

Semi-Structured Interview Questions for Immigrants

* the term immigrant refers to permanent residents, recent citizens, TFWs, refugees and all newcomers to Canada

Remind participants: If they do not wish to answer a certain question, they do not have to answer it. They are just as in control of the voice recorder as I am. They can feel free to pause it at any time,

Name: _____

Date: _____

Community: _____

Interview/transcript Number: _____

Demographic questions:

1. How old are you?

2. Where were you born? (What country were you born in?)

3. What is your first language? (What is your mother tongue?)

4. Do you speak other languages?

YN

 - a. Which languages?

5. When did you first come to Canada? (How long have you been in Canada?/When did you arrive in Canada?)
6. Which type of immigrant status did you apply to Citizenship and Immigration Canada under? (Permanent Resident, Temporary Foreign Worker, Refugee, Other, Sponsored Family Class immigrant, Professional Class, Independent Entrepreneur, etc.?)
7. What is your current immigration status in Canada? (i.e. Permanent Resident, Temporary Foreign Worker, Refugee, Other, etc.?)
8. Why did you choose to come to Canada?
9. How long do you plan or hope to live in Canada? (Do you consider Canada your permanent home?)
10. Who did you come to Canada with? (Alone, friends, family?)
11. Are you married?
Y N

12. Do you have children?

Y N

a. How many?

13. Do you have family living in Canada?

Y N

a. If yes/no, where are they?

Research questions:

Expectations of and Information about Canada and Rural Communities

14. Do you live in this community? (What community do you live in?)

a. How long have you lived in this community?

b. Why did you choose to live in this community?

15. What did you expect when you arrived here? (Education, training, work, people, weather, etc.)

16. Before you arrived, what did you know about this community? (Both where you live and work?) (What information did you have about this community?)

a. Where did you get this information?

b. Was it easy or difficult to find the information?

c. Did the information help you make the decision to settle (live) in this community?

Y

N

Please explain.

d. Was there any information you needed, but couldn't find? (Was there any information that was missing but that would have been helpful?)

Educational Background

17. What is your education level? (What did you study?)

a. Where did you get your education from? (PSE provider and country)

Language Training, Further Education and Skill Development

18. Did you have a language assessment when you arrived in Canada? (Have you had a language assessment?)

Y

N

a. If yes, what is your English language level?

b. Where was the language assessment done? (Who did your language assessment?)

19. Do you want or need language training, further education or skill development?

Y

N

b. Could you provide some examples? (Language training, leadership skills, management skills, interpersonal skills, and computer skills).

c. Why do you want or need to take these classes or training?

Y

N

i. Please explain.

Provide information on such services if relevant

20. Have you had any prior language training, education upgrading or skill training in Canada?

Y N

- a. If yes, please explain in what areas.
- b. Where did you take classes from?
- c. How did you find out about the service provider?
- d. Did you have to pay for them yourself?
Y N
 - i. If no, who helped you pay for them?
- e. Were the classes offered in the community in which you work or live?
- f. When did you take this training?/How long ago did you take this training?

21. Why did you get the education/training? (To upgrade English skills, to integrate into the community, for work, personal interest?)

22. Has the language training/education/skill training helped you?

Y N

a. Please explain.

b. What programs or services worked best for you?

c. What programs or services didn't work for you?

23. Do you use the Internet to find information and send e-mails?

a. Do you have access to high-speed Internet?

b. Have you had any training on using computer programs/the internet?

Gaps in Language Training, Education and Skill Development Services

24. If you have not received any language training, education or skills development, do you know where you could access these services?

Y

N

a. **Do you want more information on such services? (Provide a list services and resources available in their communities and/or close by communities and/or in Calgary, if they are interested)**

25. Are there any services that you're having trouble accessing?

26. What has stopped you from accessing these services? (Cost, access to technology, transportation, childcare?)

27. What would be helpful or useful for you to access this training? (On-site learning centres, online learning, tuition reimbursements, funding, time off work, paid time off, flexible hours, transportation, co-community study groups, transportation [public, with friends, etc.] to Calgary for classes, employer-supported training?)

Work Experiences

28. What type of work did you do in your home country?

29. What job would you like to be doing in Canada? (What are your career goals?)

30. Are you currently working?

Y

N

a. If yes, what community/town do you work in?

i. How long have you worked in this community?

ii. Why did you choose to work in this community?

b. If yes, where are you working at? (Which company or organization do you work for?)

i. What kind of work are you doing there?

ii. About how many people work there?

iii. How did you find out about this job?

iii. Are you working full-time or part-time, casual or permanent?

1. Which of these do you prefer?

iv. Do you work with other immigrants?

c. If no, have you been employed before in Canada?

Y N

i. If yes, where?

d. If no, why are you not employed?

e. Are you currently looking for other work – in this community or outside of it?

31. Does your job (or past jobs) use your education and skills?

Y N

a. If not, how could your job better use your education and skills/better meet your career goals?

32. Do you know what foreign credential recognition is? (***If foreign credential recognition is unknown to participant, provide information and resources***)

Y

N

33. Have you used this service?

Y

N

a. If yes, where did you access this service?

b. What was the outcome? (Was the service useful?)

34. (If applicable) Does your employer recognize your education and work experience from your home country?

Y

N

a. Please explain.

b. Is your education recognized by other organizations/employers in Canada?

35. Have you considered using these Foreign Credential Recognition Services/do you know how to access such services?

i. Directions

ii. PLAR

Employer-Supported Training

36. Have you received any skills development and workplace training from your employer?

Y N

a. If yes, what did your employer do for you?

b. If no, what sort of training would you like your employer to provide you with?

37. If you are a Temporary Foreign Worker, do you know about the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP)?

Y N

a. Does your employer use AINP?

Y N

b. Do you have any other comments on this program?

38. Do you know about the Canadian Experience Class? (if TFW/student)

Y N

Any comments?

(Provide resources/information on these government programs)

Economic Recession and Potential Impacts

39. (If applicable), Has the recent recession impacted you?

Y

N

a. In what ways? (Employment, career objectives/goals, workplace relationships, education and training, economic and job security)

b. Do you think that your career prospects will improve in two years time?

Y

N

Please explain.

40. Do you think your community promotes immigrant attraction and retention?

Y

N

c. How so?

41. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Other: can you recommend any other businesses, organizations, or individuals in your community who might wish to participate in this study?