



Executive Directors Report

January 2026



Update on IRCC/Provincial Funding/Federal

- There has been no additional communication or opportunities for engagement from IRCC regarding the **'Settlement and Resettlement Assistance Program Renewal: Adapting to Evolving Funding and Client Needs'**. However, the Federal spending reductions announced in the 'Comprehensive Expenditure Review' in the Federal Budget have now been highlighted internally within IRCC and recently shared with agencies. Agencies can anticipate reductions within their year 2 allocations as a part of IRCC efforts to reduce departmental spending. The reduction to be achieved is 15% over 3 years, and specifically 100 million dollars from the Settlement budget in 26/27 alone. Reference is also made to adding a 4th year to the 3 year agreements. We anticipate hearing from our Program Officers regarding the potential reductions and changes. The information from IRCC regarding these reductions has been included in the Board package.
- ▶ With the passing of the budget in the House, the Immigration Multi Year Levels have been approved.
- ▶ IRCC has also made changes to the Case Management client distribution to providers in Regina. Previously cases were distributed for assistance based level of need, with RODS having lower level need clients (1 & 2) and Rooted Connections being send the higher level need clients (3 & 4). A recent change will see both agencies provide services to all levels of client need, with clients sent to one of the 2 agencies based on client postal code. The initial draft of the postal code allocation has some significant errors in it, the Settlement Team have met with our Program Officer to have this resolved. We will be escalating this challenge to IRCC Management on February 2nd.
- ▶ RODS Language & Employment Services has signed 1 year renewals for Stage 2 Language Training as well as a 1 year renewal for English for Employment with Immigration and Career Training, Government of Saskatchewan.

Reception House, Smith Street Properties & Daycare

- ▶ After delays resulting from the buyers securing financing and home inspections, the final sale of the Reception House at 1610 Toronto Street was completed on Monday December 22nd. While the final sale transaction and receipt of sale proceeds was received and deposited by RODS, there was a delay at Land Titles making the final transfer. As a result, while we had hoped to terminate our insurance policy with the finalized transaction, we were not able to cancel our policy until January 13th, 2026.
- ▶ The sale price of the house was \$320,000.00. After realtor sales commission of \$17,760.00, adjustments for property tax and buyer one day late interest charge and our legal fees, the final payment to RODS was \$299,845.39. Finance will provide further details around the net value and net proceeds.
- ▶ The RODS building at 1855 Smith Street and adjacent parking lot continues to remain listed for sale with Avison Young at an asking price of \$1,590,000. There are now 2 potential buyers currently considering the property, one as an investment, the other a group of professionals considering the building a professional building.
- ▶ Following our conversation with an Engineer from the City of Regina Building Code Unit we have hired KREATE Architecture and Design to initiate the initial phase of determining building code status and compliance issues. While the City of Regina Engineer believes that no sprinkler system will be required, but he did flag several other potential code issues including fire rating of the building roof, 2nd floor load capacity, fire control system as well as containment of the access elevator as per code. KREATE has begun their work on the property, and we hope to be under the \$16,500 Phase 1 cost quoted by the architect.

RODS Update

- ▶ RODS Employment Services met with the NorthPine Foundation on November 28th to review our application for a program establishing a refugee employment track within the Employment Services Team. Following the meeting, we will be moving to the next step of refining the application for resubmission in January.
- ▶ RODS is currently contracted to provide CELPIP language testing and has finalized discussions to also host IELTS language testing. We are currently addressing technical requirements to deliver the IELTS testing. These contracts generate some additional revenue for the programs.
- ▶ The Language Team is now operating 1 ENACT class (**Empowering Newcomers through Access to Community and Training**).
- Language training, both Federal and Provincial Programs, have significant wait lists. The Federally funded LINC Program has a current wait list of **172** learners, with **89** being refugee clients. The Provincially funded Stage 1 & 2 has a wait list of **101** learners. Based on data gathered together by the folks at ACS Metropolis, refugee arrivals to the end of August 2025 have declined by 30%, from 1,020 to 705, and to the end of August 2025 overall immigration to Saskatchewan is down by 7,000 individuals compared to the same time frame last year.
- RODS has been running up against the reduced number of Provincial Nominee positions allocated to the provinces by the Federal Government. On several occasions we have been advised that individuals on staff we have put forward to SINP within a particular NOC category (occupation category) were closed or the quota was full. We continue to reapply for these individuals.

