

PNT Region Settlement Services in Schools and Communities



ENGAGING NEWCOMER FAMILIES, INSPIRING EDUCATION

Exploring Innovative and Best Practices

SEPTEMBER 18 – 20, 2017

DoubleTree by Hilton
Regina, Saskatchewan

Hosted by:



Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



ENGAGING NEWCOMER FAMILIES, INSPIRING EDUCATION

Exploring Innovative and Best Practices

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME MESSAGE	3
VENUE MAP	4
MONDAY EVENTS	5
TUESDAY EVENTS	6
WEDNESDAY EVENTS	9
EVENT DETAILS	12
NOTES	27

WELCOME MESSAGE

from the Event Organizing Committee

Welcome everyone to this first annual Conference of PNT Region Settlement Services in Schools and Communities! We have appropriately named this Conference: Engaging Newcomer Families – Inspiring Education.

Originally, this conference was going to involve only Saskatchewan SWIS practitioners. However, based on the insight of a number of people and the support and approval of the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), we have been able to expand the scope of our learning to include our colleagues in other parts of Canada. With the experiences and insights of our colleagues in Alberta, Manitoba, Yukon and Northwest Territories, together with experts in the field, we will exchange ideas, build relationships, create supportive networks, and move forward to change what is not working, and improve what is working. Our children, youth, families and communities will be the beneficiaries of our collective wisdom. Our impact will be profound.

None of this would be possible without the support and funding from IRCC. Our hope is that after our three days together, we will depart with knowledge, enthusiasm and connections to inspire our creativity and resourcefulness.

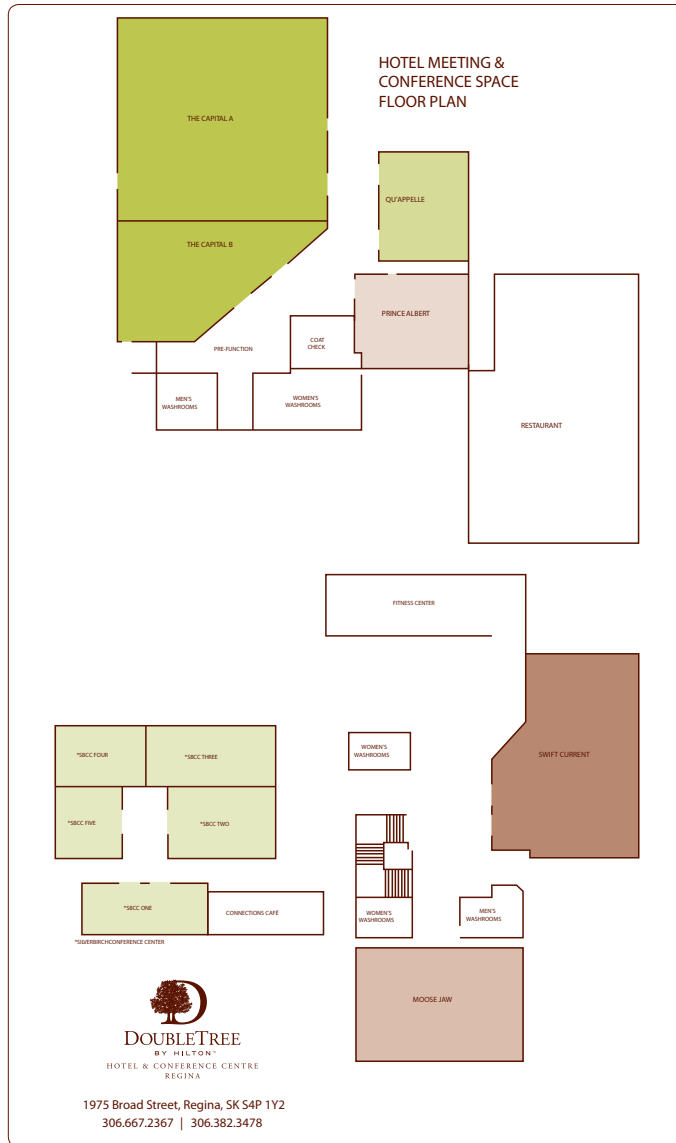
Our five conference themes are:

