



## NEWSLETTER OF THE REGINA REGION LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP– ISSUE #6 JUNE 2016

### **RRLIP Project Update**

Examining challenges, gaps and opportunities regarding newcomer settlement and integration will be an on-going component of the RRLIP. This year, the RRLIP's research focus will center on the priority areas of education and employment. The project will support community-level research through a call for proposals, to be extended to the local research community in June.

This spring the RRLIP was tasked with developing a summer program advisory committee in order to identify current and potential child/youth summer program providers and to develop a sample curriculum and budget. The results informed Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's funding decisions. Many providers expressed interest in developing newcomer-focused child/youth summer programming, however few could consider the request within the short timeframe.

The RRLIP is coordinating the delivery of a Newcomer Welcome Event. The event planning committee has developed the format - a fun, interactive event with opportunity for intercultural dialogue. Committee representation includes the City of Regina, RODS, Regina City Police, Regina Fire and Protective Services, University of Regina and the Islamic Association of Sask (Regina Branch). The proposed event date is October/16. We welcome additional input from the community. If you are interested in volunteering for the Welcome Event planning committee, please contact the office at 306-791-6841.

We encourage community members to view the 8 refugee photos/narratives at [www.rrip.ca](http://www.rrip.ca). Through photography and narrative, their stories come alive. Each refugee story includes a common thread of **gratitude** towards their new life and community.



### **Project Resources**

Check out the RRLIP project community resources developed to assist newcomers and supporters in the settlement journey. For example, a *Conversation Circles List* and an *Ethnic Grocery Stores List* have been developed. The RRLIP is currently working on a comprehensive list of ethno-cultural organizations. Please contact the office to share organizational information.

Thank you!

Resources can be accessed through the website at [www.rrip.ca](http://www.rrip.ca) or by calling the office at 306-791-6841



### **Project Communications**

We encourage the community to check out the RRLIP project blog at [www.rrip.ca](http://www.rrip.ca). It is updated regularly with pertinent information for newcomers and the community to support newcomers in their integration journey.

In addition, project staff develop newsletters - *Newcomer News* and *Project News*. Both newsletters can be accessed through the website or by calling the office at 306-791-6841.

***Newcomer News* - Provides information about community programs**

***Project News* - Provides project updates and community information**



### **Support for the City of Regina's Cultural Plan:**

The RRLIP project was one of several organizations that provided support to the City of Regina's Cultural Plan.

Excerpt from the RRLIP's letter of support -

"The Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership Project (RRLIP) is pleased to offer support to the City of Regina's Cultural Plan. Within the *Regina Cultural Plan* the "embracing cultural diversity" goal is pertinent to the perspective of the RRLIP Project, with project goals that align well to the *Cultural Plan*—enhancing collaboration, coordination and strategic planning at the community level in order to foster a more welcoming, inclusive community and improve settlement and integration outcomes for newcomers."

City of Regina:

