



News Release

February 1, 2010 – Immigrant and refugee students get permanent support

Since 2006, students from immigrant and refugee families have had the support of two settlement support workers providing services in a handful of public and Catholic schools in Saskatoon. Funding for the Settlement Support Worker in Schools (SSWIS) program has been temporary until now. Today an official letter of agreement, which expands the program, makes the funding permanent and adds the Conseil des écoles francsaskoises as a fifth partner, was signed by: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Saskatoon Open Door Society, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Saskatoon Public Schools and the Conseil des écoles francsaskoises. The expansion means six SSWIS workers providing services in 62 elementary and 19 secondary schools across Saskatoon.

“The Government of Canada is pleased to provide funding of \$362,138 for the Settlement Support Workers in Schools program, which delivers settlement services in a school setting to assist young newcomers and their families,” said Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney. “We want to help newcomers to settle and succeed in every aspect of Canadian life.”

“The SSWIS partnership is an excellent example of how agencies in our city work together to ensure families from other countries and cultures feel welcome and supported in our community and schools,” says George Rathwell, Director of Education for Saskatoon Public Schools. “We are proud to be a partner.”

“We know the SSWIS program makes a difference in the lives of immigrant and refugee students and their families when they settle in Saskatoon,” says Bev Hanson, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Director of Education. “Expanding the program and formalizing our partnership ensures that this support will be available for even more new Canadians when they come to our city.”

“It's important to us to implement a support system for all the refugees and immigrant families that move to Saskatoon and that's why the Conseil des écoles francsaskoises is glad to join this partnership,” says Bernard Roy, director of Education for the Conseil des écoles francsaskoises.

Schools are often the first services that newcomers connect with in their community. SSWIS is a school based outreach program that connects newly arrived families to services and resources in the school and community; to promote settlement and encourage student achievement in school. SSWIS is the bridge encouraging positive and open communication between family, school and community.

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