



Building Citizenship

Change for Change Activity Menu

The following list of activities is intended to promote brainstorming on activities that interest your committee and that would be appropriate in your local community. The list is not exhaustive and the specific activities mentioned are mentioned as examples only. The examples are organized according to the Institute's five citizenship areas.

Each year when the Institute for Canadian Citizenship announces its three Best Practice awards, these will also be included in this "menu" for brainstorming.

1. Citizen education

- In class presentations
- Public awareness-raising activities (public outreach)
 - o Film festivals
 - o City-wide treasure hunts
 - o Photography/ art/ musical/ video contests
- Hot topic discussion series (held at a local café/ university/ school, etc.). Committee to invite special guest speakers.
- Story-telling circles

2. Citizen engagement

- Establishing community groups/ youth groups around the topic of citizenship
- Political debates with local politicians re: topics concerning citizenship
- Partnering with local municipalities
- Developing a community "map" of safe places/ interesting places to visit
- Multi-lingual sports commentary- meet to watch a sports game on tv and provide the translator.
- Street sports league (football, soccer, cricket, hockey, etc)

3. Capacity building

- Distribute "friendship cards" at ceremonies on which people indicate their contact information and areas of interest. Committee then to follow up "buddying-up" new citizens with engaged citizens.

- Mini-traineeships with local businesses
- Activities with young children to develop empathy and build solidarity from young age, through story-telling, puppet shows, etc.
- Strengthening community bonds:
 - o "Walking School Bus"- Children from the community walk a particular route to school and pick up more kids as they go along (sort of a caravan idea). One or two parents would escort the group on voluntary basis.
- Make a movie using local people as the actors, demonstrating their experiences becoming a new citizen.
- Recipe shares and potluck dinners

4. Public space stewardship

- Guided tours of parks/ reservoirs
- Activities in conjunction with Girl Guides/ Scouts of Canada
- Weekend camping trips
- Community garden

5. Global Citizenship

- Speakers series on topics that bring diverse people together
- Establish a hub (networking meetings) of all local organizations working with newcomers.