- Successful integration of refugee and immigrant students in the education system
- Engaging families in their children/youth education life
- Supporting refugee and immigrant children and youth well-being (mental health support and prevention)
- Exploring innovative and best practices
- Identifying future initiatives

On behalf of the Learning Event Organizing Committee,

Maryam Karimi

Saskatchewan SWIS Coordinator



**ENGAGING NEWCOMER FAMILIES,
INSPIRING EDUCATION**
Exploring Innovative and Best Practices

**PNT REGION SETTLEMENT SERVICES IN SCHOOLS/SWIS
AND COMMUNITIES**

Learning Event September 18th - 20th, 2017

Doubletree by Hilton Conference Center | Hotel, Regina SK

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	SEPTEMBER 18 TH , 2017	REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING Room: Swift Current
-------------------	-----------------------------------	--

TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | SCHEDULES

The organizing committee consists of:

- Moose Jaw Multicultural Council
- Regina Open Door Society
- Saskatoon Open Door Society
- Southeast Newcomers Services
- Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre
- The Humboldt Regional Newcomer Centre
- YWCA Prince Albert
- The Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth
- Edmonton Immigrant Services Association
- Neighbourhood Immigrant Settlement Coordinator Immigrant Centre
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	SEPTEMBER 19 TH , 2017 REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST	
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	OPENING WELCOME Conference Introduction - Conference Emcee (Marita Bray) Host: Maryam Karimi - Saskatchewan SWIS Coordinator (SSC) John Biles, Assistant Director of Integration - Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada Minister Ken Cheveldayoff - Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport SSC Working Group member	
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	PLENARY #1 - Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), and SWIS Evaluation	
	Speaker: John Biles, Assistant Director of Integration - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada	
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	PLENARY #2 - Working with Immigrant and Racialized Youth with Complex Needs	
	Speaker: Dr. Hieu van Ngo, University of Calgary	
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH & NETWORKING	
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Supporting Refugee and Immigrant Children and Youth Well-being	Breakout Session #1 Room: Capital B Topic: Family Violence: Issues, Prevention and Intervention Speakers: Salim Otiso and Lesley Kitsch Organization: SK Ministry of Social Services
	Exploring Innovative and Best Practices	Breakout Session #2 Room: Silver Birch Conference Centre Topic: Addressing the Stressors of Syrian Refugees – Challenges, Opportunities and Tools Speaker: Souheir Jamil Organization: Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth
	Identifying Future Initiatives	Breakout Session #3 Room: Qu'Appelle Topic: Thinking Outside the SWIS Box – Creative Expansions to the SWIS Model Speaker: Sarosh Rizvi Organization: Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Successful Integration of refugee and immigrant students in the education system	Breakout Session #4 Room: Capital A Topic: Indigenous Involvement with Newcomers Speaker: Claudine Neetz Organization(s): U of R
		Topic: The Journey of Becoming an Indigenous Ally Speaker: Oliver Kamau Organization: Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA)
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Exploring Innovative and Best Practices	Breakout Session #5 Room: Prince Albert Topic: Effective Methods in Logic Model Development to Track Progress towards Longer Term Outcomes and Impacts Speaker: Maureen Matthew Organization: <i>INNOVA</i> Learning since 1995
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	PLENARY #3 Mark Docherty - former Legislative Secretary for Immigration and Culture	
	Newcomer Students' panel discussion Speaker(s): Newcomer Students from Regina	
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	COFFEE BREAK	

