

# Cultivating Multiculturalism Awareness & Transition

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An Interview with Rev. Duane Collicott  
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# Objective - to assess the following:

- How does Evangel, a Canadian Church (white / seniors) cultivate multiculturalism within their congregation?
- How do they embrace & assimilate new immigrants?

# 1. Who are all the immigrants you are targeting? (Nationality, Religion)

- Persians (aka Iranians)
- School and Work
- All are from a \*M background, but not all are observant.

## 2. How are you approaching immigrants?

- Word of mouth
- Pre-pandemic, ESL - normal/day-to-day stuff like work, shopping, ordering at a restaurant, job interviews, customer service, family, holidays, Canadian culture, etc.
- We invited to our church activities (Christmas, Easter, Sunday mornings, picnics/potlucks at the lake).
- We've watched the Jesus Film together, and used the Bible as an English textbook.
- Intentional to engage with the Persian community outside the church, e.g. attended memorial service after Flight 752 was shot down in Jan 2020

### 3. How do you bring awareness on multiculturalism in your church?

- Involvement with the University community (UNB)
- Currently there are people from the Middle East, Jamaica, Nigeria, South Africa and India in our weekly services.
- As we have a growing number of Iranians we have started including Persian/Farsi scriptures and songs in our worship times.

## 4. How is your church embracing newcomers?

- Our church continues to love people regardless of their country of origin.
- We incorporate different languages in our worship times
- We give platform space/airtime to different cultures
- We've been a historically strong global missions supporter
- There is good interaction and relationship between the different cultures in our congregation

## 5. In what ways do you assimilate the new immigrants in your church?

- We do our best to include them in our family events, our church events, and encourage friendships to spend time outside “church”.
- We provide help with finding government services designed for newcomers to the city/province/country (e.g., help them get their driver’s license, apply for proper medical cards, find doctors/dentists, mechanics, etc. Several members of our church help with this.
- We’ve started a weekly Persian worship service and Bible study, and English speakers have started to join as well (it’s reverse-assimilation).
- We’ve added a Persian believer to our church Pastors’ Council.