



Executive Directors Report

April 2024



IRCC

- ▶ The RODS partner and staff recognition event has been rescheduled for June 20th at the stage at Pat Fiacco Plaza in conjunction with World Refugee Day. At the event, RODS Partners, Settlement staff, and all RODS staff, will be thanked and acknowledged for their support of new arrivals, including our Afghan clients, Global Government Assisted Refugee clients and other new arrivals.
- ▶ We are scheduled to received a visit from Her Excellency Governor General Mary Simon on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. Her Excellency will be viewing the mural project and visiting with a LINC class.

Financial Strength/Stewardship/Processes

- ▶ With the increased efforts of Departments to apply for and secure funding from other Federal/Provincial Departments, Foundations and Granting Agencies/individuals to augment programming or address service gaps, a formal review process will be put in place for potential applications at early stages.

When Departments apply for grants/funding from levels of government, foundations, corporations, businesses or individuals, those applications or potential asks must be reviewed in consideration of the following factors:

- The potential of more than one application/request/duplicate application being considered within the RODS, to avoid uncoordinated/multiple asks, potentially affecting organizational reputation
- The amount of the application/request in the context of the capacity of the funder/donor
- Screening process to determine the appropriateness of the potential grantor/funder, ensuring no conflict of interest
- To develop a central registry of funding requests, relationship ownership and success of the ask.
- A draft form will be provided at the meeting.

Some internal and external challenges/opportunities.....

- ▶ Given the recent thefts from the Donahue Building performed by individuals hiding in the building, as well as the significant increase in non-client traffic into the building, we have added additional security features to act as a deterrent and for monitoring/recording. We have met with all departments to review building security and interim procedures for after hours programming.
- ▶ Jim noticed in the April 17/24 Winnipeg Free Press that Manitoba, specifically Winnipeg, is experiencing a significant increase in individuals making a refugee claim, 310 in January & February of this year. Saskatchewan data shows that we have received 100 individuals in the same time period. This is reflected in the growing regularity of individuals and families coming to RODS having made or in the process of making a claim. Manitoba does provide assistance through Legal Aid, where in Saskatchewan there is no assistance from Legal Aid. We are reaching out to IRCC to determine if there is any consideration of special assistance for this growing number of individuals, and I have also reached out to an old colleague from the Winnipeg International Centre who in retirement is actively involved in a refugee housing project. At this point we have had no difficulty connecting these folks to temporary accommodation and RODS assistance following the establishment of the claim.

Update on IRCC/Provincial Funding/Federal

- ▶ We have entered year 5 (April 1/24) of the current 5 year contract with IRCC.
- ▶ All IRCC funded programs have approved year five budgets. The anticipated reductions in RAP, where several term positions were not provided notice from IRCC of 5th year funding and were not renewed, has been reversed. All but one of the term positions within RAP has been provided funding for year 5, with staff having been brought back into those positions.
- ▶ We have been informed that the review of the 2024 CFP and announcement of successful applications may now be take place anytime between May and August. We have been advised that there will be a narrow window to negotiate final terms and rebuild budgets for final approval and signature.

Update on IRCC/Provincial Funding/Federal

- ▶ The Public Health Agency of Canada is currently funding a vaccine/immunization program within Settlement, we are still waiting for a decision on a 2 year extension to the program.
- ▶ Employment Services has applied to Service Canada for a multi year renewal of the YESS Program, Youth Employment & Skills Strategy. We await a decision from Service Canada on the continuation of the program. Should a decision not be forthcoming by late April we may have to lay off 2 staff from the program pending a decision from Service Canada.