

## PURPOSE OF FORUM

The purpose of the Funders Forum was to highlight funding opportunities that could be utilized to support newcomer program, service and resource development. In addition, a brainstorming session provided an opportunity for funders to learn about perceived service and funding gaps, as shared by service agencies and cultural groups. Forum attendees included newcomer serving agencies, cultural groups and other organizations that were interested in developing or expanding their capacity to serve newcomers.

## FORUM GOALS

- To connect local service providers/community groups to funding sources that can be used to support newcomer program, service and resource development
- To provide an opportunity for funders to learn about service and funding gaps, as perceived by newcomer-serving organizations
- To provide an opportunity for local service providers/community groups to learn about the requirements, processes and selection criteria for grants and funding options

## FORUM FORMAT (9:00 A.M. – 12 P.M.)

- Welcome
- Funder Presentations (3 to 5 minutes in length)
- Table discussions (2 questions to be answered)
- Discussion results shared
- Information tables (funder hosted)



## WHO ATTENDED?

### 9 funders & 1 information hub attended and they included:

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|---|--|
| • Affinity Credit Union                 | • Service Canada                                   |
| • City of Regina                        | • South Saskatchewan Community Foundation          |
| • Community Initiatives Fund            | • Funders in the West                              |
| • Farm Credit Canada                    | • Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages |
| • Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan |  |
| • SaskCulture                           |  |

### 25 participants representing 15 individual organizations or cultural groups attended and they included:

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|--|---------------------------------|
| • Al Ritchie Community Association       | • Rahmah Centre                 |
| • Assemblée communautaire francosaskoise | • Regina Early Learning Centre  |
| • Buddhist Centre of Regina              | • Regina Immigrant Women Centre |
| • Carmichael Outreach                    | • Regina Public Library         |

- Food Regina
- New Canadian Integration Society
- SCEP Centre (early intervention and training services)



- Le Réseau en immigration francophone de la Saskatchewan (RIF-SK)
- Rosemont Mount Royal Community Association
- United Way Regina
- YWCA



## DISCUSSION RESULTS

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**Funders either joined or observed the tables, where Newcomer serving agencies, cultural groups and others discussed 2 questions:**

### **1. What are the current gaps in service provision that require funding?**

#### **Answers included:**

- Home visiting program (on-going; much like the model for senior's home visits)
- Cultural awareness programs (opportunities for sharing cultures; multi-generational approach)
- Access to specialized services (i.e. young children with special needs; the need for specialized services represents a huge funding gap; it requires awareness and education to address stigmas)
- Language barrier supports (e.g. professional translators)
- Facility supports for agencies and cultural groups (i.e. availability and affordability are major challenges)
- Driver training
- Language programming for non-permanent residents
- Interpretation, transportation and childcare supports to reduce access barriers
- Women-focused programs
- Hospitality support for programs and services
- Funding that is longer term and supports operational needs (i.e. short-term grants make it very difficult for agencies to survive and thrive)
- Newcomer endorsed programs and services (e.g. require the newcomer voice to determine needs)
- Employment support programs (e.g. job culture; competencies)
- Community engagement opportunities (e.g. opportunities for newcomers and Canadian-born to come together; understand one another; share cultures, etc.).
- 'Beyond first year' supports for refugees (i.e. many refugees require continued supports to help them transition)
- Administrative support and training for new organizations to operate and serve effectively (e.g. grant writing, board training and recruiting, etc.).
- Trauma informed supports and programming

- Newcomer focused programs that address the overwhelming feelings of *what to do* and *what needs to be done* when you first arrive and beyond
- Funding that addresses the need for agencies and cultural groups to be supported (e.g. operational funding, professional development support, etc.). because without strong core support, there would be no programs and services for newcomers
- Low language learner supports (e.g. many newcomers, specifically refugees, have difficulty accessing basic services and finding employment when they have little to no English skills)
- Funding that supports coordinated delivery of services information (i.e. difficult for newcomers to navigate the systems if they don't know what exists)
- Credential recognition services
- Programs that support the fostering of newcomer leaders and advocates in the community

