



Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre 2016-2017 Annual Report

“Canada is not a melting pot in which the individuality of each element is destroyed in order to produce a new and totally different element. It is rather a garden into which have been transplanted the hardiest and brightest flowers from many lands, each retaining in its new environment the best of the qualities for which it was loved and prized in its native land.” (John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, 1957-1963)



**Report from the Executive Director
Icasiana de Gala**

2016 was another year well-spent, and the first quarter of 2017 ushered in so many worthwhile projects and opportunities. We saw a steady arrival of newcomers from 36 countries, with 7 new countries, including: Syria, Morocco, Malaysia, Eritrea, and Argentina, Croatia, and Lebanon. We now have at least 84 countries represented in southwest Saskatchewan.

We bid goodbye to some members of our Board, but also welcomed new ones. Wendy Swann, our new member of the board said that “this organization is what my country is all about.” With the arrival of newcomers from so many different countries in this part of Canada, southwest Saskatchewan is indeed becoming like the rest of Canada, diverse, multicultural, and vibrant.

As always, partnership with other service organizations and engaging volunteers had helped us a lot in achieving our goals, thereby making effective outcomes for our clients. The Ministry of the Economy (Labour Market Services) had always provided for our core funding. Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) added needed funds to support newcomer students and their families. We are fortunate to be the recipient of funding from different sources, that helped us do programs like the Language Explorer Club, Camping for Newcomer Children, and Southwest Culture Fest, to name a few.

We provided support in the settlement of privately sponsored Syrian refugees who arrived in 2016 and settled in Swift Current and Bracken. For the first time, we had a Refugee Awareness Week celebration in June 2016, to create awareness in the community about the plight of refugees. We worked with the First United Church and the Swift Current Ministerial Committee in providing services to our refugee clients.

In 2017, we are looking forward to engaging with First Nations, with the Truth and Reconciliation project we are doing in partnership with Southwest Multicultural Association and other organizations, and connecting newcomers with First Nations.

We are also going to work more with the Chamber of Commerce to engage employers in a more meaningful way, in order to make settlement and integration process easier through a more welcoming workplace environment.

We would like to thank our dedicated staff for their tireless work in the settlement field. We also would not be able to perform effectively without the help and support from volunteers and members of our board.

We will continue to ensure continuous adherence to our mission and work towards our vision where all members of the community are empowered to actively participate and contribute.

Thank you. Salamats.

**Report from the Board Chair
Bula Ghosh**

The past year, 2016-2017, was a year of ground-breaking happenings and at the same time it was a year of business as usual. The Board is still in the process of making changes in the governance process and bring changes in the administration of its fiduciary responsibility.

Newcomer Welcome Centre (NWC) worked with other community agencies and the sponsors of the 2 Syrian families in Swift Current and the 3 other refugees in Bracken, to help in the integration of Syrian families. It is remarkable that members of the families have participated in public functions and told their stories and experiences in settling in Swift Current.

Over 250 clients were served in 2016-2017. With approval from the newly elected board, we hope to hold at least 2 sessions of consultation with newcomers in two cities/towns for future programs and policies in 2017-2018.

The number of staff increased, particularly in the SWIS (Settlement Worker in Schools) program, to meet the demands of the program. The program has assisted over 100 children to adjust to their school lives in Canada while working with parents to navigate through the Canadian school system. The SWIS worker also organized 2 summer Camps. The funds for the summer camps were partly supported through the annual fundraiser. Last year, over \$1000.00n was raised.

We are hoping to approve the Policy Governance model formally in the forthcoming year. The Board had struck a committee to fulfill a few of its fiduciary responsibilities. The recommendations of the committee will be submitted to the new Board for approval.

This year being Canada's birthday, the Centre had obtained funds from Heritage Canada to carry our different cultural activities to celebrate the occasion. In the next few months, we will have different cultural events which will add to the richness of our cultural experiences in our communities.

IRCC (Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada) is organizing different training events for staff for 2017-2018. This will be beneficial for staff in learning about best practices in settlement. Furthermore, it will help in training staff to serve better our client population.

