

## Businesses like newcomers' kitchen provide entrepreneur opportunities for immigrants

Immigrant entrepreneurs provide fresh and creative business perspectives, says Becky Rogers

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Becky Rogers presents the new web portal which walks people through the steps to immigrating to Peterborough and shows off businesses run by immigrants. - Taylor Clysdale/Metroland

Immigrants resettling into a community don't just need homes.

They also need jobs.

Finding one is an option, but some immigrants are choosing to create their own opportunities, with the help of the community.

At the launch of Peterborough's immigrant entrepreneur web portal at [WelcomePeterborough.ca](http://WelcomePeterborough.ca), businesses created by immigrants were showcased in a video showing the possibilities for newcomers.

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Businesses like Oasis Mediterranean Grill, Banana Services, and Ribbet are all products of immigrants in the Peterborough community.

Becky Rogers, manager of the arts, culture, and heritage division of the city, says in 2012 Peterborough had the highest number of immigrant entrepreneurs per capita in Canada.

She adds immigrants excel in the creative economy.

"Immigrants sometimes bring a fresh look and a fresh approach to everything," she says.

She also says it's critical to generate support for these businesses so immigrants are better able to become a part of the community.

Reem Ali, a community development worker for the New Canadians Centre, says initiatives like the Newcomer Women's Sewing Collective provides opportunities for immigrant women to work.