



Executive Directors Report

Operational Update - April/May, 2023



Operational Update

Arrivals

- ▶ RODS continues to receive 30+ arrivals per month, clients are both Global and Afghan arrivals. While the intent is to see a return of charter flights of Afghan arrivals, there is no ETA for that to begin again. RODS has been advised by IRCC that with Global GAR arrivals, Afghan Charters and Afghan arrivals that we could be supporting 440 government assisted refugees this upcoming fiscal year. At this point we are not aware of any impact that may result from the PSAC strike.
- ▶ A charter flight from Warsaw with displaced Ukrainians arrived in Regina on March 27th. We have been informed that there will be no additional charter flights from Warsaw this year. IRCC has allocated 10 hotel rooms to provide temporary emergency accommodation to independent non-charter arrivals from Ukraine.



Operational Update

Arrivals continued....

- ▶ As highlighted in March, RODS has been helping out with short term accommodation using donated funds, having successfully applied for and received \$12,000.00 from the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation to assist with accommodation and start up food costs for these individuals. We have provided temporary accommodation to 12 families/individuals. With the announcement of IRCC funded rooms in Regina, RODS will now only be assisting those with unique circumstances.

Operational Update

IRCC

- ▶ The budget envelopes for LINC, RAP and the Consolidated Settlement Programs have been finalized, signed and submitted. The budgets primarily align with those negotiated at the commencement of the CFP, the notable exception being RAP with its budget increasing 4X from approximately \$400k to \$1.7 million.
- ▶ Effective Wednesday April 19th, Federal PSAC members were on strike. Apart from work in process with the funder coming to a stop, the impact was minimal. Client financial support was deemed an essential service so there was no impact on client income support. Perhaps with a new collective agreement with PSAC, IRCC and Treasury Board may be in a better position to discuss the requests for increased salary dollars put forth by Settlement Umbrella Organizations from across Canada.



Operational Update

IRCC continued...

- ▶ Settlement has been approved to enter into a monthly rental of 3 additional furnished 2 bedroom apartments with Devereaux Homes in Harbour Landing. The now 6 furnished suites will act as the second level Reception House for the next fiscal year. The RODS Reception House continues to be at full capacity. IRCC has indicated that they would like to see increased capacity in Regina to support more non hotel temporary accommodation. When larger numbers of arrivals come within a short period of time, or if we receive a charter flight, hotels will once again be used.

Operational Update

COVID Update

- ▶ Language classes have established a regular schedule of onsite classes in both buildings within a hybrid online/on site model.
- ▶ Employment Services have many staff on site and are delivering courses in person.
- ▶ Settlement have returned staff to onsite work and service delivery, with the continued delivery of online/hybrid services where it supports the needs of our clients.
- ▶ Finance and Central Admin staff are working on site.
- ▶ Effective May 1, 2023, the masking requirement was lifted from facilities, leaving it an option for staff and clients. Social distancing in meeting, conference rooms and classrooms is strived for. In both April and May we did experience another Covid outbreak on staff, but have been clear since then.....just me.

Operational Update

General Information

- ▶ RODS has been asked to participate in a Compensation Survey being undertaken by the Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS) on leadership/management compensation. We should be receiving the report findings soon.
- ▶ The United Way of Regina has notified member agencies that declining fundraising and changing priorities will impact future funding. There has been concern expressed from some member agencies regarding the loss of funding and the shift in the United Way priorities.
- ▶ The ownership group of the Donahue Building have initiated contact regarding extending our tenancy at the building. Our lease expires on August 31, 2024. The timing of our lease expiring and the new CFP process and contracts is interesting, with the new CFP contracts commencing on April 1, 2025. At this point, we have been advised by IRCC that the CFP process may start as early as the fall of 2023 with awards announcements made early in 2024 with the goal of giving successful and unsuccessful agencies the time to adjust. It will be challenging for RODS to fully commit without full knowledge of our success in the CFP process. Lou Nuspl, one of the owners of the Donahue Building, will be in Regina in May to meet.

Operational Update

General Information continued...

- ▶ The incident of cheque fraud that was reported in March is nearing a resolution with Scotiabank. We have been reimbursed the \$2,200.00 that was removed from our account. The bank had admitted that they failed to implement the process to identify and block attempts to cash/deposit that specific cheque number. The Regina City Police are continuing their investigation
- ▶ On Thursday, April 14th, the Prime Minister visited Regina to hold a Town Hall Meeting as well as speak at the Sherwood Co-op Grocery Store in Harbour Landing regarding food affordability. RODS was asked if our clients would like to attend the Co-op, meet the Prime Minister and share their thoughts and questions on food affordability, as well as have clients and staff attend the Town Hall meeting held at the U of R later in the day. Please open the link below to find photos from the days events.
- ▶ https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mobtjomellgnas8/AACtXmBemTYPFLZqfbyNnf_a?dl=0