



E-Mail Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2013

Office hours:

Neepawa:

Resource
Centre

290 Davidson

Monday 9-6

Tues-Fri

11:00 – 6:00

**All
services
are free
of charge**

Neepawa & Area Immigrant Settlement Services Services for people from around the world

What we do:

We provide assistance to people who are learning to live in a new country. Settlement services help people develop skills and knowledge to participate in a new society.

Settlement Assistance:

- Information and orientation about life in Canada and your community
- Help filling out forms such as: Manitoba Health, SIN, Manitoba Provincial Nominee, Permanent Resident, Criminal Record Check, etc.
- Support, information and assistance concerning immigration issues
- Advocacy referrals
- Referrals for education, employment and housing
- Commissioner of Oaths and Notary Public services

*****Guess What? We are on Facebook!*****

Look for us at "Neepawa and Area Settlement Services" on Facebook. We went live on October 24th. Friend us! And keep up to date daily on what's new and exciting.

Advantages of a Library card?

- * **Free** high speed internet access computer time
- * **Free** movie and music DVD rentals
- * **Free** usage of books, magazines to practice your English skills
- * The opportunity to save thousands of dollars borrowing books and learning "do it yourself" stuff around the house!

Kids love the library too! Make it a family event. Save some extra cash there too.

Best of all? If you live in Neepawa? The Library card is **free!!**

Go for it! Get a Neepawa Public Library card! And start saving money right away.

Banking News

Investing for your life in Canada!

Many newcomers to Canada may not be used to the idea of establishing savings for education, retirement, or other important goals. There are many options to choose from, but here are a few of the most common choices:

1) Tax Free Savings Account (**TFSA**): A TFSA can help you money grow faster because you won't have to pay any tax on your investment returns or withdrawals. As long as you are residing in Canada & have a Social Insurance Number, you can contribute up to \$5,500 per year & can choose between a variety of investment options within the account.

2) Registered Retirement Savings Plan (**RRSP**): An RRSP is a type of investment in which you save money to be used when you retire. The key advantage to this (compared to a TFSA) is that your contributions are "tax-deductible", meaning the amount you save can be deducted from the income you report on your personal tax return (and this saves you taxes)! The earnings then grow tax free until you withdraw the funds, usually not until you are retired. There are limits to the amount you can contribute, so please check your "Notice of Assessment" received from your last tax return for specific details.

3) Registered Education Savings Plan (**RESP**): An RESP is one of the best ways to save for your child's future education. Not only do the earnings grow tax free within the plan, but the government also provides free matching contributions (up to 40% extra), which can make a big difference how much is available for them to use for their college or university expenses! Please note, in order to open an RESP, you must have a SIN for each of your children.

All the above investments can be arranged as lump-sum contributions, or regular payments from your account (to match with your payroll deposits). To find out more about these investment options & much more, please make an appointment at your local RBC branch, where we will be happy to advise you on how to best invest for your future!

Jason Epp
Branch Manager, RBC Royal Bank
204-476-7301
jason.epp@rbc.com

Permanent Resident Card Renewal Tips

During the 5 years that you have your Permanent Residence Card, it would be an excellent idea to keep a copy of every plane ticket you have used when you left Canada. Keep your documentation/plane tickets in an envelope in a safe place. That way, when it comes to to renew your card, you can advise CIC exactly how long you have been out of Canada (if at all) AND have the supporting documentation to prove it! ☺ And never throw away your Permanent Resident papers ... ever. Guaranteed you will need them one day.

Winter Activities - Winter goes quickly when you "use" the snow

WINTER PARK - Langford - Neepawa on Hwy 16
- has 10 km of Cross Country Ski Trails
- has 6 km of Snow Shoe Trails
- has a Toboggan Hill
- has a warming cabin

Directions: East on #16 Highway for 6.5 km. Parking on the south side of the highway. If you would like to try Skiing or Snowshoeing, we can give you instruction and some equipment if you give us a minimum of 48 notice.

Contact mgamey@xplornet.ca

Youth group ages 6 – 18. Ski instruction and fun activities.
Sundays 1:30-3:30. Cost is \$ 25. for the winter, Some equipment available to use
Contact Paul Koshel 204-476-3084

Please, please, please check your e-mails at all times. Some people have missed some important e-mails from CIC and the Province and no longer have status now!!! Oh no!! Trying to get restoration in Canada takes 3 months and you may not be able to work while you wait for your new work permit. So, please keep up with your e-mails. In-box and spam ... just in case.

When you book an appointment for us to review what you have input for your P.N. application, we will assist you in correcting and/or amending what needs to be done. We will direct you on what is missing as well. Be sure to bring in ALL of your documents ... it really helps our office. Don't ask for anything from the bank until you are ready to submit your application. That way everything is up to date!

**We've been asked to remind everyone that if you have a date and time of appointment, it is critical you show up on time. And, if you cannot attend your appointment, please call to cancel. We've had a few no shows and that's too bad because we could have given that appointment to someone else who really needed that appointment.
Thanks!**

We've been through a couple of snow storms here already and Winter has hardly begun. Have you got your Emergency Car Kit ready? Click on this link to find out what it should contain ... stay safe, you are important to us!

