



Executive Directors Report

November 2024



IRCC/Federal: Regional & National

- ▶ **Immigration Levels:** Following the Federal Levels announcement and recent election of Donald Trump as US President, the media coverage continues to reflect shifting public opinion and firm Government positioning. On a National IRCC RAP call on November 19th, IRCC confirmed that GAR refugee numbers would not change from earlier announced levels, but that the sector would see some impact from reduced overall immigration levels going forward. We have now been informed that the results of the CFP will be forthcoming shortly. We will be able to provide updated information at the meeting.

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/one-quarter-of-canadians-say-immigrants-should-give-up-customs-poll>

<https://apple.news/AzWWCNx3gSRi5uxHMS4he4Q>

https://apple.news/Ar5FKfwx2Qya9TDU_sf84nQ

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- On Wednesday November 20, all IRCC funded agencies receive correspondence from IRCC ADM Catherine Scott, stating that in light of Federal changes to immigration levels going forward, the department was reviewing earlier decisions regarding the pending results of the call for proposals and that IRCC was now reducing the proposed contract term down to 3 years from 5 years. The letter is signaling overall funding reductions to settlement programs going forward and a strategic shift in the determination of successful agencies to be funded. The latest information has the notice letters being released the week of November 25th.
- **BREAKING INFORMATION:** The results of the RODS submissions to the Call For Proposals were received Friday at 5:00 pm. RODS was successful in getting favorable results for RAP, O & I, Case Management, WCN, SSWIS, RRLIP and LINC. The response letters stresses that amounts of the contracts will not necessarily reflect our requests in the various proposals. The only request submitted to the CFP that was not successful was a pilot initiative for consolidated health supports.

Update on IRCC/Provincial Funding/Federal

- ▶ There is no new update on current Federal or Provincial contracts. All IRCC contracts for 2024/25 have been finalized with the anticipated amendments underway. RAP has experienced an increase in GAR arrivals in the 2nd quarter, and is therefore requesting an upward amendment to their contract. Given that RAP services and the budget correspond directly to the number of GAR arrivals, an upward amendment has been requested.
- ▶ We have been advising Immigration and Career Training, Government of Saskatchewan, that the provincially funded language programs will be experiencing a tremendous increase in demand once displaced Ukrainian learners lose their eligibility for federally funded settlement services including LINC at the end of March and June 2025 respectively.

RODS Update

- ▶ RODS continues to explore external grant funding to establish a refugee employment track within the Employment Services Team. Given the literacy needs and low language levels of many of our GAR clients they tend to not qualify for the LINC Benchmark Level 4 requirement of the current program. Employment Services will be applying to Scotiabank for a grant, and we will be pursuing other granting opportunities.
- ▶ RODS staff have had 2 meeting with the NorthPine Foundation (NorthpineFoundation.ca) The Foundation provides outcome based grants and loans to both for profit and non profit organizations working with 2 specific groups, the formerly incarcerated and refugees, and in the specific communities of Scarborough, Winnipeg and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Their refugee support falls into 3 main streams, employment, language and housing, with financial support ranging from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 over the life of an agreement. The Foundation is interested in funding a refugee employment program, and wants to include ICT and Social Services in the discussions to leverage opportunities for program sustainability.

RODS Update

- RODS has received 161 Government Assisted Refugees (GARS) from January 1 to October 31, 2024. An additional 59 GAR clients are anticipated to arrive before March 31/25. From January 1/24 to October 31/24 RODS Settlement Services have assisted 25,513 new and returning clients. The number of client served at least one was 7,965. RODS also received 26 secondary migrants during this period
- We have now engaged 4 additional contractors to undertake the work on the Smith Street sewer line, but with no success. Initially Action Sewer indicated that they had the capacity to install a high performance macerating lift pump at the back of the building as well as new ceiling height sewer lines connecting to repaired/sleeved line in the main area of the Smith Street basement during the Festive Season closure (Dec. 24 to Jan. 2) Unfortunately contractors are not willing to commit to the timeline for repair and are now suggesting a daycare closure/relocation for one month to facilitate the repair.
- ▶ We have finalized our discussions with IRCC regarding the closure of the RODS Reception House and imminent sale. In principle, IRCC has agreed to reallocate the funds provided to rent and cover some operating costs at the Reception House to the rental of 3 additional suites with Devereaux Developments, giving us a total of 6 furnished suites under contract. The Settlement staff are assessing the furniture and equipment in the Reception House, some items were purchased with IRCC capital funds and need to be reused, donated or destroyed, and other assets need to be relocated to the leased suites or to our offices.
- ▶ Work on Smith Street has been underway based on the advice from our Engineering Team. The upgrades to emergency lighting, Exit Signage and exterior lighting has been completed, and the additions to fire panel are underway. We are waiting for a proposal from a contractor to provide a second dedicated egress on the 2nd floor. We have been checking in with our engineering team prior to the work taking place.