



Winter Newsletter

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Save a TREE

Saamis Immigration is going **GREEN**. Please sign up for electronic version of Newsletter

Send "**Sign me up**" to emilia@saamisimmigration.ca

Happy Winter everyone!

Word from the Executive Director

Greetings to all. I cannot believe that we are almost at the end of 2022 – wow, the whole year flew by so quickly. Looking back at the year in retrospective, 2022 was a very busy year, filled with lots of changes and new programs which resulted in a significant growth for us. I would like to highlight three areas which marked the 2022 for us:

We have started the year by welcoming a large group of Cambodian arrivals in Medicine Hat. About 40 of them arrived within the first few months of 2022. It has been a long time since we settled the refugees from Cambodia, so we were glad to see this community growing and contributing to the diversity of our city.

Throughout the year we lost some staff who decided to pursue something new in their career, but then we also recruited some new staff, allowing us to maintain a solid team of professionals dedicated to serve and assist newcomers settling in our community. We sadly said goodbye to: Stephen A., Jennifer D. and Dayana G., and welcomed aboard:

Sonia T., Erin V., Rokaya N., Pitou Y., Dean H., Linn A., Lloyd F. and Dean G. We wish them all a warm welcome and a long and prosperous career with Saamis.

Many Ukrainians fled the war zone in their home land and found a safe haven in Canada. Quite a few of them chose to come to Medicine Hat. By the end of November Saamis served over 100 persons from Ukraine, assisting them with intakes, school registrations, youth programming, finding them volunteer language coaches and volunteer mentors, and connecting them to the local resources. Happy to have them here.

I wish you all Happy Holiday Season to enjoy it with your family and friends, and a Prosperous, Peaceful and Happy New 2023!

Full Time LINC Hours:

All Classes

Monday-Thursday

8:45-12:00 &

12:45-2:45

Friday online

Part Time LINC Hours:

Monday's &

Tuesday's

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm



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Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

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Key Dates



Dec 10, 2022



- **Human Rights Day**- Human Rights Day is observed and celebrated on 10 December across the globe to raise awareness about rights that all human beings are entitled to, irrespective of factors such as religion, sex, language, race, colour, nationality and so on. The day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on 10 December, 1948.

Dec 18, 2022



- **International Migrants Day** -International Migrants Day (18 December) this year falls almost exactly 70 years after the Brussels conference that led to the establishment of the organization that, in 1989, was renamed the International Organization for Migration. A broad range of factors continue to determine the movement of people. They are either voluntary or forced movements as a result of the increased magnitude and frequency of disasters, economic challenges and extreme poverty or conflict.

Dec 20, 2022



- **International Human Solidarity Day**—On International Human Solidarity Day, governments are reminded of their commitments to international agreements on the need for human solidarity as an initiative to fight against poverty. People are encouraged to debate on ways to promote solidarity and find innovative methods to help eradicate poverty.

Dec 25, 2022



- **Christmas Day** - Christmas Day is a holiday in many, but not all, countries. Many homes have Christmas trees and other decorations in the weeks leading to Christmas Day. Some workplaces hold Christmas parties prior to December 25. Festive activities include exchanging presents, singing Christmas songs, going to parties. It's a special time when children get presents from family, friends and Santa Claus, or Father Christmas.

February 20, 2023



- **Family Day**—Family Day is observed in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick on the third Monday of February. This holiday celebrates the importance of families and family life to people and their communities.

SAAMIS IMMIGRATION SERVICES ASSOCIATION
is happy to announce the following new staff joining our team:

Building maintenance:
Emeric Vasile Kozsan

Settlement Workers in Schools:
Pitou Yin






The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Phase II Boutique Consignment

Thank you to our volunteers and partners for supporting our “Families First Holidays” event. We couldn’t have done it without you!



Medicine Hat
The Gas City

Conversation Circle



For more information call us at 403-504-1188 ext. 127 or 129 or email alde@saamisimmigration.ca



SWIS PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

YOUTH PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

TO REGISTER:

Call Fran (403) 504-1188 ext. 107
Pitou (403) 504-1188 ext. 109
or email francisca@saamisimmigration.ca
alton@saamisimmigration.ca

February 17 & 21

... Presenters/speakers will provide information about teen depression, suicide prevention, substance abuse, coping skills as well as Teen relationships, and age of consent.

FAMILY WEEK
No school

INCLUDES OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

ON FEBRUARY 22 AT POLICE POINT PARK
-SNOW SHOEMING
-CROSS COUNTRY SKIING
AND ENJOY A CUP OF HOT CHOCOLATE



Thursday's 6:00-7:30 pm
In the LINC Building

English Youth Tutoring Program

Dec. 1st & 8th
Jan. 12th, 19th & 26th
Feb. 2nd, 9th & 16th

WE OFFER :

- ▶ Homework Help
- ▶ Reading & Writing
- ▶ Speaking & Listening
- ▶ Improved test scores
- ▶ Social Skills

To Register, please contact:
Fran: Francisca@saamisimmigration.ca
403-504-1188 ext 107
Or
Pitou: Pitou@saamisimmigration.ca
403-504-1188 ext 109





Gift Wrapping Event with the United Way

Please visit us at **The Medicine Hat Mall** to have our Youth and Adult Volunteers wrap your Christmas gifts this year. The event will raise money for the United Way.

Dec. 17 12:00-6:00

Dec. 22 3:00-6:00




SISA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair

Dr. Richard Northcott

Directors

Jonathan Tieman

Dr. Lena Derie-Gillespie

Nathan Gale

Syed Naqvi

Kelly McNelly

Stephen Awudi



ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

659 3rd Street SE
Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 0H4
Phone: 403-504-1188
Fax: 403-504-1211

LINC BUILDING

645 3rd Street SE
Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 0H4

SISA TEAM

Executive Director: Marijana Agicic

Manager of Programming: Mihaela Craciun

Manager of Settlement: Marie-Claude Scahill

Financial Manager: Sonia Toor

Human Resources Management: Jane Mkandla

Clerical Assistant: Anna Sermak

Settlement Worker: Dean Halbert

Settlement Outreach Worker: Emilia Dirk

RAP Workers: Aishat Sarumi & Kristijan Kopilovic

RAP Digital Navigators: Lloyd Ford & Dean Gray

RAP Enhancing Life Skills Worker: Jennifer Erfle

Settlement Workers in Schools: Pitou Yin, Erinn Vielman (Interim) & Francisca deWever

Community Connections Coordinators: Aidé Hilsendeger & Rokaya Nasser

Case Management Coordinator: Sara Brar

Health & Wellness Navigator: Linn Andersen

Intake Worker: Julia Fan

LINC Instructors: Davar Broeckert, Holly Hoffman, Robert Ingram, Sandra Frostad

PBLA Lead: Sandra Frostad

Evening LINC Instructors: Holly Hoffman (Interim), Michael Austin & Anna Hansen

LINC Coordinator: Judith Gonzalez

Circles of Care Coordinator: Julie Veskioja

Mentor Partnership Coordinators: Michael Austin & Yusuf Mohammed

Building maintenance: Emeric Vasile Kozsan

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