

# Saamis Immigration Services Association

## FALL NEWSLETTER

Issue 88

Fall 2023

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Спільноти MEDICINE HAT, AB  
[https:// mhlip.ca/sources](https://mhlip.ca/sources)



MEDICINE HAT, AB [https:// mhlip.ca/resources](https://mhlip.ca/resources)

Hope you all had a fabulous summer and managed to spend some quality time with your loved ones. We offered various programs for children, youth and adults over the summer, which kept us pretty busy. Ukrainian arrivals slowed down a bit over the summer due to a higher cost and less availability of flights during the summer months. However, the arrivals are expected to pick up the pace again in the fall and in upcoming months. Saamis has received a small grant from the Government of Alberta to assist Ukrainians with temporary emergency accommodation for up to fourteen days as well as one-time emergency transportation from Calgary to Medicine Hat. A new coordinator by the name Liudmyla Mokra was hired to oversee this program. The program has been in place since March 31, 2023, and was extended to run till November 30, 2023. If you or someone you know is in a need of this type of support, please do not hesitate to give Saamis a call at 403-504-118, ext 101 or to email Liudmyla directly at [liudmyla@saamisimmigration.ca](mailto:liudmyla@saamisimmigration.ca). In the last few months, with heavy hearts we had to say goodbye to Sonia Toor, our Financial Manager; Dean Halbert, our Settlement Worker; Davar Broeckert, our LINC Instructor, and Aishat Sarumi, our RAP Worker. Each of them had their own personal reasons for moving on, either to pursue a different career or to relocate with the family to a different city.

### Full Time LINC Classes

Monday-Thursday  
8:30 am to 2:45 pm

Friday Online

Evening LINC Classes  
Tuesday and Thursday  
7:00 pm to 9:30 pm



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Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada



## Key dates

### September 21, 2023 International Day of Peace



· International Day of Peace - The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

### October 2, 2023 International Day of Non-Violence



· The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

### October 10, 2023 Thanksgiving Day



· Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated on various dates in the United States, Canada, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Liberia. It began as a day of giving thanks and sacrifice for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year. Similarly named festival holidays occur in Germany and Japan.

### November 11, 2023 Remembrance Day



· Sometimes known informally as Poppy Day owing to the tradition of the remembrance poppy, is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states. Remembrance Day has been observed since the end of the First World War to remember armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. Following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, [1] the day is also marked by war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries.

## SAAMIS IMMIGRATION SERVICES ASSOCIATION

*Is happy to announce the following staff joining our team:*

*LINC instructor  
-Sarah Pahl-*

*RAP Worker  
-Nadiya Peterson-*

We wish them all a warm welcome and a long and prosperous career with Saamis Immigration.

### November 16 2023 International Day for Tolerance



The International Day for Tolerance is an annual observance day declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance. It is observed on 16 November. Every year various conferences and festivals are organized in the occasion of International Day for Tolerance.

## AMAZING PARTNERSHIP STORIES

The Summer Camp proved to be a triumph for the youngsters as they embarked on visits to Medalta, Esplanade, Root Cellar, Strathcona Park, and Eco Dale Park. Through these excursions, they not only formed new friendships and enhanced their English skills but also uncovered fresh city locales.

Our heartfelt gratitude extends to the Fire Station Department #1 for their invaluable presentation, enlightening facility tour, and the enjoyable experiences they shared with the children. We also extend our thanks to Ever Active School and the dedicated volunteers whose unwavering support bolsters our organization. Also, Our sincere appreciation goes to the Masonic Foundation of Alberta for their four years of funding that made our summer camps possible. Their support has been invaluable.





**INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY**  
**21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER**

**35<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

**Join Us In Celebrating Our 35th Anniversary With an Open House**

**When: Friday September 22nd**  
**1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**Where: Saamis Immigration Services Association**  
**645 – 3rd Street S.E.**

Tour the offices, classes, multicultural display booths, and learn about our services.

Cake and refreshments will be served.

Every Wednesday  
 starts October 11th until November 29th  
 Time : 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm

**Join Us For Conversation Circle**

**Who's eligible?**  
 Saamis Immigration clients with permanent resident status and CUAET visa holders.

**ENGLISH TUTORING FOR YOUTH 2023-24**

GRADE 7 TO GRADE 12  
 CONNECT WITH **FRAN, MARIZA & PITOU** AT SAAMIS IMMIGRATION  
 (403) 504-1188 EXT 106, 107 & 109

**STARTS OCTOBER 11, WEDNESDAY FROM 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

# **A HELPING HAND TODAY— INDEPENDENCE TOMORROW**

## **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: Kristijan Kopilovic  
Human Resources Management: Jane Mkandla  
Clerical Assistant: Anna Sermak  
Settlement Worker: Valeriia Horina  
Settlement Outreach Worker: Emilia Dirk  
RAP Workers: Nadiya Peterson & Sofia Winquist  
RAP Digital Navigators: Lloyd Ford & Dean Gray  
RAP Enhancing Life Skills Worker: Jennifer Erfle  
Settlement Workers in Schools: Pitou Yin, Mariza Rogness  
& Francisca deWever  
Community Connections Coordinators: Aidé Hilsendeger  
& Rokaya Nasser  
Health & Wellness Navigator: Erinn Vielman  
Case Management Coordinator: Linn Andersen  
Intake Worker: Julia Fan  
LINC Instructors: Holly Hoffman, Robert Ingram, Sarah Pahl  
& Sandra Frostad  
PBLA Lead: Sandra Frostad  
Evening LINC Instructors: Ryan Glover & Catherine Young  
LINC Coordinator: Judith Gonzalez  
Building maintenance: Ryan Glover  
Mentor Partnership Coordinators: Michael Austin  
& Yusuf Mohammed



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