



Highlighting A Local Initiative – Housing Adaptation Checklist

The RRLIP convened **Canadian Housing Advisory Committee** has worked tirelessly since its launch in 2016 to enhance the community's capacity to support newcomer adaptation to Canadian Housing. In 2018-19, RRLIP staff supported the work of the CHAC table by gathering their insights, as housing sector stakeholders, and capturing them in a [resource](#) that can be utilized by service agencies for newcomer clients. The resource can also be used with other client groups requiring housing adaptation skills. The resource's content was also informed through the Immigrant Advisory Table and other key stakeholder feedback. Please take a moment to view the final page of the resource, which highlights the contributions of many in the development of this community resource.

REGINA REGION LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT NEWS - ISSUE #15 - SPRING/SUMMER 2019

RRLIP Project Update

The RRLIPs **Annual Community Forum** focused on the topic of emotional wellness of newcomers. This topic was chosen in response to feedback from stakeholders, indicating that the mental health/wellness of newcomers is an area that requires much attention, discussion and identification of resources. The forum was attended by over 80 participants (including: service providers, newcomers, community members and other support staff). Attendees received an update on the activities of the RRLIP over the past year, viewed presentations by local mental health service providers and had an opportunity to share their thoughts around the perception of mental health cross-culturally, gaps and barriers that exist when it comes to supporting newcomer mental health, and provided suggestions for solutions to these barriers.

The RRLIP also hosted a **Funders Form** which presented an opportunity for local community groups and non-profits to learn about funding opportunities that exist, their selection criteria and best practices on how to apply for them. The forum was attended by 27 participants representing 15 different organizations or cultural groups, and 8 funding programs. Funders presented their programs to the group and then joined in discussions around ideas that participants had for upcoming programming, as well as gaps in existing newcomer-directed/applicable services and programs. The final reports from both Forums can be accessed [here](#).



NEW/SENA 2019 (Newcomer Employment Week/Semaine de l'emploi des nouveaux arrivants) was held May 6th to the 10th and the goals for the week included: **Increasing** awareness of newcomer employment opportunities & challenges; **Connecting** newcomers with employment opportunities and existing employment support programs; and **Connecting** employers with the newcomer workforce and existing support programs. The RRLIP provided **coordination support** to newcomer employment service agencies (including francophone partners), the Regina Public Library, Labour Market Services, and the City of Regina in the promotion and delivery of workshops, job fairs and other employment-related events during the week. Mayor Michael Fougere attended the NEW/SENA launch event hosted at the Regina Public Library, to bring greetings and support from the City.

Project staff developed an [Annual Progress Report](#), highlighting the major activities of Regina's Local Immigration Partnership from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2019. A new fiscal year has begun and the RRLIP is pleased to present its revised **Settlement and Integration Community Plan** which can be accessed [here](#).

Thank you to the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation!

As a result of a micro-grant from the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, the RRLIP hosted a **Vital Community Conversation** with its Immigrant Advisory Table members. The discussion was focused around the topic of *What Community Means to You* and *What is Needed/Issues That are Emerging in Your Community*. IAT members provided important insight as individuals with lived newcomer experience. Results from the Vital Conversation were shared with the SSCF in a final report. This, and other Vital Conversations, will help guide and inform future work of the SSCF.

***The South Saskatchewan Community Foundation serves as a bridge between donors and charities in Regina and in southern Saskatchewan <https://sccf.ca/about-sccf/our-foundation/>**

Vital Conversation with IAT Members





RRLIP Survey of Newcomers and Community

The RRLIP is embarking on a comprehensive survey initiative. The aim of the newcomer survey will be to better understand emerging local priorities, as they pertain to settlement and integration. It will inform the RRLIP's future *Community Action Plan*, beginning April 2020.

The current *Plan* is available [here](#) and on the RRLIP website. An additional survey, developed for the broader community, will address topics such as community perception regarding immigration, etc.

Requesting Community Input

The RRLIP would like to provide an opportunity for community agencies and organizations, government, and other stakeholders engaged in settlement and integration, to provide input into the survey content.

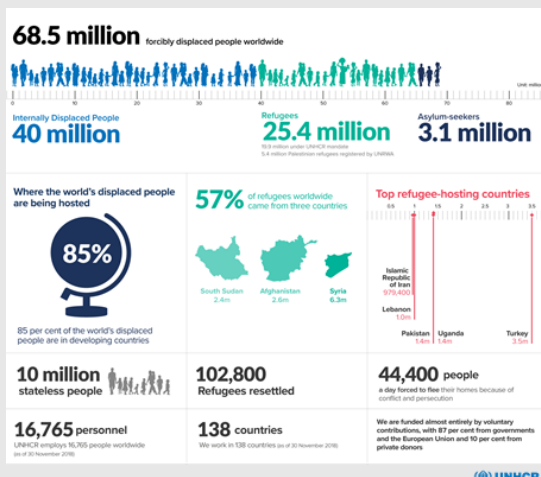
What survey questions would be helpful to inform your organization's future policy development, creation of programs and services, hiring strategies, awareness campaigns, etc.?