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Supporting refugee and immigrant children and youth well-being	<p>Breakout Session #6</p> <p>Room: Capital A</p> <p>Topic: Gender Issues for LGBTQ Newcomer Youth</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Hieu van Ngo</p> <p>Organization: University of Calgary</p>
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Exploring Innovative and Best Practices	<p>Breakout Session #7</p> <p>Room: Prince Albert</p> <p>Topic: Self-care When Caring Hurts: Taking Care of Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, and Secondary Trauma</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Jenny Keller</p> <p>Organization: Saskatchewan Mental Health Region</p>
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Identifying Future Initiatives	<p>Breakout Session #8</p> <p>Room: Qu'Appelle</p> <p>Topic: Best Practices Key Elements for newcomer students' success – different perspectives</p> <p>Facilitators: Amanda Davison, Elizabeth Geti, Oksana Shulka, Carlos Correa, Roundtable Discussion</p> <p>Organizations: Prince Albert YWCA, Saskatoon Open Door Society, Regina Open Door Society</p>
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Successful Integration of refugee and immigrant students in the education system	<p>Breakout Session #9</p> <p>Room: Capital B</p> <p>Topic: Working with Newcomer Youth, Engaging Youth</p> <p>Speaker: Winston Blake</p> <p>Organization: Saskatoon Restorative Action Program Inc.</p>
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Exploring Innovative and Best Practices	<p>Breakout Session #10</p> <p>Room: Silver Birch Conference Centre</p> <p>Topic: Effective Conflict Management – Tools and Techniques</p> <p>Speaker: Duncan Brawn</p> <p>Organization: Brawn Mediation Services and SWIS Worker, Regina Open Door</p>

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	SEPTEMBER 20 TH , 2017	BREAKFAST
8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	<p>PLENARY #4 - KEYNOTE PRESENTATION</p> <p>Gathering Information: New version of the Needs Assessment</p> <p>Speaker: John Biles, Assistant Director of Integration - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada</p>	
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	<p>PLENARY #5 - PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE ROUNDTABLE</p> <p>Speaker(s): Newcomer Parents from Regina</p>	
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<p>PLENARY #6 - Moving Forward - Identifying Future Initiatives (Roundtable discussion)</p> <p>Facilitators: Sarosh Rizvi, Maryam Karimi, Oliver Kamau</p>	
12:00 AM - 12:45 PM	LUNCH AND NETWORKING	
12:45 PM - 2:00 PM	Exploring Innovative and Best Practices	<p>Breakout Session #11</p> <p>Room: Prince Albert</p> <p>Topic: Peer Mentors: Indispensable Pillars of Support for Newcomer Students</p> <p>Speakers: Margarita Cameron & Hayder Abed</p> <p>Organization: Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA)</p> <hr/> <p>Topic: Newcomer Orientation Week in Canadian High Schools – THIS SESSION IS IN FRENCH</p> <p>Speaker: George Bahaya</p> <p>Organization: Centre d'accueil et d'établissement du Nord de l'Alberta</p>
12:45 PM - 2:00 PM	Successful Integration of refugee and immigrant students in the education system	<p>Breakout Session #12</p> <p>Room Capital A</p> <p>Topic: Supporting Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students in Saskatchewan</p> <p>Speakers: Seema Saroj and Jennifer Scullen</p> <p>Organization: Saskatchewan Ministry of Education</p> <hr/> <p>Topic: Student Support Services in Saskatchewan</p> <p>Speaker: Lynn Harper-Harris</p> <p>Organization: Saskatchewan Ministry of Education</p>

12:45 PM - 2:00 PM	Supporting refugee and immigrant children and youth well-being	<p>Breakout Session #13 Room: Capital B Topic: Learning From Refugee Families in Early Childhood Settings Speaker: Dr. Christine Massing Organization(s): U of R</p> <hr/> <p>Topic: Play and the Unintegrated Child Speaker: Janine Hart Organization: Humboldt Newcomer Centre</p>
12:45 PM - 2:00 PM	Supporting refugee and immigrant children and youth well-being	<p>Breakout Session #14 Room: Qu'Appelle Topic: Chill Out Program (Anger Management Program for kids) Speakers: Gabriel Gabriel and Maricelle Banay Organization: Neighbourhood Immigrant Settlement Workers Program, Winnipeg</p> <hr/> <p>Topic: Working with Syrian Families Speakers: Erika Frey & Molly Dunbar Organization: West Central Women's Resource Centre, Winnipeg</p>
12:45 PM - 2:00 PM	Exploring Innovative and Best Practices	<p>Breakout Session #15 Room: Silver Birch Conference Centre Topic: Differences and Similarities of Providing SWIS Services in Smaller and Urban Centres: Challenges, Trends, Gaps and Successes Speaker: Dakota Leggott Organization: Moose Jaw Multicultural Council</p> <hr/> <p>Topic: SWIS in Rural and Small Centres Speakers: Tracy Abel and Odessa Sherbaniuk Organization: The Humboldt Regional Newcomer Centre</p>
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	Supporting refugee and immigrant children and youth well-being	<p>Breakout Session #16 Room: Capital A Topic: Identifying and Addressing the Needs of Syrian Refugee families Speaker: Sherry Park Organization: Action for Healthy Communities (Edmonton)</p> <hr/> <p>Topic: Students' Wellbeing (Mental Health and Youth) Speaker: Jennifer Tomish Organization: Newcomers Employment and Education Development Services (N.E.E.D.S.) Inc. (Winnipeg)</p>