RODS Update

Month: December		Date of Submission: 01-15-2026	
Government Assisted Refugees (GARs)			
Arrivals	Month: April - December		Total:104
Expected Arrival	Month: January 2026		Total: 22
Countries of Citizenship	Sudan (19), Mali (14), Syria (12), South Sudan (7), Congo (5), Ethiopia (4), Somalia (38) Eritrea (1) Iraq (3) Uganda:1		
Service Updates			
No. of Newcomers served	Month: April-December		Total: 5,183
Clients' top Language	Gujarati, Arabic, Tigrinya, Mandarin, Somali, Tigrigna, Hindi, Dari, Swahili, Hausa,		
No. of Services provided	16,665		
No. of Clients by Gender	Male: 2406 Female: 2,565 Unknown: 212		Total:5,183
Countries of Citizenship	Top countries of citizenship: India (1059), Nigeria (490), Vietnam (383), Philippines (406), China (359), Eritrea (389), Pakistan (237), Syria (300), Somalia (167), Vietnam (406), Afghanistan (99) others (1271).		
In-person Services: December 2025			
No. of Clients served	304		
No. of services	375		
Mode of Services	Telephone or emails Staff -led online		
Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW)			
No. of Clients Served	22		
No. of Services	28		
Refugee Claimant			
No. of Claimants	9		
Countries of Origin	Afghanistan (1), India (3), Nigeria (2), Iran (1), Jordan (1), Ethiopia (1)		

RODS Update

- ▶ The construction of the 8' fence for the gated parking compound behind the Donahue Building has been delayed until the Spring of 2026. West Oak, Donahue Property Managers, were not able to provide new lot configuration and drawings in time before the ground had frozen. SHA has confirmed that it will continue to financially support the project on the new timeline.
- ▶ Our application to the Minister of Public Safety [National Cyber Security Strategy](#), Cyber Security Cooperation Program (CSCP) has been declined.
- ▶ On January 12th RODS discovered that our not for profit free E1 software licenses and discounted E5 licenses with Microsoft had been terminated. Apparently, in July 2025, Microsoft announced its intent to end that program and move towards a new not for profit cloud based program. Previously, we had planned on upgrading our physical servers while maintaining our free access to software, planning a slow migration to the cloud. However, given Microsoft's changes in not for profit support and steering of clients into the cloud, RODS is now pivoting to a full move into the cloud. A proposal was scheduled to come to the Finance Committee in January to consider a request for reserve funds for physical server replacement, that proposal will now be revamped and presented to the Committee in February, moving RODS to cloud based servers and security measures. The cost of the new MS licenses, while discounted 75% within the new MS not for profit pricing, will have to be borne by RODS Admin, given that IRCC will not approve of the programs expensing MS software within their operating budgets.

Other Information of Interest

Recent Polling Data and Media Coverage

- Nanos Research in December 2025 reflects a declining level of concern over Canada's immigration levels. Concerns about the economy (21.8%), US relations (10%), inflation (8.4%), healthcare (6.6%) were higher than the 6.4% of those surveyed who had concerns over immigration.

<https://www.cicnews.com/2026/01/immigration-no-longer-top-concern-for-canadians-is-the-era-of-rapid-change-over-0166533.html>

- Displaced Ukrainians who came to Canada through the special CUAET program are expressing concern over pathways and wait times to permanent residence.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-ukraine-immigration-9.7043534>

- ▶ IRCC reports that 2.1 million Temporary Residents will be required to leave Canada in the 2026 year with permits expiring or having already expired.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/millions-will-have-expired-or-expiring-statuses-in-2026-9.7042698>

- ▶ CBC News ran a story in December 2025 that highlights the changes in Canada's refugee programs. Our dear friend Chris Friesen is quoted.

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/sunday/canada-refugee-support-decline-change-9.7013578>

- The Federal Government has created an Express Entry category for up to 5,000 foreign trained Doctors with at least one year of Canadian experience within the last 3 years. These will be in addition to and support Provincial Nominee spots.

<https://apple.news/A1C3391GkSxCTL8IbB9bkdw>

Other Information of Interest

- There were reports in December that the Trump Administration, through their Embassy's, were pressuring the Canadian Government and other Governments to lower immigration levels.

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/immigration-minister-denies-knowledge-of-u-s-diplomatic-directive-to-get-canada-allies-to-lower-immigration/ar-AA1Rhh9e?ocid=socialshare>