



# E-Mail Newsletter

MARCH 2013

ISSUE #41

## 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, Criminal Record Check, Canada Child Tax Credit etc.
- Review of Manitoba Provincial Nominee and Permanent Resident applications, 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

### Office Closure:

**Our office will be closed at 3:00 pm on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> and will not re-open until Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @10 a.m.**

**We are also closed for Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and will re-open Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> @9 a.m.**

### Important Things to Remember When Filing Your 2012 Personal Income Tax Return

Each person working in Canada has to file an income tax return by April 30, 2013 unless they were self employed and then the filing deadline is June 15, 2013.

When preparing to file your income tax return you will need the following information and documents:

1. Personal information including Social Insurance Number, address, birth date, telephone number, marital status and birthdates for any spouse or dependent children living in Canada
2. Your T4 from your employer
3. Any T3's, T5's or T4A's that you would have received for interest and investment income
4. RRSP contribution receipt if you purchased a RRSP
5. Any Charitable donation receipts for personal donations to any church or charity
6. Any medical expenses if the annual total will be more than 3% of your income
7. Property tax bill and receipt for paying the property taxes if you own your personal residence
8. Rent receipts for rent paid for your personal residence. Note that only one person can claim the rent credit per residence. The one receiving the credit will claim all of the rent paid for that residence and will have to share the credit with the others sharing the residence.
9. For those who own their home and rent out part of it will have to include a rental

statement with their tax returns. This will include the rent collected and all of the expenses for the house including taxes, interest, insurance, utilities, and repairs. For persons who are new to Canada you will need to have documentation supporting when you came to Canada. The cost to prepare and file your tax return will start at \$70 for the basic tax return with just a T4 and will increase with the more slips and schedules that are required. If you have any questions regarding filing your 2013 personal income tax returns, you are more than welcome to come into MNP (which is across the street for the Resource Centre and next door to the Royal bank) and we will answer any of your questions.

Written by **Marvin R Beaumont, Meyers, Norris, Penney**

### **Bank News:**

#### **So you just received a tax refund... now what?**

You've been working hard all year to earn income & now you are hopefully getting some of that hard-earned money back from your tax return! While you may think of simply spending that money, we would suggest that you consider doing something that will better improve your financial health instead... here are a few choices:

**Reduce your debts** - You may want to use the money to pay off some of your debts, especially if you are carrying a high credit card balance. Credit cards have high interest rates & will take a long time to pay down if you are only making the minimum payment each month, so this may be a good opportunity to reduce that balance.

**Invest in an RRSP** - By investing the money into an RRSP (Registered Retirement Savings Plan), not only are you starting to save towards your retirement goals, you will also be reducing the amount of taxes you will be paying from your income (which might mean an even bigger refund next year)! For those that did need to pay additional taxes this year (instead of receiving a refund), an RRSP will make a big difference for next year!

**Invest in a TFSA** - Investing in a TFSA (Tax Free Savings Account) can help you save for emergencies, assist with expenses to move your loved ones to Canada, or even help save for a home down payment. While it will not increase your tax refund next year, it is a great savings option for these shorter term goals!

To receive further guidance on the above options, or for other financial advice, please contact your local RBC branch for an appointment!

**Jason Epp** | Branch Manager, Neepawa/McCreary Marketplace | **RBC Royal Bank**  
101 Davidson St, Box 1236, Neepawa, MB, R0J 1H0 | T. 204-476-7301 | F. 204-476-3817  
| C. 204-212-0432



Once you receive your T4 slip from your Employer that states what you earned for 2012, it is law that you file your Income Tax before April 30th, 2013. You may seek out a professional who can file your income tax for you. This is how you receive refunds and G.S.T. cheques from the government. The UFCW is accepting appointments for a Income Tax appointment to be done on Sunday, March 3rd and 17th. Call 1-800-552-1193 for appointments in either either Neepawa or Brandon.

**CJ97 Radio is looking to offer a few hours a week of Filipino programming on their local radio station. Are you interested in being on the radio? They will provide training and assistance – but you provide the news and information that is of interest to Neepawa’s Filipino community. Contact Donald Phillips at 204-841-4988 if you wish to be a part of this program.**

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

Look for us at “Neepawa and Area Settlement Services” on Facebook. We went live on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Friend us! And keep up to date daily on what’s new and exciting.

**The Philippine Embassy will be in Regina, Saskatchewan (4 hours away) Saturday, March 23rd, Sunday, March 24th, Monday, March 25th from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm BY APPOINTMENT ONLY PLEASE. On Tuesday, March 26th from 8:00 to 12:00 noon only. To request an appointment please call 1-416-922-7181 Good luck!**



**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@explornet.ca](mailto:mgamey@explornet.ca)

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

**First Annual Lake Irwin Classic Ice Fishing Derby held Sunday, March 17th, 2013 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Entry Fee \$20.00**

**12 and under FREE 50/50 Draw  
Concession Stand  
Lots of Prizes  
Must bring your own Fishing Equipment  
See Upscale Embroidery in downtown Neepawa 204-761-5406 or call Darryl  
204-841-4165 for more details**

**Important to Know Stuff:**

**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 is not over yet. 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 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:**

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

**Neepawa** – 617-1<sup>ST</sup> 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 @5<sup>th</sup> and Mill Street.

Fridge/Stove/Washer/Dryer/Dishwasher. \$1,000.00/month plus utilities. Plus Damage deposit of \$500.00. Lease starts Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Call Kate for an appointment @204-841-4498.

**Neepawa** – 296 – 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:egclarke@gladstone.ca).



### I.E.L.T. and CELPIP Language Tests:

If you arrived in Canada after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 you must pass your I.E.L.T. test (International English Language Testing System) and/or the CELPIP tests 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

Go to this website for the IELTS practice test @ [www.ieltscanada.ca](http://www.ieltscanada.ca) and [www.celpiptest.ca/2012/04/celpip-winnipeg](http://www.celpiptest.ca/2012/04/celpip-winnipeg) for the CELPIP practice test.

If you were in Canada, from another Province before 2012 ... you do not have to write the Language Tests.

### 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:

**Our office has been beyond busy! Police clearance letters, Provincial Nominee appointments, clearing up the rumours you have heard and so much more. Wow! Good for you! I am so proud of you! The days are getting longer and the sun is shining bright ... spring is getting near. We wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day on March 17<sup>th</sup> (don't forget to wear green) and Happy Easter the last weekend in March.**

**God bless.**

### **Contact information:**

**Cheryl Campbell**

**Neepawa and Area Immigrant Settlement Services**

**290 Davidson Street, Neepawa, MB**

**E-mail: [nadcoimmigrant@mymts.net](mailto:nadcoimmigrant@mymts.net)**

**Website: [www.neepawasettlement.com](http://www.neepawasettlement.com)**

**Facebook: NeepawaAndAreaSettlementServices**