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	Successful Integration of refugee and immigrant students in the education system	<p>Breakout Session #17 Room: Qu'Appelle Topic: Share Our World Program Speakers: Dorin Adenaken, Patricia Eyamba and Malou Josue Organization: Neighbourhood Immigrant Settlement Program, Winnipeg</p>
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	Engaging Families in their children/youth education life	<p>Topic: When the Rubber Hits the Road: SWIS in Action in the home, community and school Speaker: Nenita Anonas Organization: EAL teacher at Dr. Martin LeBoldus</p>
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	Exploring Innovative and Best Practices	<p>Breakout Session #18 Room: Capital B Topic: Newcomer Orientation Week in Canadian High Schools Speaker: Ruth Gitaka Organization: Edmonton Immigrant Services Association – Edmonton</p> <hr/> <p>Topic: Orientation Workshop for Newcomers (OWN) Best Practices Speaker: Waleed Momani Organization: Saskatoon Open Door Society</p>
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	Exploring Innovative and Best Practices	<p>Breakout Session #19 Room: Prince Albert Topic: Neighbourhood Immigrant Settlement Workers Program (NISW) model in Manitoba Speakers: Dorin Adenakan, Erika Frey, Molly Dunbar and Rowena Hernandez Organization: West Central Women's Resource Centre, Winnipeg</p>
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	WRAP-UP FINAL EVALUATION	



Monday, September 18

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

REGISTRATION / NETWORKING

Tuesday, September 19

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

OPENING WELCOME

Conference Introduction - Conference Emcee (Marita Bray)

Host: Maryam Karimi - Saskatchewan SWIS Coordinator (SSC)

John Biles, Assistant Director of Integration - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Minister Ken Cheveldayoff - Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport

SSC Working Group member

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Keynote Presentation

Plenary #1 - Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), and SWIS evaluation, IRCC

Room: Capital A

Speaker: John Biles, Assistant Director of Integration - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Plenary #2 - Working with Immigrant and Racialized Youth with Complex Needs

Speaker: Dr. Hieu Van Ngo

Grounded in the existing research and practice, this session will offer insights into the multiple and overlapping challenges facing immigrant youth. It will examine a wide range of issues related to pre-migration experience, post-migration individual challenges and post-migration structural challenges. The session will further explore various strategies to foster positive identity development and wellbeing among young immigrants, and to address structural barriers to their positive integration into Canadian society.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM **Breakout Sessions:**

BREAKOUT SESSION #1

Room: Capital B

Topic: Family Violence: Issues, Prevention and Intervention

Speakers: Salim Otiso and Lesley Kitsch

Organization(s): SK Ministry of Social Services (presentation followed by roundtable discussion)

An overview of child protection legislation and mandate

- Review of the process – what happens when child protection becomes involved?
- Discussion of observed trends as to why MSS child protection is becoming involved with families
- How MSS is engaging and working with Newcomer Families
- Programs/Services/ Supports available to families



1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #2

Room: Silver Birch Conference Centre

Topic: Addressing the Stressors of Syrian Refugees – Challenges, Opportunities and Tools

Speaker: Souheir Jamil

Organization: Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth

The influx of Syrian refugees in 2016 created immediate need in the settlement sector. Now, after more than a year, many Syrian refugee families are still faced with significant obstacles to their settlement in Canada. With students and their families no longer receiving resettlement support, it is essential for those in the settlement sector to understand their backgrounds, their journeys and methods to best support them.