Our heartfelt thanks to our board members and staff for their support and help. We would like to thank IRCC, Ministry of the Economy (Government of Saskatchewan), City of Swift Current, Cypress Health Region, Chinook School Division, Holy Trinity Catholic Separate School, Great Plains College, United Way, and other organizations and businesses for their partnership and support in the various venture of the Welcome Centre to see the transition and settlement process of newcomers in our communities in Southwest Saskatchewan.

SOUTHWEST NEWCOMER
WELCOME
CENTRE
PRESENTS

CANADA 150

SOUTHWEST CULTURE FEST

FRIDAY, JULY 14th

TERRANCE LITTLENT
HOOP DANCE AND LIVE DRUMMING



AUSTIN CASTLE
FIDDLE MUSIC



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 75
MAPLE CREEK, SK

SATURDAY, JULY 15th

TERRANCE LITTLENT
HOOP DANCE AND LIVE DRUMMING



BRISAS DEL PALMAR
CUBAN BAND



THE LYRIC THEATRE
SWIFT CURRENT, SK

SATURDAY, JULY 29th

THE CREELAND DANCERS
METIS JAZZING AND SQUARE DANCING



THE MOON RUNNERS
PROGRESSIVE ROCK BAND



THE LYRIC THEATRE
SWIFT CURRENT, SK

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11th

TUNDE -
THE AFRICAN WARRIOR
DANCE FUSION PROJECT



TINTU SEBASTIAN
INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE



THE GRAND CENTRAL HERITAGE
INDIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
SHEWANING, SK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12th

TUNDE -
THE AFRICAN WARRIOR
DANCE FUSION PROJECT



TINTU SEBASTIAN
INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE



THE LYRIC THEATRE
SWIFT CURRENT, SK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26th

JEBUNNESSA CHAPOLA
BENALI SINGER AND DANCE SHOW



AHMAD MAJID
HIP HOP AND SPOKEN WORD POETRY



THE LYRIC THEATRE
SWIFT CURRENT, SK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

UKRAINIAN DANCE
SHOWCASE



FILIPINO CULTURAL
SHOWCASE



THE LYRIC THEATRE
SWIFT CURRENT, SK

"Canada is a Garden"

ADMISSION IS FREE!

ALL SHOWS START AT 7:00 PM



Country of Origin List for 2016

Vietnam	2	Israel	2
US	1	Indonesia	1
Ukraine	11	India	37
Tunisia	3	Greece	1
Syrian	10	Ghana	3
S. Africa	3	Eritrea	3
Philippines	131	Cuba	1
Pakistan	2	Cote Ivoire	1
Nigeria	3	Congo	1
Nicaragua	1	Colombia	2
New Zealand	1	China	5
Nepal	3	Canada	2
Myanmar	1	Burma	1
Morocco	2	Bangladesh	7
Mexico	7	Argentina	1
Mauritius	2	Albania	1
Malaysia	1	Ghana	3
Korea	6	Eritrea	3
		Cuba	1

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

GATEWAY

As a Regional Gateway, one of our main roles is to provide information and referrals to clients. We have to keep ourselves abreast with latest information and trends in order to fully serve our clients.

Information Services Topics for 2016

Career Advancement/Further Education	42
Children and Family	263
Community Services	254
Emergency Services	3
Employment Services	177
English Training	52
Entrepreneurship/Business	4
Financial Issues	44
Foreign Credential Recognition	5
Housing / Accommodations	82
Immigration Process	100
Medical / Health	121
Settlement Process	561
Transportation	122
Other	825
TOTAL	2655



SWIS Peer Leadership Camping at SaskLanding.



SETTLEMENT

Newcomers come to our centre for assistance with their settlement needs. It is hard to capture settlement services in statistics. The work could be as simple as finding a family doctor for a client, to holding their hand inside the operating room because they do not have any family around. It is also not strictly bound by schedule, a call for assistance could come at any time.

