



## RRLIP Sponsoring Community Meeting (Mtg. #1 – Fiscal Year 2017-2018)

Sept 28/17; 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bank of Canada Bldg. – 2220 – 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. 6:30 – 7:45 pm

**Present:** Agnes; Anthony; Donald; Donna; Gail; Gratta; Kay; Mary; Ruth; Sheila; Zahara; Carol (RRLIP); Deborah (RRLIP)

### Acronym Glossary:

<b>RRLIP</b> – Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership	<b>RODS</b> – Regina Open Door Society	<b>IRCC</b> – Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada	<b>NWC</b> – Newcomer Welcome Centre
<b>SAISIA</b> – Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies	<b>GAR's</b> – Government Assisted Refugees	<b>PR's</b> – Permanent Residents	

### Handouts:

Agenda	Newcomer News #6	Refugee Silhouette	Inclusion Tool – We Speak Translate information
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item	By Whom
<b>1. Welcome and introductions</b>			
<b>2. Additions to agenda</b>	SAISIA; NWC information		
<b>3. RRLIP – brief overview</b>	<p>Carol Brouwers (RRLIP Project manager) gave a brief overview of the Project, and how the RRLIP can support this network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded by IRCC; staffed by September 2014</li> <li>A community project, the RRLIP exists to support those who are supporting newcomers in Regina – in varied ways (e.g. enabling connections and facilitating collaboration; finding, creating and providing resources; researching community needs, and providing educational and logistical support)</li> <li>For this Support Network, RRLIP can provide information, engage speakers, help make connections, bring concerns forward to appropriate stakeholders, coordinate meetings, etc.</li> </ul>		
<b>4. Why a Support Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newcomers and their sponsors can face many challenges</li> <li>Often the newcomers and sponsors are not aware of all the local services and resources they can access</li> <li>Members can be a great source of information and support to each other</li> <li>RRLIP can support the Network (as described above #3)</li> </ul>		
<b>5. Agenda Addition: SAISIA</b>	Anthony gave an overview of the function of SAISIA – an umbrella group for settlement organizations that offer services to newcomers – includes 22 province-wide. SAISIA will also provide support to the network of indirect service providers, such as private sponsorship groups.	SAISIA has developed a Service Map for Regina (helpful resource for the Sponsoring community). Send map.	RRLIP Staff



Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Item	By Whom
	<p><b>Additional Topics of Interest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there local groups looking for refugees to sponsor? How could I find out who these groups or people are?</li> <li>• Rental market conditions</li> <li>• Community connections, foreign credentials recognition, inter-agency referrals</li> </ul> <p><i>What organizations or associations would you like more information about? Top 3 were:</i></p> <p><b>#1: Community –Based Employment Programs</b>  <b>#2: Community Settlement Agencies (tied 2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>  <b>#3: Grassroots Groups (tied 2<sup>nd</sup>)</b></p> <p><b>Additional Topics of Interest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community sponsorships</li> <li>• Personal/family financial management</li> <li>• Where can Muslim women buy appropriate clothing/</li> <li>• Setting up partnerships with different groups to sponsor more refugees</li> </ul>	<p><b>General Action Items:</b>  Request guest speakers in relation to topics of interest and provide information on an on-going basis</p>	<p>RRLIP staff and all members</p> <p>Members - please provide any relevant information you may have/obtain, to the RRLIP staff to distribute to all members</p>
<p><b>7. Sponsoring Group – Highlights from Roundtable Discussion</b></p>	<p>Family and friends would like to bring sister. She has great English, computer degree, a UN #. Are there people who have \$ but don't want/have time to get involved? How can we find people? Is there a possibility of a blended sponsorship?</p> <p>Information requested from the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document translation information</li> <li>• Information on PLAR</li> <li>• Literacy vs CLB Levels - What is the difference?</li> <li>• Language Work Placement – big concern; how much can newcomers earn before their support is clawed back? How can links be made to part-time employment?</li> <li>• Sponsorship Agreement Holders(SAH's) in Sask</li> <li>• Government documents (difficulty filling them out)</li> </ul>	<p>With this and other examples in mind, examine methods of connection to better support individuals and groups with desire to sponsor, but not enough dollars to do it.</p> <p>Information Request Follow-Up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send link information to TIP (Translation and Interpretation Program)</li> <li>• Find and send PLAR info</li> <li>• Send Literacy vs CLB level explanation</li> <li>• Provide employment-related info (next meeting) and attempt to connect with service providers for possible presentations at next meeting</li> <li>• Send info about employment status/immigration laws</li> <li>• Send SAH's info</li> <li>• Find and send info about government document completion assistance (apparently once/month at the Hamilton Building)</li> </ul>	<p>All members</p> <p>Suggestions?</p> <p>RRLIP staff</p>

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<p><b>Sponsoring Group – Highlights from Roundtable Discussion Continued</b></p>	<p>One group has made a commitment to formalized visits and other assistance once/week (e.g. practice speaking English, assist with completing important documents, discuss school progress, provide transportation when needed etc.). For example, the Grandmother has never been to school and for the first time in her life, is now able to write the alphabet. She was very proud to share the accomplishment.</p> <p>Knox Church provides long-term support (e.g. regular visits, provides transportation to events and orientation to community). Knox has a large number of members willing to support newcomers.</p> <p>Newcomers often express fear - If they take a job, can they get back into English classes or do they have to go on a wait list?</p> <p>Regular Information about immigration, activities, local topics of interest to newcomers can be found on RRLIP blog</p> <p>Suggestion for Future: Plan to get together with all the different churches in spring to share sponsoring opportunities and need. Provide sponsoring focused information.</p> <p>Network members would also like sponsoring information.</p>	<p>Follow-up with LINC providers to clarify system and requirements</p> <p>Send link to Blog on RRLIP website: <a href="http://www.rrlip.ca">www.rrlip.ca</a> and give sign-up information</p> <p>NWC has sponsoring information, will send to RRLIP to be distributed. Advertise on Blog and put info on RRLIP website</p>	<p>RRLIP staff</p> <p>RRLIP staff</p> <p>NWC and RRLIP staff</p>
<p><b>8. Inclusion Tool - ‘We Speak Translate’ App training</b></p>	<p>App enables communication with newcomers in their language – webinar will take place Friday Sept. 28 at 10:30 am, at the RRLIP Office. Any Members are welcome to attend, or sign up for the webinar on their own (info provided)</p>	<p>Send info about next webinar training to community <b>Update:</b> training information added to email with minutes</p>	<p>RRLIP staff</p>
<p><b>9. Timeframe for Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Suggestions included every 4 to 6 weeks;</p>	<p>Share future meeting dates with members</p>	<p>RRLIP staff</p>
<p><b>Final Comments</b></p>	<p>Helpful, good information, looking forward to more meetings, good to meet different people, hope this Network can become a real support system, glad it’s getting organized, appreciate the assistance, hope to find others who will give \$ for sponsoring</p>		