Highlighting A Local Initiative - Parent and Child English Conversation Circle

Drop in to practice your English at the Early Years Family Centre! Students from the University of
Regina’s Faculty of Education will be available for English conversation with you and your child.
Conversation circles are available in the following Early Years Family Centres:
(see their [website](http://www.reginakids.ca/regina-childrens-initiative/early-years-family-centres/entrances-and-parking) for entry and parking instructions)

- St. Matthew Location; 4710 Castle Road; Thursdays; 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Sept to Nov)

- Dr. Hanna Location; 55 Davin Cresent; Wednesdays; 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (Sept to Nov )

REGINA REGION LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT NEWS - ISSUE #13 - FALL 2018

RRLIP Project Update

Since the last newsletter in June, the RRLIP project has been busy revamping the
project website, assembling a housing adaptation checklist resource, coordinating the
availability of 15 paid training spaces (tourism-related topics) for newcomer
clients ages 18-30, attending and coordinating community stakeholder meetings,
attending the Community Research Unit’s Summer Institute and other activities.

The project website has been revamped to better serve the newcomer and
newcomer-serving community. The site not only contains About Us and Knowledge Centre (project and community resources) sections, it also contains a Blog Archive, housing recent and past project blog posts. Learn more about the project by visiting the website at [www.rrlip.ca](http://www.rrlip.ca)

The RRLIP project has been collaborating with housing sector stakeholders since 2016. The sector identified the need for enhanced newcomer supports in relation to Canadian housing adaptation. Although the RRLIP-convened Canadian Housing Advisory Committee is currently examining a formal training model that could be adapted to this province, the committee saw value in developing a housing

adaptation checklist to be utilized as a teaching tool with newcomers. Checklist
content was developed by committee members (currently comprised of housing
sector and newcomer serving agencies) and assembled by the RRLIP into a user-

friendly format with visuals. Once the final version is available the RRLIP will share the resource on the website, as other community groups may want to utilize the

resource, not only for newcomer clients, but for other client groups as well.

In coordination with Tourism Saskatchewan and in collaboration with
employment service providers, the RRLIP initiated a Ready to Work
pilot project that focuses solely on newcomer clients ages 18 to 30. It
is a skills development program designed to assist people with work-
force transitions. The program offers classroom training that provides
participants with the skills, knowledge, and experience required for
long-term, stable employment in the tourism and hospitality sector.

211 Saskatchewan is a free,
confidential, province-wide

service that provides info and
 referrals for local community
 resources. Individuals and service

providers can access this
service through phone, text or

webchat, every day of the year and

at any time of day. Category
 examples include: Refugees and
Immigrants, Mental Health and

Addictions, Employment/
Training and many others.

<https://sk.211.ca/>

Quarterly Highlight:

Last quarter RRLIP staff coordinated a visit from Regina Fire and

Protective Services (RFPS) to the RRLIPs Private Sponsorship Group Network. RFPS staff provided

information and answered many
questions from the private sponsors.
In this collaborative meeting, many
new ideas were generated to enhance
the support of newcomers in receiving
fire safety information. This quarter,
ideas were implemented through

Ready to Work project
training room, courtesy
of Catholic Family

Services (Newcomer
Services location)

An important component of the program is 20 hours of after-program
support and mentoring, offered by Tourism Saskatchewan. The 12
week project, providing 15 training spaces, began in mid-September.

quick follow-up and collaboration
with community partners. For exam-
ple, Computers for Schools is now
downloading locally-produced fire

The Community Research Unit’s Summer Institute educated attendees on topics such as: what is community-based research, the best practices of community/ university collaborations, creative methods of data gathering, overcoming

barriers, etc. As a result of attending the Summer Institute, the RRLIP is now more
aware of ways to support the community’s engagement in community based research
(e.g. connections to the university, students completing research, organizations that
may want to partner in a CBR project, promoting CBR opportunities through the

RRLIP blog, etc.). The RRLIP now has increased awareness of the challenges/
opportunities CBR presents, and will be better prepared when it initiates future

research projects. Further information on the UR Community Research Unit can be found here <https://www.uregina.ca/arts/community-research/index.html>

safety videos to all used computers given to newcomer families. In

addition, Regina Open Door Society (RODS), in collaboration with the RFPS, provided professional

development fire safety training for their settlement staff. Many thanks to all community partners involved and to the private sponsors who initially generated the ideas!

Quarterly Highlight (July to September 2018):

This fiscal year (April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019) the RRLIP project is

focusing on a number of local priorities, as they pertain to newcomer settlement
and integration. The priorities include childcare, employment, Canadian daily
living, and mental health. This quarter, the RRLIP met with representatives
from HealthLine 811, to gather information about the service, particularly the
mental health support that is offered. Sharing this information with the

newcomer and support community is part of the RRLIPs role and we also hope the broader community will assist us in sharing information about this service. RRLIP staff have heard directly from some

newcomers about the barriers they face in accessing mental health supports. Barriers reported include: stigma, lack of trust,

cultural differences, transportation to access service, childcare challenges, etc.

HealthLine 811 is a free, confidential phone service, open 24 hours every
day, that provides professional health advice and mental health support.

HealthLine is staffed by experienced and specially trained Client Navigators, Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Social Workers. Services are offered in English, with translation available in over 100 languages.

When you call 811, a licensed healthcare professional will give you options and information to help you with health related questions or concerns. As well as assessing physical symptoms, HealthLine also provides mental health andaddictions support.

Quarterly Highlight (July to September 2018):

RRLIP staff were asked to moderate August’s Hot Topics Event at the Regina Public Library (which hosts monthly conversations about current events and red-hot issues led by guest speakers from the community). The event

provided the public an opportunity to “learn about current refugee and
immigrant integration strategies in Saskatchewan and Canada and how they
might evolve in the future and listen to those who have lived through the
refugee experience and have found a new sense of home in Canada.”
The panel included an individual who works in resettlement, a Political Science
professor and someone who came as a refugee themselves and now works with
newcomer families). <https://www.reginalibrary.ca/attend/programs/335176>

Thank you to our project partners and funder

The RRLIP Funder’s Forum
(February 27th, 2019) will highlight

opportunities to support newcomer program,
service and resource development. If you are a
funder and interested in hosting an information
booth or want more information, please contact

the RRLIP office at 306-791-6846 or email
 info@rrlip.ca.

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The Regina Region Local Immigration
 Partnership (RRLIP) is a community

initiative designed to strengthen our
community’s ability to welcome, settle and

integrate newcomers.

2220-12th Avenue, Regina
info@rrlip.ca 306-791-6846

<http://www.rrlip.ca> (equipped with Google Translate)

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The Immigrant Advisory Table is comprised of
community members who have lived experience
as a newcomer to Canada. Members meet on a
quarterly basis (more meetings if required) and
their consultation helps inform the work of the
RRLIP project. IAT members work diligently to
support the project and broader community in
strengthening everyone’s ability to settle and

integrate newcomers. In turn, the RRLIP
project provides support to members in the form
of learning and training opportunities whenever
possible. For example, during the September
quarterly meeting, IAT members learned more
about the services of the SWISS Program
(Settlement Support Workers in Schools) [https://](https://rods.sk.ca/pages/services)
[rods.sk.ca/pages/services.](https://rods.sk.ca/pages/services) If you have lived
experience as a newcomer and are interested in
contributing your time to strengthen your
community, please call the office at

306-791-6846 or click the link to download an [IAT application form.](http://rrlip.ca/userdata/files/201/IAT/IAT%20Application%20Form%20%28Revised%202018%29.pdf)