

Annual Reflections and Highlights

Prairie Skies' Vision: Vibrant South-Central Saskatchewan communities through coordinated community-newcomer integration.

Prairie Skies Integration Network continues to serve as the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) for the Moose Jaw Region, leading collaborative efforts and strategies to support the integration of newcomers into our communities.

This year brought both rewards and challenges, pushing us to grow through resilience, adaptability, and a balance between ambition and practicality.

Our focus remained on sustainable development and relationship-building—key to lasting impact. To strengthen engagement, we established a remote settlement service to support settlement service providers in addressing critical social and economic needs of newcomers to the region.

We expanded our reach by partnering with other LIPs, while also pursuing funding to support long-term growth. Our progress would not be possible without the dedication of our network members and partners, whose contributions drive meaningful change. See *Our Network* on page 6 to view our valued collaborators.

Prairie Skies' Core Groups

The Secretariat

The Secretariat is Prairie Skies' Staff Team, currently consisting of project manager Jide Kassim and admin assistant Wanny Perez.

Partnership Council

The Partnership Council (PC) is Prairie Skies' governing body, made up of a broad cross-section of stakeholders in, and beyond, the region. The group uses consensus decision-making processes.

Newcomer Advisory Council (Formerly IAT)

The Newcomer Advisory Council (NAC) is Prairie Skies' group of expert advisors, newcomers with firsthand experiences of the process of settling and integrating in our region. Over the past year, the NAC has taken an increasingly flexible approach as we have held more Open House style meetings.

Prairie Skies' Working Groups

Moose Jaw Residents Against Discrimination and Racism

This grassroots group comprised of community members and organizations aims to address racism and discrimination in Moose Jaw. Having been in operation since June 2020, it has become a Prairie Skies

Working Group. The group solicits ongoing input from visible minorities and aims to be continually led by first-person experiences.

Research Working Group

A working group consisting of local stakeholders, supportive networking partners, and researchers from across the country. The group takes a Collective Impact approach to guiding locally relevant research needs & opportunities.

Newcomer Employment & Economic Integration Working Group

This working group is a collaborative entity focused on addressing employment and economic inclusion issues from a newcomer integration context. The working group was born from the forum planning committee for our 2023 Employing Newcomers forum and it consists of various inter-sectoral stakeholders from across the country who are invested in the employment and economic inclusion of newcomers. The group exists to collaborate with the Secretariat focusing on identifying barriers to employment and economic participation faced by newcomers, developing strategies to overcome these barriers, and implementing initiatives to foster inclusive economic growth.

Regional Coordination Working Group

A collaborative initiative between multiple stakeholders within the South-Central region of Saskatchewan. The purpose of the partnership is to foster synergy, leverage resources, and promote effective communication and collaboration to address regional challenges more comprehensively. The working group is a mechanism for bringing together diverse stakeholders to work collectively on regional issues and challenges, with the goal of achieving more effective and efficient outcomes for the region.

Network Reports

Prairie Skies Presents on Defining Racism at A.E. Peacock Collegiate—2025 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



On March 21st, Prairie Skies partnered with the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council (MJMC) to host an event at A.E. Peacock Collegiate in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Over 300 students, along with community members and guest speakers, came together to reflect on inclusion, challenge racism, and foster a culture of understanding in Moose Jaw.

Observed globally each March, this day calls for action against racism and intolerance. The event provided space for learning, sharing experiences, and sparking critical conversations about identity and social responsibility.

The Project Manager of Prairie Skies spoke on the topic of racism, highlighting forms such as workplace discrimination and harmful stereotypes on social media.

The event closed with a collective message of unity and hope, urging everyone to stand against prejudice and commit to a community where all are treated with dignity and fairness. It was a powerful reminder of both the work ahead and the strength of Moose Jaw's commitment to inclusion.

Prairie Skies' Community Conversation on Immigration



In collaboration with local and regional partners, Prairie Skies hosted a Community Conversation on Immigration. Held in Moose Jaw, the event welcomed over 80 participants, including employers, municipal leaders, newcomers, service providers, and representatives from the Ministry of ICT and IRCC.

Featuring a panel discussion and breakout sessions, the event aimed to inspire collective action, promote inclusive practices, and explore policy solutions to support newcomer integration. Discussions centred on three key topics: Building Inclusive Workplaces, Credential Recognition, and Strengthening Communities. These conversations sparked meaningful dialogue and collaborative problem-solving, generating actionable ideas to enhance newcomer-host community connections.

The event's goals and objectives were realised by engaging stakeholders in thoughtful discussion and laying the foundation for future collaboration and lasting change.

Remote Settlement Service Established

In 2024, Prairie Skies Integration Network, in close collaboration with the Town of Gravelbourg and a network of local partners, launched the Gravelbourg Remote Settlement Service—a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing access to settlement support for newcomers living in and around Gravelbourg. Recognizing that rural newcomers often face significant challenges in accessing centralized services based in Moose Jaw, this initiative was developed to bring essential support directly to the community.

