



Executive Directors Report

September 2025



Update on IRCC/Provincial Funding/Federal

- We reported previously, that following the signing of the new 3 year CFP contracts, IRCC advised funded agencies that they were willing to consider amendments to the recently signed contracts. LINC was successful in receiving funds to add 2 literacy classes and 1 CLB class back into the program. We anticipate that this additional funding will also be pushed forward into the remaining 2 years of the CFP contract.
- Settlement were in negotiations to reinstate the RAP and OSN funds/positions lost in the new 3 year contract, but have been told that any additional funding would have to wait until later in the fiscal year when IRCC had a better line of sight on available funds through slippage. Alex Racine, IRCC Manager of the Settlement Network for the PNT Region visited us in July for a check in and discuss about any challenges with the new processes put into place with the new contract. Alex also shared that there have been preliminary discussions about the next IRCC CFP, if it proceeds it will commence about 18 months out from the end of the current 3 year contract.
- The Language Team continues to run one ENACT class (**Empowering Newcomers through Access to Community and Training**) and are recruiting for additional classes for the fall. Uptake has been slow at this point
- While we were 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 for 25/26, our additional contracts for provincially funded language programming have been put out for tender on Sask Tenders. As well, both the Career Bridging and Enhanced Career Bridging Programs that RODS currently operates were placed on Advanced Contract Award Notice on Sask Tenders, with RODS having an existing 1 year contract to deliver Career Bridging and is operating into the new contract cycle for Enhanced Career Bridging.

Update on IRCC/Provincial Funding/Federal

► IRCC Government Assisted Refugees (GARS):

Arrivals Update

GAR client arrivals from April 25 to September 9/25: **75**

There are **85** GAR clients remaining to arrive from September 2025 to March 2026

Clients' country of citizenship is: Somalia, Syria, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Sudan, Congo, Ethiopia, and Eritrea

Clients' top language is: Somali, Arabic, and Swahili

Service Update

2,595 newcomers (1,182 male, 1,270 female) were served in Settlement between April – August 2025

Top countries of citizenship: India (546), Nigeria (232), Vietnam (218), China (205), Eritrea (183), Pakistan (116) and Somalia (114)

Reception House, Smith Street Properties & Daycare

- ▶ The Reception House was listed for sale for \$380,000 in early July, with 7 viewings to date. Our realtor believes that the recent opening of the new City of Regina Shelter at the former Eagles Club, 3 blocks west, may be impacting the sale of the property.
- ▶ The RODS building at 1855 Smith Street and adjacent parking lot remain listed for sale with Avison Young at an asking price of \$1,590,000. There has only been one viewing of the property by a local community organization looking for possible daycare space. Our Realtor, Linely Schaefer, continues to directly market the building to property investors and levels of government. Linely stated that the lack of traffic into Smith Street is not surprising given the current climate for commercial real estate in the downtown, as well as the challenges caused by & negativity surrounding the 11th Avenue infrastructure project.
- ▶ In late August, RODS received word that our request to add an additional 26 seats to our licensed childcare was approved. We have submitted the required documentation to the Ministry and are waiting for the contract. There is additional funding available for capital (\$347,360) as well as an unspent maintenance grant (\$95,000) to cover the costs of retrofitting the Woodbine space. The building owner, Adam Niesner, has been advised of our additional daycare space approval and intent to lease the space pending the final Ministry contract and the approval of floor plans by the Ministry. We will be meeting with Bogdan from RRME (Restoration Renovation Management Experts/Campbell & Halliburton) to review the initial drawings, provide initial estimates, and secure an architect to draft the plan.
- ▶ We have been told that Federal/Provincial negotiations have begun on an extension to the \$10 a daycare agreement.

RODS Update

- ▶ RODS Employment Services 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 is waiting for feedback or a decision.
- ▶ RODS Employment Services has also reapplied to RBC for grant funds for a new mentorship program as well as ongoing support of our Job Fairs.
- ▶ 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 between all 3 Departments in 2026 to attempt to maximize success.
- ▶ RODS successfully completed a routine non-permanent resident employment audit from the Province of Saskatchewan, Immigration and Career Training (ICT). The audit is requested information on all non permanent resident employees in the organization for the last 2 years including payroll records and immigration documentation.
- ▶ RODS is currently contracted to provide CELPIP language testing and is in discussions to also host IELTS language testing. These contracts generate some additional revenue for the programs.

RODS Update

- ▶ Work has been ongoing to secure Professional Liability/Errors & Omissions Insurance for the KidsFirst Program. The funder, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) , requires that this coverage be in place. We attempted to secure this coverage earlier in the year but were only able to receive a quote to provide coverage for the entire organization, at a cost of approximately \$46,000.00. We have been working with 2 national firms in search of quotes, as well as our Broker at Knight Archer. We are happy to report that we were successful in receiving an E & O quote for \$4,700.00, through Knight Archer, and are in the final stages of reviewing the policy and sharing it with the SHA. SHA has agreed to allow RODS to utilize KidsFirst funding to cover the additional cost.
- ▶ The SHA has approved funds from the KidsFirst accumulated surplus to fund the installation of an 8' fence, 2 electric vehicle gates and 2 manual entry gates in the parking area behind the Donahue Building. KidsFirst vehicles, Settlement Fleet vehicles and assigned staff parking are all within the Donahue lot. For the last several years, the Donahue parking lot has become a walkway through the downtown, which has resulted in property damage and theft as well as people in crisis gathering around the area, daytime and after hours. There have been numerous incidents of people overdosing, sleeping under and between vehicles, the area being used as a location to administer drugs as well people branding knives and axes. KidsFirst vehicles have been vandalized, with a hit and run taking place in August which may end up writing off that vehicle. Other fleet vehicles and staff vehicles have also be damaged. Staff, both daytime and after hours, do not feel safe parking in the lot. The creation of a secure compound will restrict access to the parking area directly behind the building, with only approved vehicles having fob access. The existing rear door will provide secure building access through the basement, allowing staff to enter and exit the building directly from the parking compound.

