

ABOUT THE REGINA REGION LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (RRLIP)

The RRLIP is a community initiative that...

- **Convenes** a multi-sector **Partnership Council**, diverse **Immigrant Advisory Table** and **Working Groups** to support the community's settlement and integration priorities
- **Strengthens** the local capacity to integrate newcomers
- **Increases** knowledge about newcomer needs, contributions, and local strategies for support
- **Promotes** welcoming attitudes and increases the full participation of newcomers in the community

Vision: Regina welcomes newcomers, values and celebrates diversity and supports the integration of all residents.

Mission: The Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership (RRLIP) and its member organizations will educate, collaborate, and partner for the benefit of newcomers in Regina.

For more information about the project visit www.rrlip.ca

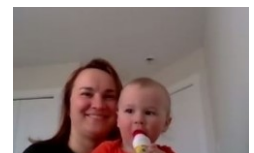
PURPOSE OF PROGRESS REPORT

This report provides an opportunity to share updates about the progress of the Local Immigration Partnership's work in the community and its positive impact on the community's capacity to welcome, settle and integrate newcomers.

COUNCIL, IMMIGRANT ADVISORY TABLE & WORKING GROUPS

The RRLIP convenes a variety of groups, all with the intent of strengthening the community's response to welcome, settle and integrate newcomers. These groups convene quarterly and include:

- ❖ **Partnership Council** is a multi-sector table that oversees and guides the activities of the RRLIP. Table members include the following sector representatives:
 - federal, provincial, and municipal governments
 - public library
 - education
 - healthcare
 - safety
 - settlement and language provision
 - protective services
- ❖ **Immigrant Advisory Table (IAT)** is comprised of a diverse group of individuals who were once newcomers to Canada. The IAT informs the local and emerging priorities of the RRLIP and supports a broad range of community stakeholders with the knowledge and connections gained through lived experience.
- ❖ **Working groups and additional advisory tables** are formed when needed, to address the RRLIP Action Plan priorities (e.g. Canadian Housing Advisory Committee comprised of housing, settlement and related sectors; CHAC members identify local housing challenges and barriers and develop solutions to reduce them, in order to enhance the housing attainment and retention outcomes of newcomers).
- ❖ **Short-term working groups and/or committees** are also convened to respond to singular or special circumstances arising in the community. The RRLIP Partnership Council provides direction and guidance when these circumstances occur (e.g. Service Map Working Group comprised of settlement sector partners).



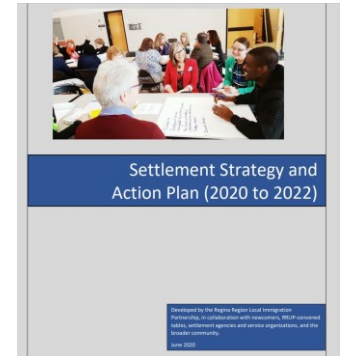
IAT Co-Chair with her Zoom assistant!

LOCAL PRIORITIES/ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES

The RRLIPs annual activities are guided by priorities which are identified in collaboration with local stakeholders. Newcomers, newcomer-serving agencies, and other local supports contribute to the identification of emerging and longer-term priorities. During the period of April 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2021, **the RRLIP and its community partners** focused on these identified priorities:

- ❖ Information and Resource Sharing
- ❖ Communication and Awareness Building
- ❖ Labour Market Access and Connections
- ❖ Cultural Bridging and Exchange
- ❖ Housing Education Support

Read more about the **local priorities** below.



INFORMATION & RESOURCE SHARING

Cultural Organizations and Places of Worship

Activity: The RRLIP connected with local cultural organizations and places of worship and once relationships were established, the RRLIP shared on-going pertinent information with the groups (e.g. cultural bridging forum invitations, professional development opportunities, community requests for input/feedback, etc.).

Outputs: *Cultural Organizations and Places of Worship Lists* were developed to aid newcomer populations and support services in connecting with these groups. The listings are available on the project website under **Latest Project**

Resources <http://rrip.ca/pages/project-resources>.

Outcome: As a result of this activity, newcomer settlement and integration efforts were enhanced in Regina, through the sharing of pertinent information with those who informally support newcomers in their settlement. In addition, an individual from the worship community joined the RRLIPs Cultural Bridging Forum working group.

COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS BUILDING

Infographics

Activity: The RRLIP developed infographics related to labour market activity and housing.



Output: Infographics were produced, highlighting these topics of interest: housing standards and labour market activity. Each resource highlights key information about the local needs/challenges of newcomers, and the labour market infographic also highlights their contributions to the Regina community. On-going, the infographics will be shared with community partners and stakeholders at community events and meetings. The infographics are available on the project website under **Latest Project Resources** <http://rrip.ca/pages/project-resources>.

Outcome: Community members are more aware of the strengths, contributions, and challenges of newcomers.