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/kts/cr-kt-eng.aspx>

Did you know:

- **That if you hold a 5A Manitoba Driver's License, you still have to have a fully licensed driver with you at all times as you are still a beginner driver. It is an offence to do otherwise.**
- **That you can sponsor your spouse to Canada in order to get them here quicker? But, first you must:**
 - **Receive your Province of Manitoba nomination/approval letter and;**
 - **Apply to be a Permanent Resident and include your spouse and children in that application.****There are additional costs in them coming this way but come in and get the details!**
- **That when you extend your work permit, you must let Manitoba Health and Manitoba Public Insurance (car license and insurance) know as these dates are all tied to your permit!!**
- **Worried that your medicals will soon be expiring? Come see us at the office. We can help.**

Rental Housing: No Changes:

Neepawa – 407 Mountain Avenue (Churchill Block), 1 and 2 bedroom apartments available, includes heat and water, fridge and stove. Call Debbie 204-841-1298.

Neepawa – 617-1ST Avenue, \$280.00 per person, 3 bedrooms to share. Includes fridge/stove/washer/dryer/dishwasher and internet. Contact Julia at 204-841-4806.

Neepawa – 3 bedroom house @5th and Mill Street. Fridge/Stove/Washer/Dryer/Dishwasher. \$1,000.00/month plus utilities. Plus Damage deposit of \$500.00. Lease starts Sept 1st. Call Kate for an appointment @204-841-4498.

Neepawa – 296 – 5th Avenue, includes fridge/stove/washer/dryer. Utilities not included. 2 rooms for 2 people @\$800.00/month for the house. Contact

Ladawan Wilier @204-871-0473 NOTE: Not furnished, Owner wanting to charge more for more people.

Neepawa – 302 Fourth Ave \$285 shared basement apartment includes utilities, internet, fridge/stove/washer/dryer/air conditioner. Call Caroline 204-476-4025. Available immediately. Basement suite shared with three Filipinos 1 work days 2 work nights.

Minnedosa – 1 room in basement/ 2 beds. Each bedroom has 2 beds. \$350 w/o car in winter \$400.00 with car in winter.

Fridge/stove/washer/dryer/dishwasher. Contact Mary @204-867-3827.

Plumas – 5 bedroom house includes fridge and stove. Garage with large yard. Utilities not included. \$700.00/month or \$250.00/person, minimum 5 persons. Call Martha 204-212-0807 or 204-808-6318.

Plumas – 2 bedroom house includes fridge/stove/washer/dryer/AC. Utilities not included. \$800.00 plus \$800 damage deposit. Contact Don and leave a message at 204-386-2634.

Arden – 4 bedroom house includes fridge/stove/washer/dryer. No utilities included. Rent is \$850.00 plus damage deposit of \$850.00. Call Don and leave a message at 204-386-2634.

Gladstone – 2 bedroom home. Includes 6 appliances, heated garage, front & back patio, no smoking or pets. Contact 204-385-2762 or egclarke@gladstone.ca.

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM

If you arrived in Canada after July 1st, 2012 you must pass your I.E.L.T. test (International English Language Testing System) before applying to the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program. These are the levels that you must pass: Listening: 4.5, Reading: 3.5, Writing: 4, Speaking: 4.5

Before you book your test, please go to the website for more detailed information @ www.ieltscanada.ca. There you will see the application and payment form that will need to be faxed in.

There is also an IELTS practice test on their website as well. The tests are written at the Red River College, 2055 Notre Dame Avenue, Winnipeg.

Fax: 1 519 748 6289

Test Fee: CDN \$285 effective January 1, 2013

Red River College is currently booking their General Training IELTS tests on February 2nd and March 23rd.

There is also a CELPIP test available for those of you who need to write a language test. These tests are also written in Winnipeg and are basically the same price. However, the word is that they are an easier test and you can book earlier than the IELTS test. Check it out at <http://www.celpiptest.ca/2012/04/celpip-winnipeg/>

Medical Services

Hurray! You are now in Manitoba and are covered under the Manitoba Health Care Program. Unfortunately, the Health cards are taking a long time to be processed. But until you receive your health card in the mail, it is critical that you bring your passport and CPR papers to the Doctor's and/or hospital so you can be seen free of charge. Once you receive your purple Manitoba Health Card, keep it with you at all times. In your wallet or purse. Always.

Your Manitoba Health card expires on the same day as your work permit. Be sure to bring your new work permit to the Settlement Office as soon as you receive it so that your benefits can be updated. If you do not do this you will be charged for medical services.

Police Clearances

Please be aware that when you include members of your family in your application for PR, police clearances from overseas must be included for your spouse and any children over the age of 18 years old along with your own.

Letter from your Editor:

So many of you busy applying for your Provincial Nominee. Exciting stuff for sure. Make sure you make your appointment to have your application reviewed by Agni here. She can check your application and assist you in what you need to still provide. Stay warm and Happy Valentine's Day!

God bless.

Contact information:

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Website: www.neepawasettlement.com

Facebook: [NeepawaAndAreaSettlementServices](https://www.facebook.com/NeepawaAndAreaSettlementServices)