SETTLEMENT SERVICES	CLIENTS SERVED
Community Orientation/Directions	568
Community Services	635
Employment	291
Health Information	232
Household / Personal Items	12
SIN	52
Transportation	93
Utilities	82
English Testing	71
Other	187
Computer/Print/Copy/Fax	332
Transportation / Driving / SGI	66
Legal	163
Family Issues	157
Immigration	93
Citizenship	25
Housing	60
Translation	21
Language Training	60
Childcare and Childcare Subsidy	2
Income Support / Social Support	16
Financial / General Budgeting	30
Child Tax Benefit	25
Notarization Services	45
Faith/Religion	5
Employment Standards	8
Education K - 12	33
Computer Classes	3
Education Post Secondary	17
Apprenticeship	4
Counselling	3
Transportation / Public Transport	66
Security / Police	19
Foreign qualifications assessment	3
Recreation	20
Income Tax	16

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Our Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS) program completed its third full year in 2016-2017. We provided services to 573 clients, 183 of them are new clients: 443 Permanent Residents (PR) and 130 non-PR's. The non-PR's include students and other family members who derived their status from a parent who is a Temporary Foreign Worker, or students born in Canada to PR parents, or naturalized citizens with unmet needs or lack of experience with the school system.

Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Chinook School Division and Holy Trinity Catholic School Division are our main partners in this programs. We have 18 active schools all over the southwest.

We were able to address clients' needs through the help of various community services. These needs include: Information on Canadian school system; Connection to community resources;

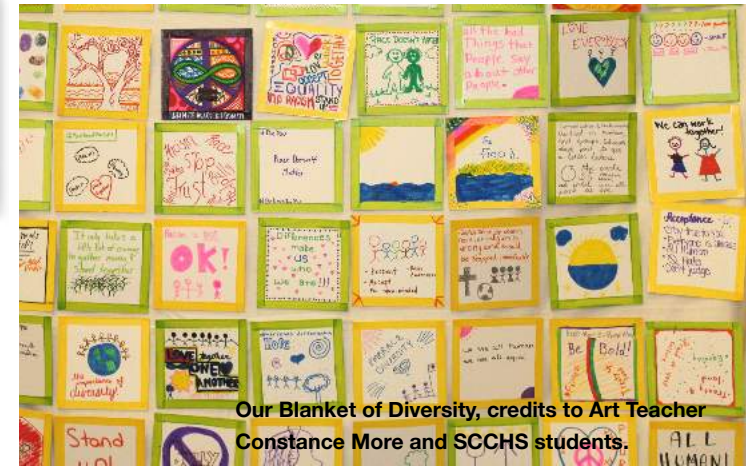
SWIS



Aside from school and home visit, our SWIS program also did several projects: *Homework Club, Canadian Camping Adventure and Peer Leadership Training; Arret/Stop Racism Workshop; Swimming Program for Newcomer Children; Mural Project; Cultural Bridging; Culture Club; & Orientation Workshop for Newcomers. (OWN);*



With funding from IRCC, we were able to invite Carmen Campagne who did a French language performance at the Ecole Centennial School.



Our Blanket of Diversity, credits to Art Teacher Constance More and SCCHS students.

Some of our programs and events during the year

Welcome Socials

Culture Encounter

Information Sessions on various topics

Family Literacy and International Literacy day events

Arret/Stop Racism Workshop: Youth Leadership

International Women's Day: Conversation Circle

Cultural Bridging Programs

Camping: Peer Leadership & Canadian Camping Adventure

Swimming Program for Children

Francophone Community Engagement

Multiculturalism Week and Culture Days Events

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Homework Club & Language Explorer Club

Special-Themed Movie Nights

Thanksgiving Supper

Lunch Fundraiser

Other various events

Student participants during the Youth Leadership Anti-Racism workshop in February 2017.



PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

We work with many partner organizations and various stakeholders. Often, we do programs or organize events together with these partners. We also refer clients to them for a number of needed services. Without these partners and service providers, our clients would not be able to receive timely assistance. Some of our partners are listed below:

Chinook School Division	SaskAbilities/Partners in Employment
Holy Trinity School Division	Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan
City of Swift Current	Southwest Multicultural Association
Cypress Health Region	Great Plains College
Social Services	Southwest District for Culture, Recreation and Sports
Community Initiatives Fund	Interagency Committee for Family, Children and Youth
Salvation Army	Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
Family Resource Centre	Kiwanis Club of Swift Current
Southwest Crisis Services	Assemblée Communautaire Fransaskoise
Swift Current Library	Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church
Cypress Hills Camp	International Women of Swift Current
Filipino Association	Regional Intersectoral Committee
Canadian Tire JumpStart	SC and District Chamber of Commerce
KidSport	Early Childhood Action Coalition
Creative Kids	Parent Support Network
Art Gallery	Welcome Wagon
Lyric Theatre	Swift Current and District Chamber of Commerce
Swift Current Tourism	SC Area Ministerial Refugee Committee
Family Literacy Committee	Various sports organizations
First United Church	United Way

The Marquez family from Cuba, raising the flag on Canada day.



Refugee Awareness in June 2016: Mayor Jerod Schafer, MP David Anderson, and members of the First United Church Refugee Committee welcomed the Etmeh family.

VOLUNTEERS

Over **2000** volunteer hours were received over the period from our generous **volunteers**.



Our Lunch fund-raiser held last May 31, 2016. We raised over \$2000.

Members of the Filipino Community, the biggest newcomer group in the southwest, celebrating Christmas Party. Over 300 Filipinos and community member attended and joined in the fun.



GRANTS & DONATIONS

THANK YOU funding partners, various organizations, and donors for **program funding** and various **in-kind contributions**.

Grants, Sponsorships and Donations received in 2016

Funding Support	Amount
Min. of the Economy, Labour Market Services	266130
Immigration, Refugee, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) (SWIS and Francophone programs)	144429
Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) -Camping	5000
Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS)	2000
Various Donors	1545
Northside Medical Clinic	500
Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) - Language Explorers Club	10,000
Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) - Community Spaces	25,000
Swift Current Zion Mennonite Church	825
Stark & Marsh	500
Kiwanis	2450
Innovation Credit Union	500
Manor Yard and Building Maintenance	500
United Way	6000
Great Plains College Literacy Committee	1500
City of Swift Current	500

Financial Statement

Our 2016-2017 Financial Statements were audited by Stark & Marsh, for approval at our Annual General Meeting on June 13, 2017.

2016 Board of Directors

- Bula Ghosh - Southwest Multicultural Assoc.
- Keleah Ostrander - Great Plains College
- George Bowditch - City of Swift Current
- Suzie Berg - Holy Trinity Catholic School Division
- Mark Benesh - Chinook School Division
- Emilio Completo - Filipino Association
- Joel Marquez - Hispanic Community
- Wendy Swann - Community Member

Other Board Members in 2015:

- Scott Matthies, Myra Leyshon, Good Budd, Esperanza Pimentel, Conor Barker

NWC Staff

- Icasiana de Gala - Executive Director
- Claudia Munoz - Settlement Advisor
- Joey Donnelly - Information Services Advisor
- Deanna Baje - Settlement Worker in Schools
- Lisa Byers - Settlement Worker in Schools
- Mesmer Andu Mesmer - SWIS

Our Contact Information

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 Tel. #: (306) 7786262
 Fax #: (306) 7786226



Facilitators for the Anti-Racism Workshop held in Ponteix School, March 2016.

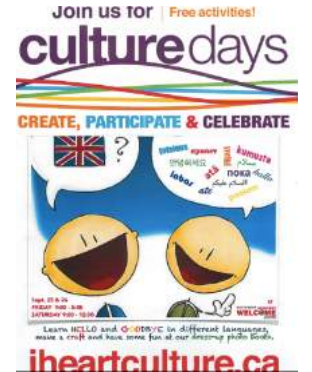


Shut the Door on Racism- March 21, 2017. Our partner organizations celebrated w/ us.



CAREER PRESENTATION
 Tuesday, January 17 at 6:00 pm
 Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre
 237 Central Ave. N, Swift Current, SK

Requirements to join the RCMP:
 Citizenship
 Police Record
 Criminal Record
 Clean passport applications with the appropriate visa stamps
 Sponsor: Col. Lorne Boulter



Two of our information sessions in 2016.

