E-Mail Newsletter

DECEMBER 2014

ISSUE #62

Office hours:

342 Mountain Ave, 2nd Floor

Mon – Friday 9-5

Please be advised that our office will be closed over the Christmas holiday

from December 24th @12 p.m. and will re-open on

January 5th, 2015 @ 9 a.m.

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**
- **Assistance in completing forms**
- **Support, information and assistance concerning immigration issues**
- **Advocacy referrals**
- **Referrals for education, employment, language and housing**
- **Commissioner of Oaths and Notary Public services**
- **Provide workshops and information sessions to assist newcomers in finding work and settling into their new community**

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If you are a Permanent Resident or have been asked to hand in your passports to become a Permanent Resident, you are entitled to attend one of our workshops here at 342 Mountain Ave, 2nd Floor:

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Our office is offering daily employment appointments with our Certified Employment Strategist, Cheryl Campbell, who can assist you with:

- Career planning
- Job interview skills
- Job searching skills
- Job resume writing
- Cover letters
- Credential Recognition referrals

Appointments can be made by calling our office.

Remember that your confidentiality is guaranteed.

Employment Workshops

1) BASIC INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS – EXCEL
BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH @3:30-4:30 PM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH @9:30 – 10:30 A.M.

2) BASIC INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS – WORD PROGRAM
BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21ST AT 3:30 – 4:30 PM
& FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD AT 9:30 – 10:30 AM

2) BASIC INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS – POWER POINT
BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28TH @3:30 – 4:30 P.M.
& FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH @9:30 – 10:30 A.M.

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Our office is offering 7 EAL classes per week!
Each class will have childcare offered free of charge.

The schedule is as follows:
Monday @6 -8 pm Level CLB 1/2 Beginner

Tuesday @9:30 - 11:30 am Level CLB 3/5 Multi Level Family
Tuesday @6 - 8 pm Level CLB 3/4

Wednesday @9:30-11:30 am Level 3/4
Wednesday @6-8 pm Level 5/6

Thursday @ 9:30 am Level 1/2 Family Beginner
Thursday @6-8 pm Level 6

Call us to register 204-476-2055

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We highly recommend English classes to anyone who wishes to further their goals of improved English for daily life, advance in their career or complete a better job search. A better job may allow you to earn more money and maybe be able to purchase a home or a bigger house and have money for your children's post-secondary education. Whatever your reason … we have a class for you!

1. CALL NAISS OFFICE AT 204-476-2055 OR;
2. DROP BY OUR OFFICE AT 342 MOUNTAIN AVE., 2ND FLOOR IN NEEPAWA MON - FRI FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM.

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHICH WORKSHOP/INFO/CLASS THAT INTERESTS YOU WHEN YOU REGISTER AND LET US KNOW IF YOU REQUIRE THE FREE CHILDCARE WHILE YOU ATTEND.

For those of you who are bringing your children to our free childcare while attending EAL classes; please bring a healthy snack and bottled water for your child in case of hunger and thirst. But please, no peanut items so we can protect others of allergies.
Thank you

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BECAUSE I LOVE YOU ….

FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS. DISCUSS AND SHARE WITH OTHER PARENTS YOUR PARENTING ISSUES. FREE AND FUN.

THIS IS A 6 WEEK PROGRAM HELD BY A FACILITATOR TRAINED AND CERTIFIED AND HELD JOINTLY WITH THE ASSINIBOINE NORTH PARENT CHILD COALITION.

WATCH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR NEXT YEAR'S REGISTRATION DATES.

FREE CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE BUT YOU MUST BE REGISTERED.

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Speaking of our children, they need your presence (being there for them) more than your presents (gifts).

The holidays are a fun time of year for most children and parents but it is also an important time of year to be aware of your children's safety.

- If you buy a live Christmas tree, look for a fresh, green tree with needles that are hard to pull out and do not break. Water your tree daily.
- Be sure the tree is secure in a stand; a baby can pull it over.
- Don't use tinsel as it is easy to swallow and can wrap around small hands.
- Keep your children away from holiday plants as some are poisonous such as mistletoe, holly and poinsettia.
- If entertaining or attending holiday parties, never assume your child is being supervised just because they are in a room full of people.
- Hard candies, nuts and alcoholic beverages should be kept well out of reach from young children.
- Always designate a driver and buckle up.

