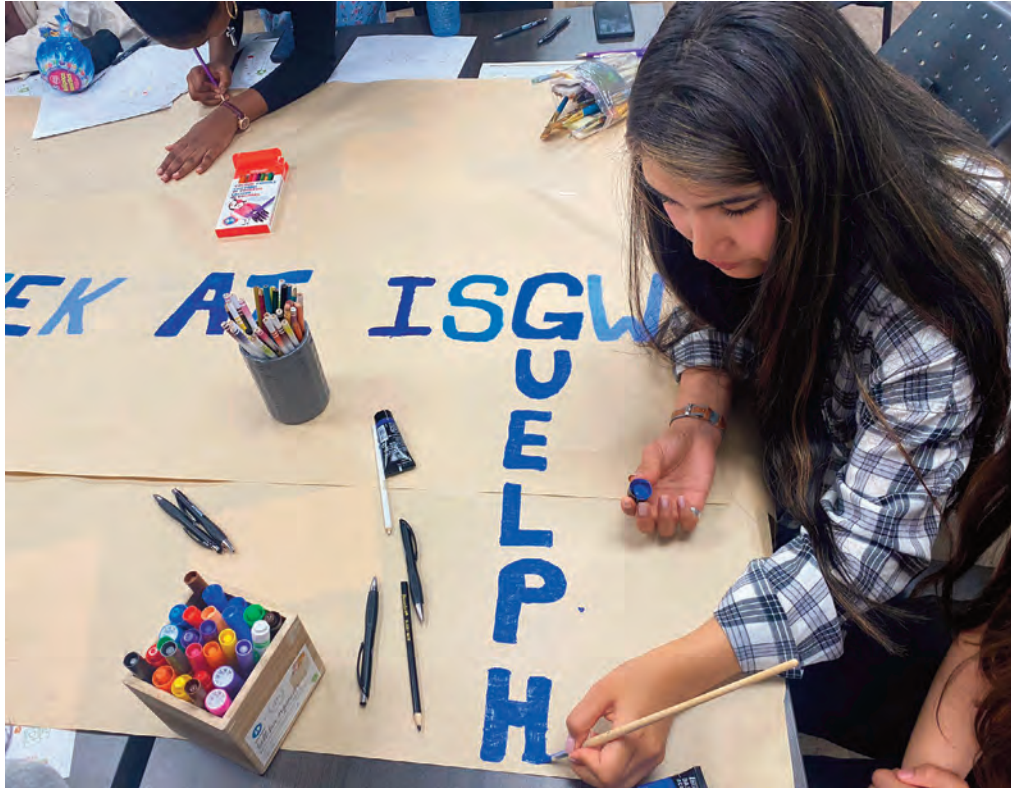
A successful day at ISGW sharing out stories and, through active participation in the activities, making valuable connections.



Home is where you
feel comfortable and
feel loved



Home is where you feel comfortable and feel loved.





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Helping newcomers settle in our community since 1978.