Contact the RRLIP office at info@rrlip.ca to share your insights into potential survey questions (newcomer and/or community survey). Staff will be working with a research consultant to design the survey, and will consider all suggested questions. **The deadline to submit questions is June 14th, 2019.**

World Refugee Day June 20th, 2019

On Thursday, June 20th, 2019 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., the Regina Open Door Society (RODS) will be hosting a **World Refugee Day** event.

The event will take place in the **City Square Plaza**. The program will include an update on the global refugee situation, followed by Open Door's annual presentation of Newcomer Bursary Awards.



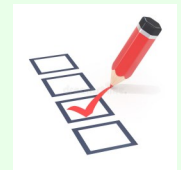
Source: UNHCR



Congratulations to One of Our Own!

Canadian Housing Advisory Committee (CHAC) member, Justus Smith was chosen as REALTOR® of the Year, recognizing his outstanding leadership, professionalism, and dedication to community and family. Justus joined the *Canadian Housing Advisory Committee* when it first launched in 2016. Congratulations from the RRLIP! See press release [here](#).

Research Consultant



The RRLIP is seeking a research consultant to assist with the design of two surveys (newcomer & community survey), a dissemination strategy, and data aggregation/summary. Informed by community stakeholders, the survey design will occur in collaboration with RRLIP staff. Please email the RRLIP Project at info@rrlip.ca if you are interested in applying, or would like further details.

Interactive Community Asset Map

The RRLIP developed an *Interactive Community Asset Map* to augment the Asset Map Narrative from 2016. As a result of feedback from newcomers, service agencies and other key stakeholders, the RRLIP developed an interactive map highlighting newcomer service agency programs/services and other pertinent local supports. Newcomers conveyed the importance of an interactive resource, as they typically engage with technology on a regular basis. The map is accessible [here](#) and on the RRLIP website, and includes live links to each service.

*Interested in learning about
cross-cultural perceptions of mental health shared at the RRLIPs
Emotional Wellness Forum?*

Should your agency, organization or business desire a free presentation which highlights the findings from the *Emotional Wellness Forum (mental health focus)*, please contact the RRLIP office at info@rrlip.ca or by calling 306 -791- 6846. Newcomers, service providers and other interested individuals attended the Forum in which **newcomer mental health was highlighted, local supports showcased, and service gaps and proposed solutions discussed.** Outcomes from the event included:

- ◆ Newcomers learned about and connected to local service providers and their support services.
- ◆ Service providers learned about service gaps and barriers for newcomers accessing services.
- ◆ Newcomers and service providers discussed how mental health is viewed cross-culturally and identified local solutions together.
- ◆ Forum participants requested an on-going focus on the topic of newcomer emotional wellness.
- ◆ After the Forum, local agencies requested the final report to strengthen their programs/services and inform their applications for funding.

Citizenship Classes

The **New Canadian Integration Society (NCIS)** is a group of volunteers who work to help newcomers successfully integrate into society. The NCIS is offering an 8-week class to help Newcomers to Canada prepare for the Canadian Citizenship exam.



- In order to qualify for this **FREE** class, you must:
- > be over 16 years of age.
 - > be able to understand and communicate well in English.

Classes are offered in locations in the South, East and Central areas of the City.

To inquire about the exact schedule, locations and to register contact NCIS directly by calling 306-737-0331 or by emailing newcanadianintegrationsociety@hotmail.com

Thank you to our project partners and funder



Summer Activities List

The RRLIP relies on its Immigrant Advisory Table to inform the work of the Local Immigration Partnership. In a recent meeting, IAT members expressed a desire for a comprehensive list highlighting summer activities for children and youth. They felt such a resource would be helpful to enhance the newcomer community's access to summer programs for their children. RRLIP staff, in collaboration with community agencies and organizations, generated a list for newcomers and service agencies to access. The list can be found on the RRLIP website at www.rrlip.ca or [here](#).

Support for Private Sponsors

In partnership with the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP), Newcomer Welcome Centre (NWC) and Regina Open Door Society (RODS), the RRLIP coordinated 5 separate training sessions provided by RSTP's Provincial Trainer. The RRLIP was responsible for the promotion and coordination of 4 of the sessions which were available to local sponsoring community members and covered the following topics: How to Become a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH); How to Complete Sponsorship Applications Properly/Avoid Common Mistakes; Post-Arrival Commitments for Sponsors. NWC coordinated and promoted the 5th opportunity: How Service Providers Can Support Private Sponsors, which was relevant and available to RODS/NWC staff only. Approximately 65 people attended the 4 sessions available to the public, confirming there is significant interest in the community for private sponsorship.