These are just a few tips, for more, please see the following websites:

- www.redcross.ca
- www.aboutkidshealth.ca

Compliments of Assiniboine North Parent Child Coalition – Facilitators of the 'Because I Love You' Program for Parents of preschoolers.

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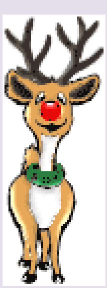

Neepawa & Immigrant Settlement Services is a CIC funded organization that will ask you to give certain personal information: your full name, date of birth, and immigration number or immigration document. We urge you to provide this information when requested. This information is given to CIC. During this process, CIC and Settlement Services keep your information confidential. Your personal information will not be used for any other purpose without your consent. This information is used to better understand newcomers' needs.

Settlement services use your information to help plan and manage CIC programs and the services that we provide to you.

So, your information helps us ensure that the services fit your needs.

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DANGER!! DO NOT POST PERSONAL INFO ON FACEBOOK !!!

It has come to our attention that some of you have been posting personal information on your Facebook page.

This information is enough to advise a potential thief all they need to know to obtain credit in your name. And you may be responsible to pay for the bills the thief charged. The legal result of this is unbelievable and may end up costing you money for lawyers to help you straighten everything out for you. And that may not happen for years!

Identity thieves can even find a way steal away your home!

Identity theft is a form of stealing someone's *identity* in which someone pretends to be someone else by assuming that person's identity usually to access resources or obtain credit and other benefits in that person's name.

Do not post any of your credit card numbers, Immigration information, driver's license, your social insurance number, your birth certificate, your passport information or your Manitoba Health information.

So, if you have posted something on Facebook? Remove it right away!

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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.

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Highway Condition Information:

Now that winter is un-officially here, you must take more care when driving! Before leaving for a trip on the highway you can check this website for road conditions. If it says that the highway is snow covered and poor visibility it is best to stay home! The RCMP does close the highway when the weather conditions are severe but by then it is really bad! Here is the link: http://www.manitoba.ca/mit/roadinfo/index.html We are South West area quadrant by the way.

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

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Check the Weather too:
If you haven't yet found this website, here is a good place to check the weather report. It tells you what the weather is now and what the weather may be in a few hours (forecast) is:
http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/mb-10_metric_e.html

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If you move to another Province, you need to update the following contacts of your new address and information:

1. Citizenship Immigration Canada
2. Manitoba Health
3. Manitoba Public Insurance and your car insurance agency
4. Canada Post Office in order to have your mail re-directed to your new address. They will not forward Government mail.
5. Revenue Canada regarding Child Tax Credit and Income Tax.

To not advise the above contacts is misleading Government Agencies and is considered fraud.

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Please let us know if you want to unsubscribe from our monthly newsletters. Simply reply to us and in the Subject line type in Unsubscribe and e-mail it back to the office. You will be removed from the mailing list immediately.

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Saving for Your Children's Education

Did you know there is a way you can save money for your children's University or College education and the Government of Canada will help you! The Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is a tax-sheltered plan that can help you save for a child's post-secondary education. An RESP combines flexibility, tax-deferred investment growth and direct government assistance to help you reach your education savings goals for your children.

Opening an RESP

An RESP can be set up for any "beneficiary," including your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or family friends. The "subscriber" to the plan is the person who opens the plan and makes contributions to it. The subscriber also designates the beneficiaries who are to use the funds for their post-secondary

education. Each beneficiary must be a Canadian resident and have a social insurance number (SIN) which can be obtained from a Service Canada Centre (www.servicecanada.gc.ca)

Contributing to an RESP

A subscriber can contribute any amount to an RESP, subject to a lifetime contribution limit of $50,000 per beneficiary. Although you cannot deduct the contributions made to an RESP from your taxable income, the subsequent investment earnings on RESP contributions are tax-deferred. If the plan earnings are withdrawn to cover qualifying post-secondary education expenses, they are taxable to the beneficiary, not to the subscriber. You can contribute to an RESP for up to 31 years, and the plan can remain open for a maximum of 35 years.

Here are some of the reasons why RESPs are popular among Canadians:

Tax-Deferred Earnings

RESPs offer tax deferral. This means that interest income and investment growth earned within an RESP are not taxed as long as the funds remain in the plan. Withdrawals from an RESP are taxed in the hands of the student, which usually means they pay little or no tax.

The Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG)

With the CESG, for an eligible beneficiary under the age of 18, **the government matches 20% on the first $2,500 contributed annually** to an RESP. The maximum total CESG the government will give, up to age 18, is $7,200 per beneficiary. The grant proceeds are invested along with your contributions, further enhancing the benefits of tax-deferred and compound investment growth within your plan.

Canada Learning Bond (CLB)

A $500 CLB is provided for children of families who are entitled to the National Child Benefit Supplement and who are born after December 31, 2003. These children also qualify for CLB instalments of $100 per year until age 15, as long as they continue to receive the National Child Benefit Supplement. The total maximum CLB payable per child is $2,000. CLBs are allocated to a specific child; unlike CESGs, they cannot be shared with other beneficiaries. There is no requirement to make contributions in order to qualify for the CLB.

Your Advisor at your bank or credit union can help you open an RESP for your children, help you apply for the government grants, and help you select an investment option to best meet your savings plans.

Scott Dyke
Branch Manager RBC Royal Bank
Tel. 204-476-7301

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Your rights as per the www.cic.gc.ca website:
Upon receiving conditional permanent residence, you have all the rights and privileges of a permanent resident:

You are allowed to work or study in Canada without a work or study permit.
You have access to health coverage and social services.
You are allowed to leave and re-enter Canada.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO REMAIN IN AN ABUSIVE SITUATION.

It does not matter whether the conditional permanent residence measure applies to you. In Canada, abuse is not tolerated. All physical and sexual abuse is a crime. All child abuse must be reported.

What is abuse or neglect?

Abuse is behaviour used to intimidate, isolate, dominate or control another person. It may be a pattern or a single incident. Abuse might involve acts, words or even neglect.

The abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological or financial.

As a victim you may experience more than one type of abuse.
Usually the abuser is a spouse, former spouse, partner or former partner.
Sometimes, it can be a member of your spouse's or partner's family.
The abuser may be male or female.
Physical abuse is physical contact intended to intimidate or cause pain, injury, other physical suffering or bodily harm or forcible confinement. Among others, examples include being hit, beaten, slapped, punched, and pushed or shoved resulting in injury or that could result in injury.

Sexual abuse includes force or threat used in any situation, against the victim's will, resulting in unwanted sexual touching or sexual activity.

Psychological abuse might include force or control not limited to insults, intimidation, humiliation, harassment or threats, name-calling, yelling, blaming, disrespecting, criticizing, or threatening to take away or hurt a victim's children.

Financial abuse is where one partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources. Some examples include taking the victim's cheque or money and withholding money, so that the victim cannot pay for things they or their children need, such as food, shelter or medical treatment.

Neglect is failure to provide the necessaries of life, such as food, clothing, medical care or shelter, or any other omission which results in a risk of serious harm.

Being abused or neglected by your sponsor or their family?
You do not have to stay in the relationship to keep your status in Canada if you are being abused or neglected.

If you are affected by the conditional permanent residence measure, you can request an exception.

If you are not affected by the conditional permanent residence measure, you should remember that in Canada, abuse is not tolerated. You do not have to remain in an abusive situation. Come see us at the office for more information.

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Keep your Manitoba Health Card, with you at all times.
In your wallet or purse. Always.

Just in case you need to go to the hospital in case of an emergency. Then hospital staff will have your name, numbers and your health history in order to assist you better.

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The Honorary Consul General for Manitoba is Orli Marcelino. He will handle consular matters such as visa and passport processing.

Orlando Marcelino
Winnipeg, MB
204-880-9788
orli.marcelino@yahoo.com
www.pilipino-express.com

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Looking for a new Doctor? Phone the Family Doctor Connection Program at 1-204-786-7111 or 1-866-690-8260 to register

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Letter from the Editor

It's hard to believe that it's December already and with it a New Year hard on its heels! I guess that's a good sign when time flies so fast. Good news and not so good news lately. Due to budget cuts; we had to say good bye to our own Mr. Don Walmsley in October, he is dearly missed. If you see him around town … say Hi! He'd love to hear from you. For those of you who are with their family for the first time in a long time this Christmas … rejoice! How blessed you are. For those of you who aren't reunited as yet … it won't be long. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

In the meantime, take care and … God bless.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone here at Neepawa & Area Immigrant Settlement Services
Cheryl, Agni, Myla, Murray and Susan

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Website: www.neepawasettlement.com
Facebook: NeepawaAndAreaSettlementServices

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