

## RAP and SS

**Resettlement Assistance Program and Settlement Services Program** are two on-going programs assisting newly arrived immigrants and refugees in resettlement and integration.

- Welcoming new Government Assisted Refugees upon arrival at the Medicine Hat airport
- Provision of temporary housing for Government Assisted Refugees destined to Medicine Hat.
- Information and Orientation Sessions on wide range of topics such as banking, housing, health care, transportation, pre-employment, education, legal system and Canadian culture.
- Securing permanent accommodation and assistance with setting up the initial household to Government Assisted Refugees
- Life Skills Coaching
- Referrals for English assessment and Referrals for adequate English language training
- Assistance with Canadian documentation
- Referrals to government and community services are offered in addition to other SISA programs
- Supportive, non-therapeutic counseling
- Interpretation and translation
- Pre-employment Information (preparing resumes, making initial contacts and referrals to mainstream job training)
- General assistance as per request
- Public Awareness and Community Education on various Cross-cultural issues via community and school presentations, displays and information booths.
- Special events & promotions

## CC

**Community Connections** is a volunteer based program in which newcomers to Canada are matched with community volunteers who help them to learn about Canadian values and traditions.

The objective of the Community Connections Program is to help immigrants overcome the stress of moving to a new country.

As a volunteer mentor, there are plenty of ways to assist a newcomer, including skills development activities, academic tutoring, and participating in community events or casual social gatherings. The Program Coordinator will provide training and ongoing support during the mentoring process.

### **Volunteer Facilitators for Newcomer Programs**

A volunteer facilitator is responsible for planning various activities such as field trips, volunteering in the community, hands-on activities, sports, etc. in cooperation with the Program Coordinator. In addition to creating social networks, these programs promote community awareness. Programs offered include:

- Youth Group for Newcomer Youth ages 11-21 years
- Women and Men Groups plus Seniors Circle Groups
- Family Group for Newcomer Families with children 0-12 years

Individuals committed to learn about different cultures and languages, promote diversity and acceptance while strengthening their community are invited to apply.

## SWIS

**Settlement Workers in Schools assist New Canadians with:**

- Understanding school policy and procedure
- School registration and orientation
- School transportation scheduling
- Communicating with educators
- Parent-teacher interviews
- Accessing school and community resources and services
- Provision of interpreter/translator when required

**S.W.I.S. Provides Schools with:**

- Cultural orientation and sensitivity training
- Links to cross cultural information
- Small group workshops on specific cultural issues
- Cultural interpretation



## LINC

**Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada** program is a federally funded language training for adult permanent residents. In our LINC classes, students learn: basic reading, writing and listening skills; as well as phrases and vocabulary necessary for daily life. Canadian customs and culture; local community resources; and job readiness are also covered in this extensive program.

### **Full - Time LINC:**

Offers classes ranging from Canadian Language Benchmark level "Pre" to Level 4. To be eligible for LINC classes a student must be a permanent resident of Canada, be a minimum of 18 years of age and receive a Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment.

Assistance with child care arrangement is provided. Alberta Child Care Subsidy is also available for those who qualify.

### **Part - Time LINC:**

It is offered in the evenings for 3 hours each week. This program provides the opportunity for students to attend LINC classes when they are not available during the day due to a variety of reasons along with helping students reach level 4 in Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing. This could serve as a language proof as per Canadian Citizenship Application requirement.

LINC classes are not open to Temporary Foreign workers or those individuals in Canada on a student visa or work permit.

## Additional Program Opportunities

### Budgeting Course:

This workshop is designed to assist newcomers with everyday money management by introducing them to topics such as budgeting basics, debt management, how to build credit and understand credit history, etc. Newcomers are taught the importance of budgeting and proper money management.

### Parenting Course:

Cultural differences and misinformation sometimes make it difficult for newcomers to parent in Canada. This course is meant to provide newcomers with information on parenting in Canada and finding community support.

### Information Sessions :

Saamis Immigrations Services Association offers monthly information sessions to educate and inform newcomers to Canada about important issues pertaining to their life in Canada as well as local resources and community services.

### Income Tax Preparation Workshop:

This workshop is meant to assist newcomers to Canada with their first basic income tax preparations, mainly those with language or financial barrier. Due to limited resources, this workshop could accommodate only simple tax preparations.

### Driving Preparation Course:

This course is meant to prepare individuals to take their class 7 drivers test. Instructor walks participants through the manual explaining rules and laws of the road traffic in Canada. This course solely focuses on the theory.

### Citizenship Preparation Course:

This course runs according to the Citizenship Court dates. The objective of this course is to assist community members who are preparing for the Canadian Citizenship test while learning about Canada's political and electoral system, history and geography.

## Volunteer Opportunities

There are a variety of opportunities to become involved at SISA as a volunteer.

**Requirement:** Volunteers should be fluent in English and be prepared to work with people with language barrier. Must have good communication skills, be good listeners and genuinely like people. Volunteers must complete an application form with three references. Volunteers may also provide an up-to-date resume. Security Checks are required.

### Volunteer Opportunities Include:

#### MENTORSHIP

Sharing vocational experience and knowledge as well as Canadian cultural education and awareness.

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE COACH

Everyday use of the English language, including conversation circles or one on one practice.

#### COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR

Provide community engagement opportunities through activities, networking, and donations.

#### LINC CLASSROOM VOLUNTEER

Assist and encourage individual students understand teachers instruction.

#### LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

SISA has a language bank of about 180 volunteers capable of interpreting / translating in about 60 different languages and dialects. The language bank has an ongoing recruitment of volunteers who speak English and other language(s).

#### Be a BOARD MEMBER

Help keep SISA moving forward and join our board. This is a great way to make a positive contribution in the lives of others and our community.

The Mission of the association is to assist in the integration, adjustment and resettlement of immigrants and refugees in the community of Medicine Hat, providing a support system that fosters individual's needs in an environment of equality and dignity.

Saamis Immigration graciously acknowledges our funder:



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# Saamis Immigration Services Association

Human Rights  
Compassion  
Democracy  
Freedom  
Security