



NEWSLETTER OF THE REGINA REGION LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP– ISSUE #5 MARCH 2016

RRLIP Partnership Council Updates

Since the last update in January, the RRLIP Partnership Council has met twice to complete the task of developing Terms of Reference and Governance Structure, which will guide the work going forward. The Strategy and Action Plan will be developed later in 2016, however in the meantime, the RRLIP continues to respond to the needs of the community whenever possible. For example, it was identified through conversations with community members that refugee myths exist in this city and by highlighting local refugees -- their struggles and successes, it may serve to dispel common myths. The RRLIP is directing a **Refugee Photo Project**—engaging with local refugees at different stages in the settlement process. They will be professionally photographed with their narratives attached. The Photo Project will be completed by March 31st and shared with the community. In addition to this project, the RRLIP is planning to coordinate a **Newcomer Welcoming Event** in the spring. Please contact the office should you like to be involved in the planning phase. **info@rrlip.ca or 306-791-6841**

Supporting the Regina Community

The RRLIP project staff supports the Regina community in its ability to welcome and integrate newcomers through the fostering of community connections and gathering and disseminating information (website and newsletters). For example, please check out the newly developed 'Conversation Circles' list at **www.rrlip.ca**. Also, the project office regularly receives phone calls and emails from community, requesting appropriate connections and support to assist with their welcoming and integration efforts. Included in this newsletter is an example of a request from the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan (IAOS).

Contact Information: info@rrlip.ca or 306-791-6841

International Night Great Success!

February 26th was a night that celebrated great diversity and inclusivity on the University of Regina campus. More than 1400 attended the International Night— a celebration of culture, performances, food and fashion from around the world. The RRLIP was proud to be a partner in coordinating the attendance of some of our newest community members. Many thanks to Regina Open Door Society for organizing transportation and volunteers to accommodate the attendance of young Syrian refugees, as well as other newcomers.





RRLIP Project Presentations:

Please contact the office at
306-791-6841 or info@rrlip.ca, to

request a 45 minute to 1 hour free project presentation. During the presentation, you will learn about the RRLIP, its role in the community and how the project can assist you, your organization or business in welcoming and integrating newcomers.



The RRLIP Project Blog:

We encourage the community to check out the RRLIP project blog at www.rrlip.ca. It is updated regularly with pertinent information for newcomers and the community to support newcomers in their integration journey. For example, community organizations regularly reach out to the project office to request the dissemination of newcomer focused programming and services. Blog posts can be translated into many languages for easy access and reading.

Specific Request from Community:

Do you own or have access to a large facility that would accommodate Muslim worshippers during the month of Ramadan?

Unfortunately, the IAOS does not have a suitable prayer hall to utilize during their 30 days of worship in the month of Ramadan. In order to accommodate an increasing Muslim community calling Regina home, there is a need to find accommodation that has the potential to hold 2000 worshippers for the daily evening prayers. Evening prayers begin after sunset and end around 2 a.m. In addition to the daily prayers, the culmination of the month of Ramadan is marked with the celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr. On that day a large prayer congregation is held. In the past few years, approximately 8000 people have attended. The lunar month of Ramadan in 2016 is expected to begin June 7th.

If you, your organization or business can accommodate such a request, please contact the Islamic Association immediately at iaos@iaosregina.com or **306-585-0090**.

On behalf of the IAOS, the RRLIP project would like to thank the community of Regina for considering this request. Together, we can work to build a more welcoming, inclusive community where newcomers will benefit from and contribute to a healthy, growing Regina.





New Voices

Our family came to Canada two years ago to join our family members already in Regina. We were happy to make the long journey to be reunited with parents, siblings and cousins. The only challenge we have experienced is the language barrier. It has been difficult as we do not speak English (luckily our family does). Regina has a large Chinese community so that has been helpful too. We would not give up our chance to live here because it is clean, safe and happy.

(Newcomers from China)



SAISIA (The Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies), is the umbrella organization of immigrant and refugee serving agencies across Saskatchewan.

www.saisia.ca

雷城加華會

Regina Chinese Canadian Association

P.O. Box 614, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4P 3A3

e-mail: rcca@rcca.ca

The Regina Chinese Canadian Association is an autonomous non-profit, non partisan and non-religious organization. The objectives of the Regina Chinese Canadian Association include:

- ◆ To create an environment in which closer association of all Chinese Canadians is developed and promoted.
- ◆ To encourage full and equal participation by Chinese Canadians in the cultural, social, economic and political life of Canada.
- ◆ To encourage and develop in persons of Chinese descent a desire to know and respect their historical and cultural heritage, and to educate them to adopt a creative and positive attitude towards the Chinese Canadian contribution to the Canadian mosaic.
- ◆ To promote and safeguard the rights of all individuals, in particular those of Chinese Canadians under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- ◆ To promote understanding and cooperation between Chinese Canadians and all other ethnic and cultural groups and the three levels of government.

Examples of RCCA Programming:

Dates: Saturdays, January 9, 2016 - May 28, 2016

There are 20 sessions in total.

Place: Glencairn Neighbourhood Recreation Centre

2626 E Dewdney Ave, Regina, Saskatchewan

Activities: Tai Chi (太极拳) 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Fitness dance (健身舞) 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

All the RCCA members are welcome!



Local Group Supporting East African Refugees:

Save and Rescue East African Refugees (SREAR) Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, and non-religious humanitarian organization established in June 2015 by volunteers. Its formation was stirred by the April 19th, 2015 massacre of Ethiopian and Eritrean Christian Refugees by extremists in Libya. The SREARs mission is to provide humanitarian support to Eritreans and Ethiopians who are being tortured, massacred and stranded in refugee camps and prisons in Libya and elsewhere, by working in collaboration with government, non-government and private agencies. For more information or to become involved contact SREAR through email at srear2015@gmail.com or 307-737-3002

Bringing Cultures Together: Building Relationships

Congratulations to the Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant and Integration Agencies (SAISIA), Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS), and the Aboriginal Friendship Center of Saskatchewan (AFCS) which hosted an Indigenous Welcome Event for refugees (Syrians and others) on February 26th. The event was well attended and well received. Highlights from the afternoon included a grand entry and welcome, presentation on Treaty relationships, the sharing of cultural information, a round dance with all participating, as well as traditional Syrian dancing. It was a successful event that welcomed newcomers in a way that honoured Indigenous people and their relationships to this land.

Thank you to our project partners



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(Google Translate Feature)

The Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership (RRLIP) is a **community initiative** designed to improve the integration of newcomers, guided by the vision of Regina as a welcoming, inclusive community where immigrants fully benefit from and contribute to the social, cultural and economic fabric of the city.

Final Word

I came to Regina with family members in 2014. I like Regina, it is a welcoming place. I found Regina Open Door Society to be so helpful to my family. I plan to go to university soon and hope to become a doctor.

(Refugee/Eritrea)



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