The session will discuss the path and journey of Syrian Refugees and the difficulties faced since arriving in Canada, while providing tools, strategies, resources and best practices that best support students and their families.

BREAKOUT SESSION #3

Room: Qu'Appelle

Topic: Thinking Outside the SWIS Box - Creative Expansions to the SWIS Model

Speaker: Sarosh Rizvi

Organization: Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth

The session will focus on methodologies on how to expand the scope of SWIS programming to meet the needs of newcomer students and their families. This will include tips on how to identify client needs, connect with initiatives and apply for funding.

Activities will be highlighted that expands both the breadth and depth of settlement programming, including programming in outlying areas, inter-agency programming and settlement planning.

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #4

Room: Capital A

Topic: Indigenous Involvement with Newcomers

Speaker: Claudine Neetz

Organization: U of R

It is the growth of the EAL population at Thom Collegiate that led to the interest in creating the Community Coffee House, a program for people of all ages, cultures, and linguistic backgrounds to learn and practice the English language. The program is run in partnership with Regina Public Schools and Regina Open Door Society, with volunteers from the Thom Collegiate student body, Regina Public Library, and students from the ECS 200 class at the University of Regina.

Topic: The Journey of Becoming an Indigenous Ally

Speaker: Oliver Kamau

Organization: Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA)

While a few Indigenous people have taken on the task of educating newcomers about their collective historical experiences, this work should not be solely their responsibility. Newcomers and established Canadians need to become their allies and take on the task of social transformation. This session explores the nature of relationship between newcomers to Canada and Indigenous peoples. It also clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of anyone willing to become an ally of Indigenous peoples.

BREAKOUT SESSION #5

Room: Prince Albert

Topic: Effective Methods in Logic Model Development to Track Progress towards Longer Term Outcomes and Impacts

Speaker: Maureen Matthew

Organization: INNOVA Learning since 1995

This session will briefly review what logic models are by using examples of logic models. To develop logic models we will discuss what elements are needed in a logic model to make it useful and effective. We will then discuss how to link the logic model to your organization's management processes to create work plans and budgets. We will discuss strategies to monitor the logic model along with the work plan as well as how to accommodate revisions and unanticipated results or opportunities. After the session, participants will have a better sense of how to use logic models in monitoring results and outcomes.



2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

PLENARY SESSION #3

Mark Docherty - former Legislative Secretary for Immigration and Culture

Newcomer Students' panel discussion

Speakers: Newcomer Students from Regina

3:00 PM 3:30 PM

COFFEE BREAK

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #6

Room: Capital A

Topic: Gender Issues for LGBTQ Newcomer Youth

Speaker: Dr. Hieu van Ngo

Organization: University of Calgary

Drawing upon the existing scholarship and lived experiences, this session will examine complex interactions between immigrant and racialized LGBTQ youth and their families, schools and communities. The analysis will assert an intersectional perspective that explicitly considers how individuals from the various social locations have experienced and negotiated power both within interpersonal relationships and interactions with systems and institutions. The session will also offer practical strategies to address the challenges facing immigrant and racialized LGBTQ youth.

BREAKOUT SESSION #7

Room: Prince Albert

Topic: Self-care

When Caring Hurts: Taking Care of Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, and Secondary Trauma

Speaker: Dr. Jenny Keller

Organization: Saskatchewan Mental Health Region

The presentation will define and differentiate between compassion fatigue, burnout, and secondary trauma. Risk and protective factors will be identified. Coping strategies will be reviewed.

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #8

Room: Qu'Appelle

Topic: Best Practices – Key Elements for newcomer students' success – different perspectives

Facilitators: Amanda Davison, Elizabeth Geti, Oksana Shulska, Carlos Correa
Roundtable Discussion

Organizations: Prince Albert YWCA, Saskatoon Open Door Society, Regina Open Door Society

This session will be a roundtable discussion with both IRCC and SPO delegates addressing some of the top issues facing Settlement Work in Schools and Communities.