Additional Communication and Awareness Building Activities: The RRLIP received numerous data requests, including data that required a collaborative effort between the Local Immigration Partnership and the RAP provider (Refugee Assistance Program), Regina Open Door Society. Through this collaboration, a data sheet was developed, highlighting Government Assisted Refugee (GAR) arrival numbers, countries of origin and top languages spoken from January, 2015 to December, 2020.

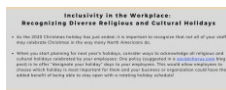
LABOUR MARKET ACCESS & CONNECTIONS

New Employer Resource

Activity: The pandemic forced the RRLIP to shift focus from an in-person event (Newcomer Employment Week) to an activity that provides on-going support to employers and service agencies.

Outputs: The first quarterly newsletter titled *Newcomer Workforce: An Employer Resource*, was developed in consultation with Labour Market Working Group members. Going forward, the LMWG members (and other community stakeholders) will provide thematic ideas and newsletter content. The newsletter can be found on the RRLIP website under **Employer Resources** <https://rrlip.ca/pages/employer-resources>.

Anticipated Outcome: Although in its infancy, this on-going quarterly newsletter will support Regina's employers in the recruitment, hiring, training and retention of newcomer populations in the workforce, through information and education.



Maintained an Employment Events Page on the RRLIP Website

Activity: In response to a past identified gap of consistent and consolidated employment events information in the community, the RRLIP implemented an employment events page platform in the previous fiscal year, and then continued support of this community employment-focused tool.

Output: The RRLIP maintained the user-friendly on-line platform that captures upcoming employment events (e.g. job fairs, networking events, training sessions, etc.). The platform, proposed by IAT members and well-received by employment service providers, is housed on the RRLIP website. Service providers and other community stakeholders are asked to submit any pertinent employment-related training information to the events page for use by newcomers and their support systems. During the 2020-21 fiscal year, the *Employment Events Page* received submissions from 9 different community partners promoting over 50 different events. The platform can be found on the RRLIP website at <http://rrlip.ca/pages/employment-related-events>.

Outcome: Newcomers are more aware of local programs that exist, to support their employment attainment and have an increased awareness of opportunities for learning and career advancement.

CULTURAL BRIDGING AND EXCHANGE

Cultural-Sharing/Bridging Opportunities

Activities: The RRLIP promoted existing cultural-sharing events (e.g. Pipe ceremonies, Muslim education events, Chinese New Year, etc.) and supported the development of new cultural education/bridging opportunities in Regina.

Outputs: On 28 different occasions the RRLIP promoted local cultural sharing events (e.g. Today is World Hijab Day; MCC Saskatchewan Peace Conference; February is Aboriginal Storytelling Month in Saskatchewan, etc.). In addition, RRLIP staff took part on the planning committee for a community partner's community forum - *Healing Our Community: Connecting Racism, Trauma and Mental Health*. RRLIP staff attended every meeting and were able to contribute to the forum theme and guest speakers, making connections, publicizing the event through the Blog, Facebook page and through email with RRLIP-convened tables, Cultural groups, and Faith Groups, etc. In addition, through the collaborative efforts in the delivery of the RRLIPs own Cultural Bridging Forum, an existing anti-racism resource, *Culture as an Iceberg*, was translated into 8 different languages, with plain language facilitator notes, and is available on the RRLIP website under **Community Resources** <https://rrlip.ca/pages/community-resources>.

Outcomes: As a result of the commitment to promote cultural sharing events, and by supporting the development of new cultural bridging opportunities, Regina community members are better informed of opportunities to share and learn cross-culturally, and their cultural sharing and understanding have been enhanced.



Before World Hijab Day, the local chapter of the ICNA Sisters gifted a beautiful Hijab to the RRLIP Project manager. Thank you!

HOUSING EDUCATION SUPPORT

On-going Coordination Support to Housing Sector Stakeholders

Activity: The RRLIP provided on-going coordination support to housing sector stakeholders, whose goal is to identify and discuss challenges and barriers newcomers face when finding, adapting to, and retaining appropriate housing in the community.

Output: The major goal of this fiscal year's coordination support was the implementation of a housing/life skills education program designed to increase housing stability. However, the initiative experienced on-going challenges that delayed the adoption of that program. Regardless, the CHAC Committee continued to meet quarterly to discuss newcomer-related barriers and challenges related to housing, and this year table members identified a needed resource to address the increased incidences of rental scams (particularly during the pandemic). The CHAC table supported the newcomer community and support agencies with the development of a plain language *rental scams* resource, addressing warning signs of rental scams and how to avoid them. It is available on the RRLIP website under **Latest Project Resources** <http://rrlip.ca/pages/project-resources>.

Outcome: Newcomer settlement and integration efforts were enhanced in Regina, through the development and promotion of a plain language resource, addressing warning signs of rental scams and how to avoid them.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In addition to locally identified community priorities, the RRLIP focused on on-going and emerging priorities to support the community's settlement and integration efforts.