RODS Update

- ▶ RODS is participating in a Refugee Hiring event, funded and initiated by World Education Services (WES) and Jumpstart Refugee Talent, and in partnership with the Work Prep Centre, The Regina Public Library, Sask Polytechnic, South Saskatchewan Independent Learning Centre(SSILC) and CECS Conseil Economique De La Saskatchewan. As the Central Convenor, RODS has been utilizing social media to recruit potential refugee clients to participate in this one day event. A RODS Facebook post received numerous negative comments. The following is a summary provided by Victoria:

"On August 26 and again on September 3, we posted advertisements on social media to promote our upcoming Refugee Hiring Event. Unfortunately, these posts garnered a large number of hateful comments directed toward immigrants and refugees. The comments ranged from overtly racist and xenophobic remarks to the spreading of misinformation about immigration and refugee communities.

In response, all hateful comments were deleted, and comments were limited on future advertisements to prevent further escalation. The Employment Services team was also notified to ensure they were aware of the situation, in case this hostility were to translate beyond social media into phone calls, emails, or in-person interactions on the day of the event. While it is unlikely that these individuals will go beyond online commentary, it is important to take precautions to ensure staff are supported and prepared.

Although we have experienced negative interactions in the past when promoting immunization clinics, those have largely been limited to misinformation about vaccines and did not include racist or xenophobic content. This is the first time that we have received a high volume of hateful comments targeting refugees and immigrants. Unfortunately, this surge in online hostility aligns with the current political rhetoric in broader society, making it especially important for us to remain vigilant."

Communications have put together [Guidelines for Addressing Racist and Xenophobic Interactions](#) which have been provided to all staff.

RODS Update

- ▶ RODS has submitted 2 applications to the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation (SSCF) to support the ongoing portal construction and work of the Communications Department with RODS Departments.
- ▶ RODS will be submitting an application to the Minister of Public Safety [National Cyber Security Strategy](#), Cyber Security Cooperation Program (CSCP). We will attempt to secure funding to further our security efforts in building secure portals for confidential client forms and information for Departments, as well as educational programming for clients and staff on AI and cybersecurity.

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. The Bill is in Parliamentary 2nd reading.

[C-2 \(45-1\) - LEGISinfo - Parliament of Canada](#)

- ▶ In Saskatchewan, 280 refugee claimants were processed by Canada Border Services (CBS) and IRCC for the period January 2025 to June 2025, with 255 refugee claimants processed in the same time period in 2024, and 40 in same time frame in 2023 (a 9% increase from 2024 and a 142% increase from 2023). There have been 57,000 refugee claimants processed by CBS and IRCC during the first 6 months of 2025, compared to 91,540 in 2024 and 56,720 in 2023. RODS has had 34 refugee claimants attend our offices in search for assistance so far in 2025.

[Asylum claimants by year - 2025 - Canada.ca](#)

- ▶ Canada is experiencing a noted shift in attitudes towards immigration, refugees and Temporary Foreign Workers as well as Federal and Provincial Government policies. This attitudinal shift is reflected in the negative comments we have been experiencing in social media posts. Media articles and polling data attached reflect this concerning shift:
 - Incorrect immigration data in the public domain is fueling growing anti-immigrant sentiment
 - Calls from the Federal Leader of the Opposition to terminate the Temporary Foreign Worker Program
 - An Abacus data poll that shows that 44% of Canadians want the Temporary Foreign Worker Program eliminated
 - The decision of the Federal Government to terminate free temporary accommodation for refugee claimants in areas experiencing higher levels of applications

Other Information of Interest

- NANOS/Globe & Mail survey results in August/September that reflect 65.5 % support/somewhat support the government reducing its targets for new temporary residents, and 71.4% supporting/somewhat supporting reducing the number of new immigrants arriving in Canada
- Calls from some for a greater provincial role in setting immigration levels and SINP numbers, citing labour shortages resulting from SINP cuts by the Federal Government
- The negativity RODS has experienced regarding Facebook ads for a Refugee Hiring Event (reported earlier)
- The impact of highly publicized US actions to mass deport migrants without due process, cease refugee programs, and the swell of right wing anti immigrant sentiment

- ▶ https://apple.news/A_dzEBD1LT9u0VP3SEqTDCA
- ▶ <https://leaderpost.com/news/local-news/as-premiers-push-for-more-immigration-power-experts-call-for-fact-based-debate/wcm/03f23a4a-7e0a-4a97-b6b5-3a9e9f17e737>
- ▶ <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/poillievre-calls-on-liberals-to-scrap-the-temporary-foreign-worker-program/ar-AA1LNLIR?ocid=socialshare>
- ▶ <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/almost-half-of-canadians-want-the-temporary-foreign-worker-program-eliminated-poll/ar-AA1M8gqM?ocid=socialshare>
- ▶ <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/fact-file-online-posts-mislead-on-immigrant-share-of-population/ar-AA1MmuJ3?ocid=socialshare>
- ▶ [2025-2893-Globe-August-Populated-Report-Immigration.pdf](#)