BREAKOUT SESSION #9

Room: Capital B

Topic: Working with Newcomer Youth, Engaging Youth

Speaker: Winston Blake

Organization: Saskatoon Restorative Action Program Inc.

This interactive workshop will provide participants with knowledge and understanding of how to apply proven methods to work with young people. Participants will receive information that will enhance their understanding of issues facing young people within schools and the community, such as disputes, conflicts, bullying and mental health. Special focus will be given to provide participants with the opportunity to understand the processes needed to build teamwork and to work with others. In addition to the broad foundations provided to build capacity to effectively work with young people, participants will also learn how to develop their own interpersonal, communication and conflict management strategies to deal with work and life situations.



3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #10

Room: Silver Birch Conference Centre

Topic: Effective Conflict Management – Tools and Techniques

Speaker: Duncan Brawn

Organization: Brawn Mediation Services and SWIS Worker, Regina Open Door

The workshop on conflict management will examine:

- the nature of human conflict
- participant roles and perspectives, and how they influence conflict
- defensive aggression and the nature of in-group/out-group conflict
- coping strategies to help mollify interpersonal conflict, as well as manage stress and cognitive dissonance
- tools and techniques that can be used when confronted with social conflict
- participatory activities to teach valuable listening and communication skills (from the Big Book of Conflict Resolution Games) such as how to validate oneself and others
- methods of self-regulation and co-regulation to help cope with intense stressors and events
- culturally diverse ways of approaching and managing conflict

Wednesday, September 20

7:30AM - 8:30 AM

BREAKFAST

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

PLENARY #4 - KEYNOTE PRESENTATION - Gathering Information: New version of the Needs Assessment

Speaker: John Biles, Assistant Director of Integration - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM

PLENARY SESSION #5 - Parents' Perspective Roundtable

Speakers: Newcomer Parents from Regina

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

PLENARY SESSION #6 - Moving Forward: Identifying Future Initiatives (Roundtable discussion)

Facilitators: Sarosh Rizvi, Maryam Karimi, Oliver Kamau

12:00 PM - 12:45 PM

LUNCH AND NETWORKING



12:45 PM - 2:00 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #11

Room: Prince Albert

Topic: Peer Mentors: Indispensable Pillars of Support for Newcomer Students

Speakers: Margarita Cameron & Hayder Abed

Organization: Edmonton Immigrant Services Association (EISA)

In this presentation, we will discuss the process which In-School Settlement Services program at EISA has been using for the past eight years to prepare and train newcomer youth to become Peer Leaders/Mentors during Newcomer Orientation Week. The session will also discuss the roles/responsibilities of peer mentors as well as the critical role they play in anchoring newly arrived high school students not only during the orientation week but throughout the school year.

Topic: Newcomer Orientation Week in Canadian High Schools – THIS SESSION IS IN FRENCH

Speaker: George Bahaya

Organization: Centre d'accueil et d'établissement du Nord de l'Alberta

The Newcomer Orientation Week (SONA) is a typical orientation model developed over the past ten years by the Centre d'accueil et d'établissement du Nord de l'Alberta (CAÉ), in order to facilitate a better integration in school.

This presentation will cover the following topics:

- Context and goals of the SONA
- Demographic
- Stakeholders
- Activities
- Outcomes of the SONA

La Semaine d'orientation des Nouveaux Arrivants, SONA en sigle, est un modèle typique d'orientation développée au cours des dix dernières années par le Centre d'accueil et d'établissement du nord de l'Alberta en vue de faciliter une meilleure intégration en milieu scolaire.

Au cours de notre présentation, nous parlerons de :

- Contexte et objectifs de la SONA
- La clientèle
- Partenaires
- Activités
- Résultats de la SONA

12:45 PM - 2:00 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #12

Room: Capital A

Topic: Supporting Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students in Saskatchewan

Speakers: Seema Saroj and Jennifer Scullen

Organization: Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

The session will include information on newcomers' countries of origin, communities where they are settling and the supports for newcomer families and students resulting from ongoing collaboration with a variety of stakeholders. Information on EAL data collected through the ministry's Student Data System, its analysis, and how that has implications for instruction and supports in the classroom; and, supports and resources available to the field will also be provided.