## 2. Share your ideas for new or expanded programs and services:

### Answers included:

- Expand the current Bridges Program to include opportunities for newcomer and indigenous adults to share their cultures (currently youth focused)
- Cultural Awareness Programs (e.g. fosters the ability to share reciprocally between newcomers and Canadian born community members; do not forget the importance of engaging the indigenous community)
- Cultural Competency Courses for Newcomers (e.g. intercultural communication)
- Expand the 'Cops and Readers' Program (e.g. currently 2 schools are involved but an expansion of the program is needed; police staff walk children to the library for stories/discussion)
- Trauma-informed Programs
- Survival Guide for Newcomers Resource (e.g. includes local resources and a checklist; include information about services like 211 Saskatchewan)

## FORUM EVALUATION (PARTICIPANTS & FUNDERS)

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### Participants were asked these questions:

#### 1. Did you learn about funding sources that you didn't know about before today?

YES (100% of respondents)

**Additional Comment:** I'm glad to hear that Hubs and Portals are forming and available to access the information.

#### 2. As a result of today, do you better understand the funding application process?

YES (majority of respondents); NO (3 respondents reported they didn't have a better understanding)

**Additional Comments:** What was most helpful was the offer to call or email to talk to the funder reps; Great information shared and a reminder to reach out to discuss funding first before applying

#### 3. How will you use the information you learned about today?

I will...

- consult with my organization to apply
- explore new avenues for funding
- explore some of the grants
- think about possible new avenues for funding

- use it to meet our programming needs
- keep track of deadlines
- research foundations
- bring it to our board meeting
- share it with my friends and community
- think more creatively about potential funding sources for various aspects of programming

**Other comments:** It was very useful – thank you for organizing it; Consider soliciting more newcomer participation in these events to get their point of view; Very well done; Great forum – bring in more funders next time; Very useful; Will check out RRLIP blog; Attendance was on the low side; Invite representation from the communities we are trying to help; Good information and tools; Excellent venue – very informative – just what I needed to know; The forum diversified my thinking; Next time host the forum prior to funding stream deadlines (many have just passed); I would recommend hosting this annually in November (before deadlines start in Jan – March)

### **Funders were asked these questions:**

#### **1. Did you learn about service gaps identified by newcomer-serving organizations?**

YES (100% of respondents)

**Additional Comment:** There are many significant gaps that leave some new immigrants suffering for many years

#### **2. Were you able to connect with community organizations and cultural groups interested in applying for funding support?**

YES (100% of respondents)

**Additional Comments:** Good networking opportunity; I'll need to follow-up on many connections

#### **3. How will you use the information you learned about today?**

**As a funder, we will...**

- address potential gaps
- review our funding to ensure it meets the needs of the community
- connect with other funders
- encourage the expansion of the Bridges Program in Regina
- take the ideas back to the team and connect with some of the groups to see how we might help
- provide better information on community needs to donors
- upload more resources to our site
- begin contacting relevant groups

**Other comments:** It would have been helpful to know who was in the room (introductions); It is good to hear from other funders, as well as connect with potential applicants; Thank you so much for this opportunity – it was wonderful; I'll add the RRLIP to the regional network list; Well done – perhaps a rotation among tables would help each group expand its network

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION GAINED FROM THE COMMUNITY FORUM?

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- Attending funders took part in, or observed, the table discussions and thus heard first-hand the perceived gaps in service.
- Forum participants will receive the Forum Report through email.
- The Forum Report will be shared widely with the broader community through inclusion on the RRLIP project blog, project newsletters, RRLIP website and Facebook page and in meetings with stakeholders.
- RRLIP convened-tables, project partners and the project's major funder will receive the Forum Report.
- The RRLIPs major funder will receive the report's findings in additional ways (quarterly narrative report and annual report).
- Ongoing updates and promotion of the [RRLIP Funding Guide](#) will occur.

## ABOUT THE RRLIP PROJECT

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### *The RRLIP is a community initiative that...*

- **Convenes** a multi-sector 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, strengths and local strategies for support
- **Promotes** welcoming attitudes and increases the full participation of newcomers in the Regina community

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Many thanks to all participating funders and forum participants interested in developing or expanding the community's capacity to serve newcomers. Finally, thank you to the RRLIPs project partners and funder, for without their support, this forum would not have been possible.

