

South Central Immigrant Services

November 2013 Newsletter

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Minister Visit

Regional Connections was thrilled to host two representatives from the Federal Government in fall. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Chris Alexander and Minister of State for Social Development Candice Bergen recently toured our facilities in Winkler.

Minister Alexander noted the great atmosphere and professionalism at Regional Connections among the staff and volunteers.

Our region has experienced significant growth in part due to immigration, and Minister Alexander commented that support services such as those found at Regional Connections are important to the successful settlement of newcomers to Canada.



Upcoming Events

Winkler

- **Citizenship Classes** are currently running and will be until December 2. They are held on Wednesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at 725 Main St., Winkler. (Nov. 18, Nov. 28, Dec. 2)
- **A Multicultural Christmas:** Please join us as we celebrate a multicultural Christmas at the library on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to bring a traditional treat from your home country. (Winkler Centennial Library, 160 Main Street)
- **Ladies Group:** Happens Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00. We currently meet at Central Station in Winkler: 545 Industrial Drive - behind Red River College.
- **Manitoba Games:** Do you have an ethnic costume? Manitoba games needs volunteers to represent various countries by wearing ethnic costumes. March 2 - 8, 2014.





Volunteer Program



It's been a great month launching our New Volunteer Program!

Our Regional Connections website has been updated with Volunteer opportunities, job descriptions and an online fillable Volunteer application form. As well, Volunteer Packages are available for pickup at the Winkler, Morden and Altona offices.

The Language Buddy Program has been a priority based on the requests from clients and/or teachers who have students requiring extra assistance with their language learning goals. To date we have matched 10 volunteers as a one-on-one Language Buddy, and have 4 volunteers working as class room helpers. We currently have 10 people waiting for Language Buddy volunteers located in Altona, Morris, and Morden.

Overall the volunteer response has been exciting and rewarding! Clients who have received a Language Buddy have expressed deep appreciation for this service and feel so honored to receive this extra help. As we work towards assisting newcomers with their language goals we can be certain of their reinvestment into our communities. The key to successful and long term integration is to have the confidence to work and live in a new culture with a new language. As this ability to function at a more comfortable and confident level increases we will gain so much more in return!

Thank you to all the volunteers who have responded to this need and are working with a Language Buddy or who are waiting to receive one! Together we are building a better community!

Employment

New to Canada? Credentials Recognition May Help You!

Why credential recognition matters

If your education, work experience or professional credentials were obtained outside Canada, they may not be equivalent to Canadian credentials. To work in Canada, you will need to have your credentials assessed to see whether they meet Canadian standards or whether you need more training, education or Canadian work experience.

Foreign credential recognition is the process of verifying that the education, training and job experience you obtained in another country are equivalent to the standards established for Canadian workers.

Contact Kimberly Rempel at our Winkler office for assistance with your credentials recognition process at employment@regionalconnections.ca or by phone at 204.325.4059.



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