This presentation will allow participants to share pressures and generate ideas for moving forward.

Topic: Student Support Services in Saskatchewan

Speaker: Lynn Harper-Harris

Organization: Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

This presentation focusses on the work of the Ministry of Education with respect to supporting students in Saskatchewan schools.

The session will include information on:

- belonging to a school community;
- understanding school culture in Saskatchewan;
- inclusive philosophy and education in Saskatchewan;
- student support services – Inclusion and Intervention Plans; and
- supports available beyond the school environment.

This presentation will allow participants to ask questions and begin to think about their role when supporting the individual needs of their clients.



12:45 PM - 2:00 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #13

Room: Capital B

Topic: Learning From Refugee Families in Early Childhood Settings

Speaker: Dr. Christine Massing

Organization(s): U of R

This session draws from the findings of a one year ethnographic study conducted with refugee and immigrant women studying to become early childhood educators at a community college. The purpose of the study was to understand how these women experienced the disjuncture between the western, dominant early childhood theories and practices and their own culturally-constructed knowledges, experiences, beliefs, and values about how to teach and care for young children. The findings revealed that these women encountered a number of areas of tension, including pedagogical approaches, adult-child relationships, and care practices. Implications for working with and supporting young immigrant and refugee learners and their families in educational contexts will be discussed.

Topic: Play and the Unintegrated Child

Speaker: Janine Hart

Organization: Humboldt Newcomer Centre

This presentation will give a brief over view of how play can support a child’s internalization of helplessness and loss of control; even when unrest, physical pain, or uncertainty is hard to comprehend. How does play act as a coping mechanism to negotiate meaning and why is it that the importance of play are not always appreciated and minimized by many professional bodies, in favour of “learning outcomes.”

BREAKOUT SESSION #14

Room: Qu’Appelle

Topic: Chill Out Program (Anger Management Program for kids)

Speakers: Gabriel and Maricelle Banay

Organization: Neighbourhood Immigrant Settlement Workers Program, Winnipeg

Chill Out is an anger management program that helps youth deal with their own emotions and also help them deal with other people’s anger and emotions. This is done through various activities, discussions around what makes them angry and figuring out ways to cope with anger. This helps youth understand and realize that anger is healthy.

12:45 PM - 2:00 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #14

Room: Qu’Appelle

Topic: Working with Syrian Families

Speakers: Erika Frey & Molly Dunbar

Organization: West Central Women’s Resource Centre, Winnipeg

We are coming up on two years since the arrivals of the first Syrian families. This population of newcomers brought mainstream attention to the settlement experience of refugees and as a sector we have and continue to see many successes, challenges and lessons learned. In this session we will facilitate group discussions so we can reflect, celebrate and explore how we can apply these lessons in our future settlement work.

BREAKOUT SESSION #15

Room: Silver Birch Conference Centre

Topic: Differences and Similarities of Providing SWIS Services in Smaller and Urban Centres: Challenges, Trends, Gaps and Successes

Speaker: Dakota Leggott

Organization: Moose Jaw Multicultural Council

This presentation will focus on the key factors needed to create a Rural or Small Centre SWIS program that is both effective and manageable. Topics and discussions will include challenges and benefits, cultural considerations, SWIS roles and the importance of creating connections in a rural setting. This presentation will be beneficial to anyone who provides SWIS services in a rural school or in small town/city centres. This presentation would also be of interest to SPO’s who are looking to provide more SWIS services in rural settings.

Topic: SWIS in Rural and Small Centres

Speakers: Tracy Abel and Odessa Sherbaniuk

Organization: The Humboldt Regional Newcomer Centre

While the large rural setting they cover (approximately 150 km radius) presents many challenges, it also provides a wealth of opportunity and room for creativity. The communities they serve are diverse in demographics and varied in their immigration experiences. Tracy and Odessa focus a large portion of their efforts on relationship building – with schools, towns, and families – to ensure that the people who access their services feel confident in doing so. Tracy’s background in education and Odessa’s social work knowledge combine in ways that complement and support each other.



