



Bridging Sectors, Expanding Opportunities: Collaborative Pathways for Newcomer Success in Saskatchewan

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Abstract

This poster highlights innovative approaches for multi-sector collaboration among governments, newcomer-serving organizations, community groups, educational institutions, employers, and language service providers in Saskatchewan. Drawing on insights from previous research on newcomer experiences, it explores ways to strengthen connections between services such as LINC and CLIC language programs, employment supports, and community engagement initiatives. The focus is on creating seamless pathways, fostering sustainable employment, and promoting inclusive communities. By showcasing collaborative strategies, this work emphasizes opportunities to enhance newcomer integration and maximize their contributions to Saskatchewan's society and economy.

Cross-Sector Collaboration Practices in SK

Saskatchewan provides a comprehensive support system through collaboration between federal and provincial governments, non-profits, and the private sector:

- **Provincial Support:** Ministry of Immigration and Career Training & Skills and Training funds non-profits to enhance English skills, employability, and provide settlement support to the newcomers.
- **Federal Support:** IRCC funds language programs, employment supports, and community integration services.
- **Non-Profit, Regional Colleges & LIP Network:** Over 30 agencies and Regional Colleges, including Regional Newcomer Gateways, provide settlement planning, employment guidance, language training, and community connections.
- **Private Sector Partnerships:** University of Saskatchewan Language Centre + Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce deliver English for Business courses to help immigrant business owners and employees succeed.

Pathway Forward: Turning Insights into Action

Insights from newcomer experiences and cross-sector discussions highlight both progress and remaining challenges in Saskatchewan's settlement system. Collaboration is strong, but gaps persist in rural access, program coordination, and culturally responsive service delivery.

These challenges also present opportunities for innovation and stronger partnerships. By aligning efforts and improving communication across language, employment, and community programs, Saskatchewan can build a more connected, inclusive, and adaptive settlement network that supports newcomers' full participation in society.

Background

Previous research on newcomer experiences in Saskatchewan revealed:

- **Limited awareness:** Many newcomers were unaware of available services, highlighting the need for a clear guide.
- **Connection gaps:** Newcomers sought more opportunities to engage through mentorship, youth groups, or welcoming programs.
- **Youth support:** School staff were often unaware of resources for newcomer students.

This poster emphasizes the need for stronger cross-sector collaboration to improve access, connection, and inclusion. *(Scan QR code to see previous poster.)*



SCAN HERE!

Rural and Northern Access

Gap: Fewer settlement services and less coordination than urban centers, with differing service models between rural agencies and colleges, leading to uneven access.

Suggestions:

- Increase rural-focused funding and support.
- Set rural-specific priorities in provincial and national decisions.
- Use mobile, hybrid, or online programs for remote access.
- Partner with local municipalities and Indigenous communities.

Language Program Coordination & Stage 2 Funding

Gap: LINC and CLIC programs are not always seamlessly connected, and recent Stage 2 funding cuts risk leaving learners without clear options.

Suggestions:

- Collaborate across IRCC, provincial governments, and non-profits to optimize placements.
- Base placements on CLB levels; offer online/hybrid options for CLB 7-8 learners.
- Create a centralized portal for program info and progression pathways.

Gaps & Areas for Improvements

Culturally Responsive Programming

Gap: Programs could better reflect the diverse cultural backgrounds of newcomers and address their unique social, cultural, and economic needs.

Suggestions:

- Involve multicultural organizations in program planning.
- Provide cultural competency training for staff.
- Offer mentorship connecting newcomers with community leaders.
- Co-create content reflecting diverse cultures and experiences.

Integration Across Sectors

Gap: Connections between education, language training, and employment programs could be stronger to support sustainable economic integration.

Suggestions:

- Foster multi-sector collaboration linking language learning with work experience.
- Establish employer partnerships for internships, mentorship, and workplace support.
- Implement monitoring systems to track outcomes and guide programs.