

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5

Changing Times

Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre Newsletter



May 26 Food Sale

Thank You, Swift Current, for coming out to help us celebrate 5 years as a not-for-profit in the Southwest. The event was a huge success, raising over \$2300, thanks to everyone who came out to try the delicious ethnic dishes and enjoy the entertainment.

The menu included foods from six nationalities that were enjoyed by nearly three hundred individuals that came for the event.

“Happy 5 years...”
-Honourable Brad Wall



The Welcome Centre Celebrates 5 Years as a Non-Profit

The Welcome Centre has been providing services to newcomers and the community since 2007 before becoming recognized as a non-profit on May 26, 2010. Aside from our 5th year anniversary, the celebration was also a fund-raiser for summer camps. Each year the Welcome Centre helps to send 10-15 local kids to camp.

Thank you to our gracious sponsors: S3 Wireform, Innovation Credit Union, Stark & Marsh Chartered Accounts LLP, and Barker Psychology. Our deepest appreciation also goes to our wonderful volunteers. Of course, the dedicated board and staff of the Welcome Centre also deserve the biggest THANK YOU!

Save The Date (for details visit www.newcomerwelcomecentre.com)

Socials:
June 18
6 PM at the
Welcome Centre

**Out of Town
Socials:**
**Coming to Ponteix
in June**
(see website for
details)

Canada Day:
July 1
Flag Raising
Ceremony 12 PM
at Memorial Park

Thank you and Goodbye

Allie Steinley



After one and half years as a SWIS worker with the Newcomer Welcome Centre, Allie is moving with her husband to the community of Eston, Saskatchewan, where they will work at the Eston Bible College. “I feel excited for the new changes ahead but also very sad to be leaving the Welcome Centre, and this great community. I have had the amazing privilege of serving many of the newcomer families in this region, and I will deeply miss them all. I will also miss the newcomer students I’ve met in each of the schools. I trust that they will grow up loving their new home in Canada. Even though we are moving away, I plan to come visit the Welcome Centre as much as possible!” They also extend the invitation to come and visit them in Eston. ☺

Bridget Dyck

“I’m very sad to be saying my good-byes after such a short time with the Welcome Centre. I’ve met so many wonderful people here and will miss you and Swift Current. I’d like to wish everyone a great summer!”



The Welcome Centre Board and Staff would like to say THANK YOU to Allie and Bridget, as well as Mark Brooks. Mark was our Information Services Advisor from July 2013 to December 2014. They all became a big part of the Welcome Centre. We were able to do our programs with their dedication and genuine concern for the welfare of our clients.

We hope to see you around.



Alec de Gala



Quilmer Quidez

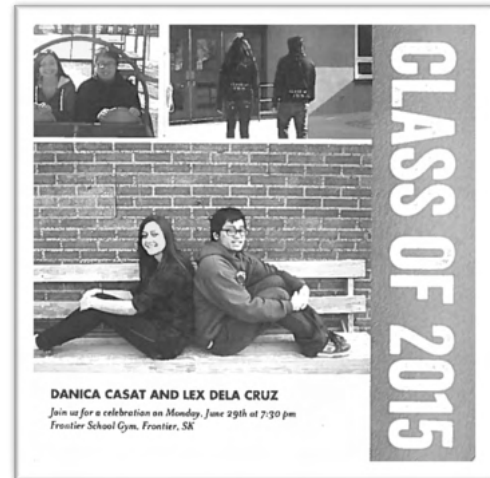


Gabriel Aguilar III

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

We have a number of students from newcomer families who are graduating from the different high schools within the Southwest Region. We would like to CONGRATULATE them and their parents for all the hard work. Whatever paths they decide to take after high school, we wish them LUCK, and hope for their SUCCESS in the future.

#highschool#memories#homework#sports#band#choir



Ramune's Apple Pie

- 1 Cup Sugar
- 2 Cups Flour
- 4 Eggs
- 8 Apples
- Cinnamon (to sprinkle on top)

Lactose and Butter/Oil Free!

- Peel, core and cut apples into chunks
- Beat eggs and sugar, add flour
- Fold in apple chunks
- Bake @ 180 C (350F) for about 40 min or until golden and toothpick comes out clean

"My mom used to make it when I was a kid. In the Lithuanian language this pie is called Biskvitinis obouliu pyragas. The dough resembles sponge dough." – Ramune

Summer Programs

Peer Leadership Camp

This summer, SWIS is organizing a 2-night Peer Leadership Camp for students who are incoming grade 6-12. This camp will have a focus on leadership development; and, specifically, on being a peer leader to newcomer students in their schools. This includes cross cultural awareness, understanding the challenges of newcomer students in schools, building strong friendships, and combating racism. This camp is open to both Canadian-born and newcomer students. This camp will take place July 14-16, 2015 at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. This camp is free of cost.

This camp is sponsored by Community Initiatives Fund.