2:00 PM - 2:15 PM
COFFEE BREAK

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #16

Room: Capital A

Topic: Identifying and Addressing the Needs of Syrian Refugee families

Speaker: Sherry Park

Organization: Action for Healthy Communities (Edmonton)

Action for Healthy Communities Youth program has been offering Syrian youth program in Edmonton since May 2016. The program was designed to address the identified gaps and to prolong the engagement with Syrian immigrant youth using the community building model. This presentation will share the strategies and approaches of AHC youth program.

Topic: Students' Wellbeing (Mental Health and Youth)

Speaker: Jennifer Tomish

Organization: Newcomers Employment and Education Development Services (N.E.E.D.S.) Inc. Winnipeg

To provide participants with a general overview of the components of mental health, the implications of mental health on settlement and integration, and to provide practical strategies for mental health promotion and support among newcomer children and youth.

BREAKOUT SESSION #17

Room: Qu'Appelle

Topic: Share Our World Program

Speakers: Dorin Adenaken, Patricia Evamba and Malou Josue

Organization: Neighbourhood Immigrant Settlement Program, Winnipeg

Share Our World (SOW) Program is a cultural adaptation literacy program that provides participants an awareness and understanding of multiculturalism in Canada with the aim of building cultural understanding and awareness amongst newcomer children and their families.

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #17

Topic: When the Rubber Hits the Road: SWIS in Action in the home, community and school

Speaker: Nenita Anonas

Organization: EAL teacher at Dr. Martin LeBoldus

Two effective roles of SWIS: a.) in linking families to community programs, agencies, settlement services and resources. b.) contributing to the school knowledge base through resource finding and option exploration.

Discussion will be supported by examples that happened at school.

BREAKOUT SESSION #18

Room: Capital B

Topic: Newcomer Orientation Week in Canadian High Schools

Speaker: Ruth Gitaka

Organization: Edmonton Immigrant Services Association - Edmonton

The extent to which a student is successful in a high school setting depends on the familiarity with the education system, language proficiency and well-established peer and social connections. For newcomer students, the context might be daunting due to culture shock, language barriers and limited social connections. To address these challenges the In-School Settlement Services programs offers an intensive preparation program known as Newcomer Orientation Week (NOW). This session will describe the foundational philosophy and critical elements of NOW program as well as address the challenges, successes and outcomes of the program since its inception in 2010 at Edmonton Immigrants Services Association (EISA).

Topic: Orientation Workshop for Newcomers (OWN) Best Practices

Speaker: Waleed Momani

Organization: Saskatoon Open Door Society

Orientation Workshop for Newcomers (OWN) is a program that aims to help ease newcomer students and their family's transition into the Canadian School system. This workshop will explore the three phases of OWN (planning implementation and measurement) and the current success of the program and where there is room for growth and development.



2:15 PM - 3:15 PM Breakout Sessions:

BREAKOUT SESSION #19

Room: Prince Albert

Topic: Neighbourhood Immigrant Settlement Workers Program (NISW) model in Manitoba

Speakers: Dorin Adenakan, Erika Frey, Molly Dunbar and Rowena Hernandez

Organization: West Central Women’s Resource Centre, Winnipeg

Explore and learn about the Neighbourhood Immigrant Settlement Workers (NISW) Program model in Manitoba.

There are currently 28 NISWs in 10 neighbourhood areas of Winnipeg that provides local settlement services to newcomer individuals and families. Some are hosted in school divisions and some are hosted in community organizations.

Learn how each neighbourhood program is unique and similar to one another as well as discover how they are interconnected in the services they offer.

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

WRAP-UP/ FINAL EVALUATION

Lined area for taking notes, featuring a large, faint, colorful abstract graphic on the left side.



ENGAGING NEWCOMER FAMILIES, INSPIRING EDUCATION

Exploring Innovative and Best Practices



Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada