



Citizenship and Immigration Canada

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News Release

Government of Canada announces funding to help newcomers settle in Hamilton

Hamilton, April 25, 2008 — The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, today announced funding for the St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre to deliver settlement services to newcomers in Hamilton and the surrounding area.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is providing new funding of \$947,370 to the St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre, bringing the total funding from the federal government this year for this organization to more than \$3.5 million. This funding is expected to help an estimated 530 newcomers to Hamilton access a variety of settlement services, including language training, help finding a job and getting settled in their new community. The funding will also provide 88 child-minding spots so that parents with young children can participate in these programs.

The new funding has also enabled the Centre to open a new location, the Family Settlement Centre, in the East Mountain area today. This new centre will specialize in providing settlement services to women who are new to Canada and their families.

"We want more immigrants to come to Canada and we are committed to helping immigrants begin their new lives in our country," said Minister Finley. "This funding will give newcomers in the Hamilton area access to a number of valuable services, providing the support they need as they integrate into the community. Their success is good for Hamilton and good for Canada as a whole."

"We are happy and proud that the federal government is investing new funds for newcomers in Hamilton," said Ines Rios, Executive Director of the St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre. "With the continued support of CIC, we will be able to provide newcomer families with settlement services, such as language instruction, to help them successfully integrate into their new communities."

Settlement services are an essential part of the federal government's immigration program. Through the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA), the Government of Canada has increased settlement funding for Ontario by a total of \$920 million over five years. Under the COIA, CIC works with the province and immigrant-serving agencies to make a real difference in the lives of immigrants. In 2006, the Government of Canada began investing an additional \$1.4 billion over five years in settlement funding across the country.

Newcomers to Canada can also turn to the Foreign Credentials Referral Office (FCRO), which helps internationally trained individuals find the information they need to get their credentials assessed and recognized more quickly. Established in 2007, the FCRO provides information, path-finding and referral services to help internationally trained individuals use their skills in Canada. There are now 320 Service Canada centres across Canada offering in-person foreign credential referral services to newcomers.

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CIC funds a number of programs that help newcomers settle, adapt and integrate into Canadian society. These programs are delivered in partnership with provinces, territories and service-providing organizations and include the Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program, which provides orientation, referrals to community resources, advice and guidance; Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada, which provides basic language training for adults; and the Host Program, which helps newcomers connect with volunteers who help them access services, establish contacts in their field of work and participate in the community.

For more information on CIC's programs, consult our website at www.cic.gc.ca.

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