The Gravelbourg Remote Settlement Service is designed to meet newcomers where they are by establishing a consistent, in-person presence within the town. Rather than relying on virtual or distant service delivery, Prairie Skies has worked to secure a dedicated space in Gravelbourg and increased the frequency of on-site visits by settlement service providers. This localized model acknowledges the unique barriers faced by rural newcomers—such as limited transportation, language access, and social isolation—and offers tailored support that is responsive, culturally sensitive, and community-informed.

The initiative helps to deliver core settlement services, strengthen community capacity, build trust, and support long-term integration in smaller centres across South-Central Saskatchewan.

Moose Jaw and area RCIP Program Approved

Lead Agency: Moose Jaw & District Chamber of Commerce

In 2024, the Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP) was approved for several Canadian communities, including Moose Jaw—a major step forward in strengthening local efforts to attract and retain skilled newcomers.

The Moose Jaw & District Chamber of Commerce led the application process, with Prairie Skies Integration Network playing a pivotal supporting role. Prairie Skies contributed significantly to the planning, stakeholder engagement, and development of the proposal submitted to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Our expertise in newcomer integration and community coordination helped to ensure the application reflected both local economic needs and community readiness to support settlement.

With Moose Jaw now approved for RCIP, the city gains a valuable tool for addressing labour shortages while also enhancing community vibrancy and diversity. The pilot enables employers to connect with qualified international candidates and provides structured pathways for newcomers to settle and thrive in Moose Jaw. Prairie Skies remains a key implementation partner, supporting collaboration among local stakeholders and helping ensure the delivery of inclusive, culturally responsive services as the community welcomes new residents through the RCIP.

Gravelbourg Community Expo

Town of Gravelbourg

In August 2024, Prairie Skies Integration Network participated in the Gravelbourg Community Expo, held at the Palestre Rink. The event brought together a wide range of local organizations, service providers, and residents, serving as a dynamic platform to showcase community resources and promote engagement across sectors.

Prairie Skies used the opportunity to connect with newcomers and long-standing residents alike, raising awareness about the network and other integration initiatives available through the network. The team engaged attendees through conversation, informational materials, and one-on-one discussions about settlement needs, employment pathways, and access to local services.

Participation in the Expo also allowed Prairie Skies to build stronger relationships with local organizations and identify emerging community priorities. The event reinforced the importance of visibility and presence in rural communities and highlighted the value of collaborative, in-person outreach as part of a broader regional settlement strategy.

As we continue to expand our rural engagement efforts, events like the Gravelbourg Community Expo remain key touchpoints for fostering inclusion, trust, and sustained community involvement.

Race, Disability, and Migration: Creating Welcoming Communities

National LIP Secretariat

The webinar "Race, Disability, and Migration: Creating Welcoming Communities" is part of a larger movement to critically examine and address the overlapping experiences of racialized individuals, people with disabilities, and migrants. This initiative seeks to bring attention to how systemic barriers—such as racism, ableism, and xenophobia—intersect and compound the challenges faced by newcomers. By centering these intersecting identities, the webinar aims to promote equity-informed practices and foster more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming communities. It provides a platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy that can inform service delivery, policy development, and community engagement across sectors.

What is GBA Plus?

SAISIA Webinar

The SAISIA webinar titled "What is GBA Plus?" is part of a broader capacity-building initiative aimed at deepening understanding and promoting the practical application of Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) within the newcomer settlement sector. This effort reflects SAISIA's commitment to fostering equity, inclusion, and responsiveness in service delivery, and aligns with national strategies to embed GBA Plus into the core policies, programs, and practices of organizations serving diverse populations. By equipping staff

and stakeholders with foundational knowledge and tools, the webinar supports the integration of an intersectional lens into planning, decision-making, and community engagement activities across Saskatchewan's settlement network.

Sask LIP Peer Network

Prairie Skies continues to actively engage with other Local Immigration Partnerships across Saskatchewan. Along with regular check ins and group project updates, topics such as an airport promotions project, knowledge translation project, connecting with National LIP Secretariat, and discussion of common challenges were discussed in meetings throughout the year during our LIP Peer Network meetings.

About Sask LIP/RIF Network: The group includes all LIPs across Saskatchewan. Common challenges are discussed, allowing the various Secretariats to learn from one another. Prairie Skies has engaged as Chair for this networking group.

Professional Development



November 24-29, 2024: P2P National Conference in Vancouver

The 12th Annual Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) National Conference was held from November 25 to 26, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver, Canada. This hybrid event brought together researchers, policymakers, service providers, and community leaders to discuss innovative approaches to newcomer inclusion and support.

LIPs and RIFs Engagement: On November 27, the P2P-FCFA Conference provided a platform for Local Immigration

Partnerships and Réseaux en immigration francophone to share achievements and discuss common challenges. The P2P 2024 National Conference served as a pivotal platform for stakeholders to align on strategies enhancing newcomer integration and to prepare for upcoming policy initiatives.