Adventure Camp

SWIS is also organizing a 2-night Adventure Camp for newcomer youth who are incoming grade 5-12. Newcomer youth will experience authentic Canadian camping where they will learn how to set up tents, cook over the fire, engage in team building activities, connect with other newcomer youth, and build lasting friendships. This camp will take place July 21-23, 2015 at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. This camp is also free of cost, but space is limited to 20 participants. Parents who are interested in signing their child up for this camp must fill out a consent form at the Welcome Centre.

This camp is also sponsored by Community Initiatives Fund.



Swimming Program

Starting in July, your child can have the opportunity to receive basic swimming lessons. These swimming lessons will be provided to newcomer children, 3-11 years old, and will be instructed at the Fairview Pool in Swift Current. Swim dates are Saturdays, July 4, 11, 25, and, August 8 and 15, from 12:00pm to 12:45pm. The cost is \$53.00.

If you are interested in registering your child/children, please contact the Welcome Centre to fill out a registration form.



Settlement Workers In Schools (SWIS)

The SWIS program is a partnership between Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Chinook School Division, Holy Trinity Catholic School Division and the Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre. It is a school-based outreach program designed to help newcomer students and their families settle in their school and community.

The first few years in Canada are particularly difficult for newcomer students and their families. SWIS connects newcomer families to services and resources in the school and community in order to promote settlement and foster student achievement. The program also aims to assist school staff to see the school and its requirements through the eyes of the newcomer and increase their awareness to inherent newcomer issues and challenges.

Schools are one of the first services that newcomer families connect with in the community. With the cooperation of the school, the SWIS worker will systematically contact all newcomers and refer them to specific services.

These are some of the ways the SWIS staff help newcomer families:

- Refer to community organizations and other available services
- Provide information about the Canadian school system
- Arrange meetings with family and schools staff
- Promote family involvement in schools
- Connect with students in the school on an ongoing basis
- Provide orientation session for students in schools about Canadian culture
- Arrange for interpreters or translator when needed
- Encourage newcomer youth to take part in extra-curricular activities within the community
- Provide home visits when possible

The vision of the SWIS program is to instill the value of knowledge, the dignity of effort, and the worth of the individual, all with respect and integrity, honoring diversity and equity.

If you are interested in connecting with the SWIS team or want to learn more, please contact Deanna by emailing deanna@newcomerwelcomecentre.com, or call 306-778-6234.



Big Changes Coming to Citizenship

The law is changing and it will be harder to get and keep Canadian citizenship. The government is expected to make certain changes by June 11, 2015.

Why apply for Canadian citizenship?

- Canadian citizens have rights that permanent residents do not have.
- Canadian citizens have better protection against losing their status and being forced to leave. Canada. Permanent residents can be deported no matter how long they have lived here.
- If you have children born outside Canada after you become a citizen, they will be Canadian citizens at birth.
- Canadian citizens can vote.
- A Canadian citizen can apply for a Canadian passport.

After the rules change	Before the rules change
<p>If you are 14 to 64 years old, you will have to:</p> <p>show language ability in English or French, and prove your knowledge of Canada in English or French</p>	<p>Only if you are 18 to 54 years old do you have to show language ability and knowledge of Canada.</p> <p>And you may be able to have an interpreter in your own language to help you prove your knowledge of Canada.</p>
<p>You can apply only after you have lived in Canada as a permanent resident for:</p> <p>at least 1,460 days (four years) out of the last 6 years, and at least 183 days each year for at least 4 out of the last 6 years</p>	<p>You can apply after you have lived in Canada for 3 out of the last 4 years.</p> <p>And you may be able to include time that you lived here before becoming a permanent resident.</p>
<p>Only time when you are in Canada will count as living in Canada.</p>	<p>Time when you are outside Canada may still count if your permanent home is here.</p>
<p>You need to file your income tax returns for 4 out of the last 6 years.</p>	<p>You do not have to show that you have filed income tax returns.</p>
<p>You must plan to continue living in Canada. If you leave Canada and live somewhere else, the government may be able to take away your Canadian citizenship.</p>	<p>You do not have to plan to live in Canada. If you become a Canadian citizen before the rules change, you cannot lose your citizenship only because you live somewhere else in the future.</p>

<http://www.cleo.on.ca/en/publications/notcitizen>



Art Mural Projects

Last summer, SWIS was a part of an art mural project that took place in both Shaunavon and Frontier. It involved newcomer youth and Canadian-born youth coming together to create a design that symbolized cultural diversity and a spirit of belongingness. This year SWIS hopes to organize an art mural to be completed in Swift Current. If you know of any local youth artists who would be interested in this project, please have them contact Deanna by emailing deanna@newcomerwelcomecentre.com. This project is funded by Southwest District for Culture, Recreation and Sport.

Calling All New Citizens!

Every year, at the Canada Day celebrations in Swift Current, the city invites new citizens to be recognized and participate in the festivities. If you and your family wish to be involved please contact us to find out how to get involved.

Everyone is welcome to attend the events and celebrate this great country. We'll see you there!!



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