



Executive Directors Report

June 2025



Update on IRCC/Provincial Funding/Federal

- Just mere days after the signing of the new 3 year CFP contracts, IRCC advised funded agencies on a PNT Region call that they are willing to consider amendments to the recently signed contracts.
- Negotiations are underway to reinstate the RAP funds for the Housing Coordinator Position and possibly the former after hours position. The consolidated settlement program, OSN (WCN, SWIS, Settlement) forwarded a proposal to IRCC to reinstate lost positions and other funding but were told that it wasn't a **no**, but that the request would be considered later in the fiscal year. LINC appears to be successful in receiving funds to add classes back into the program, with the focus on long wait lists in part time literacy classes, with this additional funding also be pushed forward into the remaining 2 years of the CFP contract.
- We have had initial meetings with our new IRCC Contract Officers, with a site visit from the Regional Director on June 3rd and an IRCC Settlement program monitors on June 9th. Overall, the visit and monitors went very well.
- The Language Team has launched **ENACT (Empowering Newcomers through Access to Community and Training)** a cost recovery language program to offer to Learners who either have completed Stage 1, are on a wait list, or may be affected by the pending closure of LINC Stage 2. There is currently 1 class running. Sask Poly has reduced LINC Stage 2 classes to part time pending the closure of the program in September 2026. These changes may generate more interest in **ENACT**.

Update on IRCC/Provincial Funding/Federal

- We had been advised by the Province of Saskatchewan, Immigration and Career Training (ICT) that we have been awarded a new 1 year status quo contract for Employment Readiness, with changes to the format of our new contract. Following that confirmation, ICT has informed us that the contract has now been posted on ACAN until June 20th to determine if there are any other organizations who wish to challenge our contract award. If there is a credible challenge to our contract, then the Readiness contract will go to an RFP.
- The Government of Saskatchewan has announced that a new Settlement Services Unit has been created as a part of the Credential Recognition Services Branch. The new department will be responsible for the English for Employment Program as well as Stage 1 & 2 English Language Programs, as well as future provincially funded settlement programming. Immigration and Career Training (ICT) will continue to manage the Employment Readiness contracts.

Reception House, Smith Street Properties & Daycare

- ▶ With the IRCC approval to dispose of identified capital assets purchased with IRCC capital funds, the Reception House has now been emptied with the exception of appliances that will remain for the sale of the property. The Reception House will be placed on listing for sale by June 20th.
- ▶ The RODS building at 1855 Smith Street and adjacent parking lot remains listed for sale with Avison Young at an asking price of \$1,590,000.00. There was one viewing of the property by a local community organization looking for possible daycare space. We heard back that the building was too large an undertaking for the group.
- ▶ The possible relocation of the RODS Daycare from Smith Street to the adjacent Woodbine Building is still on hold pending a decision from Daycare Branch on our application to expand the operation by 25 seats. The addition of the 25 seats provides a sound business model for the Daycare going forward and is crucial to facilitating the move into and renovations at Woodbine.
- ▶ There has been no new information on Federal/Provincial negotiations on an extension to the \$10 a daycare agreement

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. RODS has submitted an application to the NorthPine Foundation (NorthpineFoundation.ca) and should hear back later in the summer.
- ▶ The SWIS and WCN programs were successful in receiving 5 summer students through Canada Summer Jobs. Unfortunately, Communications was unsuccessful for the second consecutive year. We will consolidate our applications next year.
- ▶ **GAR Arrivals Update**
 - GAR client arrivals from January 1/25 to June 9/25: **91**
 - GAR client arrivals from April 1/25 to June 9/25: **43**
 - Number of GAR client arrivals pending to the end of June: None. We have a family of 8 expected to arrive July 9th.
- ▶ RODS has received a notification of a routine non-permanent resident employment audit from the Province of Saskatchewan, Immigration and Career Training (ICT). The audit is requesting information on all non permanent resident employees in the organization for the last 2 years including payroll records and immigration documentation.
- ▶ John Grant from Campbell & Haliburton agreed to donate of 50% of the cost of a new kitchen in Donahue Learning Room 1. Bogdan Iles, former RODS staff member and member of the Campbell & Haliburton team, has been overseeing the project. With the support of the building owners, Learning Room 1 will now be called the Campbell & Haliburton Room.

Other Information of Interest

- ▶ The Federal Government has tabled Bill C-2, a bill that proposes many changes to border security and increased personal information access and sharing, and also proposes to make significant changes to the asylum claim system in Canada. One of the notable changes proposed is to limit the period a asylum/refugee claim can be made to 365 days from arrival in Canada, which would be administered retroactively to June 24, 2020. As well, any asylum claims made by an individual coming clandestinely via the US by land (Safe Third Country Agreement) would be blocked after 14 days. The Canadian Council For Refugees has expressed significant concerns about the proposed Bill, fearing for those individuals who may be in a situation to make a refugee claim after one year as a result of potential political and policy changes in their home country. The Bill would also allow the Government to stop or cancel immigration applications due to security or public health.
 - ▶ The number of asylum seekers/refugee claimants being seen by Canada Border Services has increased by 87% in the first 4 months of the year. Changes in US policy is driving this increase. There was also a reported increase in individuals turned away at border based on the Safe Third Country Agreement, increasing by 76%.
 - ▶ The world refugee community has been reacting with surprise with the US Presidents creation of a new category of US determined refugees eligible for resettlement. The initial group of 60 white South Africans arrived in the United States based on what the White House says are racist policies of the South African Government, taking land from the white South African minority.
- [://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/liberal-government-tables-border-security-bill-with-sweeping-reforms-and-asylum-claim-clampdown/ar-AA1G15I1?ocid=socialshare](https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/liberal-government-tables-border-security-bill-with-sweeping-reforms-and-asylum-claim-clampdown/ar-AA1G15I1?ocid=socialshare)
 - <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/canadian-bill-seeks-to-deny-hearings-to-some-asylum-seekers/ar-AA1G6m3c?ocid=socialshare>
 - <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/immigration-minister-defends-border-bill-s-restrictions-on-asylum-claims/ar-AA1G5TPv?ocid=socialshare>
 - <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/u-s-crackdown-on-illegal-immigrants-is-sending-a-surge-of-refugees-to-canada/ar-AA1G5QoA?ocid=socialshare>
 - <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/white-south-africans-arrive-in-u-s-after-receiving-refugee-status-from-trump>