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## An open road?: Newcomers' experiences of Canadian barriers and facilitators of community mobility

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## **An open road?: Newcomers' experiences of Canadian barriers and facilitators of community mobility**

In Canada, an aging population and low birth rates have resulted in a shortage of workers. In response, the Canadian federal government has pursued aggressive immigration policies to attract highly skilled workers from around the world. However, skilled workers who immigrate to Canada have high unemployment rates and often face challenges entering the Canadian workforce that is further compounded by barriers to access such as transportation. Transportation is a critical determinant of access to employment in Canada, yet the specific community mobility barriers and experiences of newcomers remains unexplored and largely unaddressed. Therefore, the goal of this research is to understand the transportation and community mobility experiences of newcomers to Canada and their perceived impact on access to employment opportunities. This study's immediate impact includes laying the foundation for understanding the transportation needs and pain points of recent immigrants entering the Canadian workforce and gauging the necessity for improved policies.