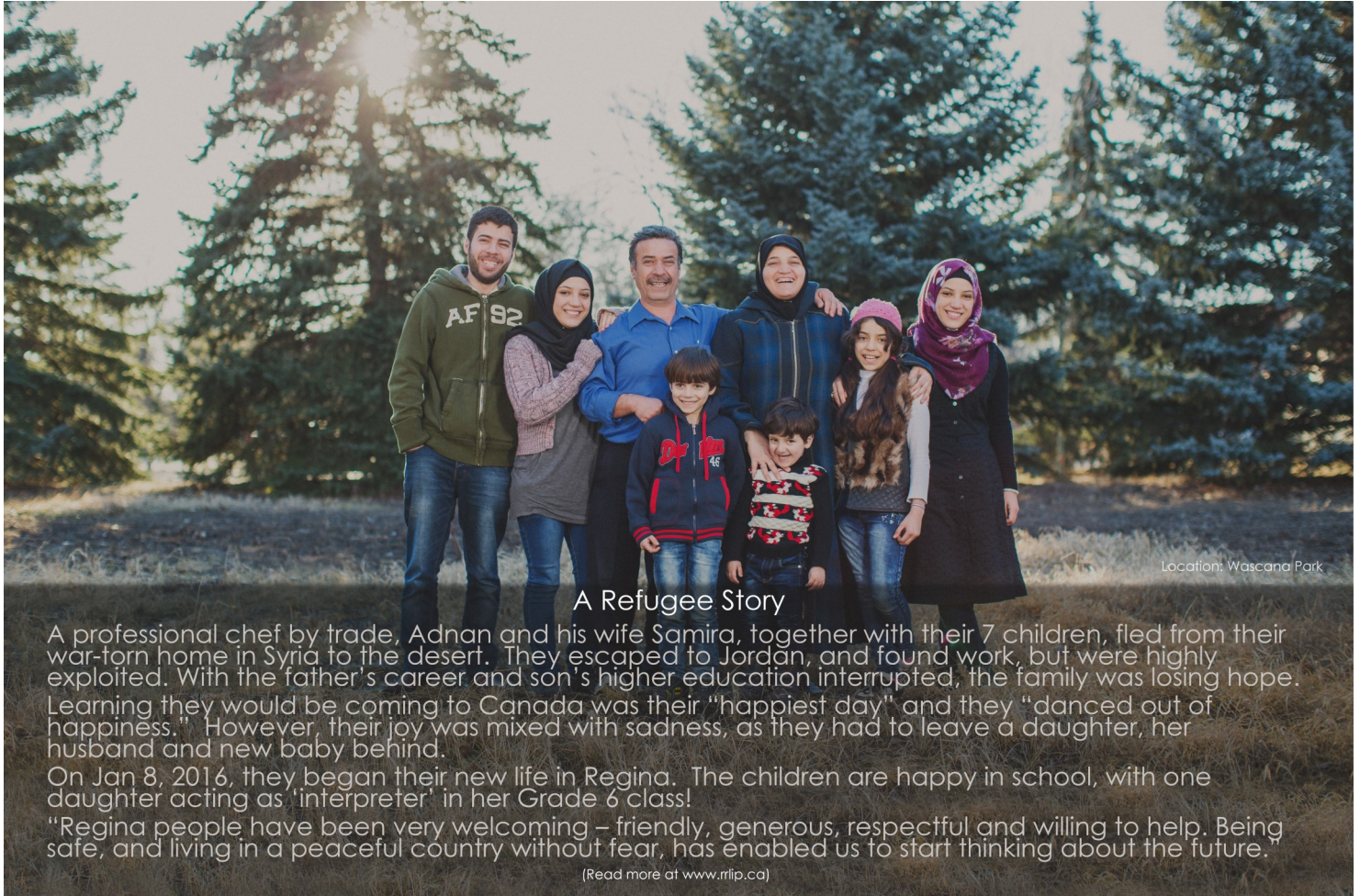
Purpose of the Cultural Plan-

The Cultural Plan is intended to be a strategic document for the City. It provides a planning framework and set of strategies and recommended actions that will:

- \* Leverage and nurture Regina's rich and diverse cultural resources to advance a wide range of economic and broader community development agendas;
- \* Build the capacity of Regina's cultural community;
- \* Set out the City's role in cultural development, as well as potential approaches to cultural heritage preservation and conservation;
- \* More fully integrate cultural development into all facets of municipal planning and decision-making; and
- \* Ultimately contribute to realizing the City's vision for Regina to become Canada's most vibrant, inclusive, attractive, sustainable community, where people live in harmony and thrive in opportunity.

**Please examine the Cultural Plan in its entirety at:**

<http://www.designregina.ca/cultural-plan-new/culture-planning>



Location: Wascana Park

### A Refugee Story

A professional chef by trade, Adnan and his wife Samira, together with their 7 children, fled from their war-torn home in Syria to the desert. They escaped to Jordan, and found work, but were highly exploited. With the father's career and son's higher education interrupted, the family was losing hope. Learning they would be coming to Canada was their "happiest day" and they "danced out of happiness." However, their joy was mixed with sadness, as they had to leave a daughter, her husband and new baby behind.

On Jan 8, 2016, they began their new life in Regina. The children are happy in school, with one daughter acting as 'interpreter' in her Grade 6 class!

"Regina people have been very welcoming – friendly, generous, respectful and willing to help. Being safe, and living in a peaceful country without fear, has enabled us to start thinking about the future."

(Read more at [www.rrip.ca](http://www.rrip.ca))

### **Regina Housing Authority: Providing Clean, Modest Accommodation for Low Income Households**

Regina Housing Authority is an agency that manages publicly funded social housing programs in Regina on behalf of the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. The Social Housing Program is intended to serve households with low incomes; priority is given to seniors (60+), families with dependents, and individuals with disabilities. **Housing is not available on a first come, first served basis.** Each applicant is assessed. How quickly an individual or family is housed depends on factors such as: need, size of family, the applicant's willingness to be housed in any area of Regina, etc. Regina Housing complexes include apartments, townhouses and single family homes. The accommodations can be best described as clean but modest. They are not luxurious and new.

**Contact Information:** 1850 Smith Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 2N3; OPEN Monday to Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Phone: (306) 525-2377





(from the IDI Regina website)

Our mission is to promote cross-cultural awareness, in order to attain peace and diversity with our neighbors, help establish a better society where individuals love, respect and accept each other as they are.

We endeavor to bring together people of goodwill from all cultures and faiths on a common platform of love and tolerance to develop an understanding that can inspire peace and harmony in our community.



The vision of Intercultural Dialogue Institute is to contribute to Canada's diverse and multicultural atmosphere by service and contribution to society. We dream for a cosmopolitan world of peace, tolerance, love and compassion where:

- The environment and all life is cherished, protected, and improved,
- Religious and cultural fears & hatred are replaced with understanding and respect
- People come to know and care for their neighbors
- The richness of human and religious diversity is woven into the fabric of communal, civil, and societal life
- Religious and spiritual communities live in harmony and contribute to a better Canada using their richness of wisdom and compassion

Check out <http://reginainterculturaldialog.com> for more information and upcoming events.

**Thank you to our project partners**



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



**RRLIP Project Info:**

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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.



Regina Open Door Society has partnered with ISANS (Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia) in a pre-arrival initiative called SOPA – Settlement Online Pre-Arrival Program. SOPA is a virtual hub providing guidance and customized pre-employment supports designed to help newcomers find and retain employment in Canada. Immigrants can interact with SOPA staff and access various skills development courses before their departure to Canada.

**If you are aware of individuals who may be interested they are able to register at:**

<http://settlementonlineprearrival.ca/>