To facilitate this, the RRLIP...

- ❖ Hosted a fourth annual community forum to update the community on the project's progress and to examine and discuss stakeholders' most requested forum topic – Cultural Bridging. The report can be accessed here [COMMUNITY FORUM REPORT - 2021](#) and on the RRLIP website under **Project Reports**.
- ❖ Collaborated with a broad range of stakeholders to strengthen the community's capacity to welcome, settle and integrate newcomers (e.g. newcomer-serving agencies, health authority, protective services, municipal government, library, etc.).
- ❖ Completed a successful application to *Canadian Heritage* for event support of the Cultural Bridging Forum.
- ❖ Connected a national initiative to local community partners, in order to promote an Arabic Speaking Pilot to key newcomer-serving agencies/organizations.
- ❖ Provided input to a variety of consultation bodies in an effort to ensure newcomers were considered in the planning process and/or policy changes (e.g. the Central Library's Renewal Plan, Regina Downtown Business Improvement District, etc.).
- ❖ Conducted plain language audits for community groups to ensure improved newcomer access to resources, programs/services, etc.
- ❖ Provided immigration-related data to support the settlement and integration efforts of a variety of community stakeholders.
- ❖ Responded to, whenever possible, RRLIP table member and community requests for resource support (e.g. IAT members requested resource support during COVID. As such, the *Resources for Families During COVID-19* was developed which included sections on Coping, Home Study, Virtual Museums, Story Sharing and Videos, Safety Education, Francophone Resources, and Other Resources. Some of the highlighted programs or materials were specifically COVID-related and many were multi-lingual). It is available on the RRLIP website under **Latest Project Resources** <http://rrlip.ca/pages/project-resources>.
- ❖ Engaged with non-settlement stakeholders to support their settlement and integration efforts. To the RRLIP, every community member is a potential partner to advance the project's overall vision of a Regina that welcomes newcomers, values and celebrates diversity and supports the integration of all residents.
- ❖ Conducted an annual evaluation with primary stakeholders (RRLIP-convened table members) to measure the project's impact and identify areas of improvement needed.

Sample results from the **primary stakeholder survey** included:

The majority of survey respondents either Strongly Agreed or Agreed with the statements below:

- My organization is committed to the vision and mission of our LIP.
- My organizations now collaborates/works together with other organizations working with newcomers.
- My organization has aligned its own strategic direction to our LIPs Strategy.

“I appreciate the work you do in our community by providing fact-based information and guidance to organizations, as well as connections. Keep up the good work.”

~Survey Comment~

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The RRLIP also supported the community through involvement in working groups and committees, such as:

- ❖ Vital Signs Community Advisory Council
- ❖ Early Years Family Centre Working Group
- ❖ Food Regina Working Group
- ❖ Al Ritchie Interagency Group
- ❖ Saskatchewan Private Sponsorship Group Network
- ❖ COVID-Response Tables
- ❖ LIP-Related Working Groups (e.g. Basecamp which is an on-line platform utilized by LIPs across the country)
- ❖ Wrap Cap Advisory Committee
- ❖ Campaign for Grade Level Reading
- ❖ Regina Human Services Partnership
- ❖ Sask LIP/RIF Support Network

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The RRLIP Informs and Connects with the Community Through Varying Methods

- ❖ Website www.rrlip.ca (newcomers and service providers and other related supports report utilizing the project website for resource support)
- ❖ Blog posts (averaging twice weekly; 157 total posts throughout 2020-2021) <http://rrlip.ca/blogs>. In this pandemic year, the RRLIP developed 30 blogs pertaining to COVID-19 updates and/or programming/services.
- ❖ Newsletters <http://rrlip.ca/pages/project-newsletters>
- ❖ FaceBook Page <https://www.facebook.com/RRLIP/>
- ❖ RRLIP - convened and other community stakeholder meetings and events
- ❖ Newsletters - (e.g. *Newcomer News* is a plain-language publication providing easy to understand information about services and programs of benefit to newcomers).

Signing up for the RRLIPs immigration-related blog posts is easy!

To subscribe, simply complete the form on the website by entering your name and email address.

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enter your name

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SIGN UP!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, thank you to the newcomer community for your resilience and determination, and your sincere desire to contribute to your new community.

Thank you to all RRLIP community partners (Partnership Council, Immigrant Advisory Table, Canadian Housing Advisory Committee, Labour Market Working Group, Private Sponsorship Group Network, and **many others**) for your efforts in strengthening the warmth of our welcome and the community's ability to settle and integrate newcomers.

Thank you to newcomer-serving agencies and other supports, for your daily work and commitment to the sector.

Thank you to the community of Regina, for through this work, we recognize community members to be warm and welcoming, and genuinely wanting to assist others.

Finally, thank you to the RRLIPs project partners and funder, for without your support, this work would not have been possible.

