

## Settlement Services

### Newcomers Welcome Centre:

John Pritchard School, 1490 Henderson Hwy.

**Phone:** 204.669.9412

**Email:** vschroeder@retsd.mb.ca

**Settlement Team:** Sarah, Ramona, Vera, Jacqueline

- Assistance to connect with community programs and services
- Assistance to access adult EAL classes
- Help with forms and documents
- Basic computer help
- Call the settlement office to make an appointment to meet with the settlement workers
- Drop-in services are not available at this time



Funded by:

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Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

The Newcomers Welcome Centre located in John Pritchard School is open for visits with a settlement worker. All office visits are by appointment only at this time. Drop-in visits are currently not available. To make an appointment to meet with a RETIS settlement worker, phone 204.339.1984. You can also email, text, or phone the settlement workers directly for help or questions.



**Sarah French**

sfrench2@retsd.mb.ca  
204.223.8255



**Ramona Lukaschuk**

rlukaschuk@retsd.mb.ca  
204.792.6701



**Jacqueline Dheere**

jdheere@retsd.mb.ca  
204.339.1984 ext. 3142

## Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

### Ward 1

Colleen Carswell (vice-chair)  
204.222.1486  
ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca

Jerry Sodomlak (chair)  
204.999.1409  
jsodomlak@retsd.mb.ca

### Ward 2

Rod Giesbrecht  
204.661.5984  
rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca

John Toews  
204.663.0475  
jtoews@retsd.mb.ca

### Ward 3

Brianne Goertzen  
204.955.6782  
bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca

Keith Morrison  
204.795.3357  
kmorrison@retsd.mb.ca

### Ward 4

Peter Kotyk  
204.668.4181  
pkoty@retsd.mb.ca

Susan Olynik  
204.661.6440  
solynik@retsd.mb.ca

### Ward 5

Currently Vacant

For more information about the board of trustees, visit: [www.retsd.mb.ca/BoardofTrustees](http://www.retsd.mb.ca/BoardofTrustees)

## Important Dates

- March 7—Kindergarten registration begins
- March 18—Co-ordinated day, no classes for children and no adult EAL classes
- March 20—Spring equinox, first day of spring
- March 26–April 3—Spring break, no classes for children and no adult EAL classes



## Happy St. Patrick's Day!

St. Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish culture that takes place each year on March 17. Saint Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland who died on March 17 in the year 461. St. Patrick's Day is not an official holiday, so workplaces and school operate as usual on that day. This event is celebrated in many counties and cities by people with or without Irish heritage. People wear green and gold as part of the celebration of Irish culture. Some school students and staff may wear green that day as a fun way to observe the date. The three-leaf clover or shamrock is a well-known symbol of St. Patrick's Day. Some cities have special parades to mark the day. Others celebrate the day with special foods, music, dancing, and parties.



## Care for Newcomer Children (CNC) Program

We continued learning about numbers for February and sang "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe" and "Five Little Animals Jumping on the Bed" with toy animals and a blanket. February also had many celebrations with Chinese New Year, Black History Month, I Love to Read Month, Valentine's Day, and Louis Riel Day. One of the highlights was decorating red envelopes for Chinese New Year and filling them with chocolate treats!



## Adult EAL Program

February was filled with many meaningful discussions and read alouds about Black History Month with a focus on local Black folks making a difference in the community. Students in Kathe's class exchanged valentines with the Grade 3/4 class at Lord Wolseley School. The RETIS EAL classes joined a virtual Chinese New Year festival with Hampstead School—they listened to an English/Chinese read aloud and learned about Chinese calligraphy and a traditional tea ceremony. Jacqueline from the settlement team shared an engaging presentation about Louis Riel.

Students in Aiman's class were focused on numeracy and worked in groups practising times, dates, and money. RETIS classes range from Literacy to CLB 5. If you have any questions about our Adult EAL Program or would like more information, please contact the program co-ordinator Breanne Fryza at 204.667.6793, ext. 3042, or at [bfryza@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:bfryza@retsd.mb.ca).



## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration begins March 7, 2022, for children who are five years old on or before December 31. Due to COVID-19, registration will be by appointment only.

Please contact your child's school to schedule your appointment. If you have any questions, please contact the school division at [kindergarten@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:kindergarten@retsd.mb.ca).

RETIS settlement workers can also assist you with questions you may have about registering your children for school.



## RETIS Adult English Conversation Classes

Looking for an easy and fun way to practise English? Join our online classes on Tuesday afternoons from 1–2 p.m. Classes are free and are led by a certified EAL teacher.

For more information or to join the class, contact:

Jacqueline Dheere  
Settlement Facilitator  
jdheere@retsd.mb.ca  
Phone: 204.339.1984

## Canadian Workplace Culture—Virtual Workshops

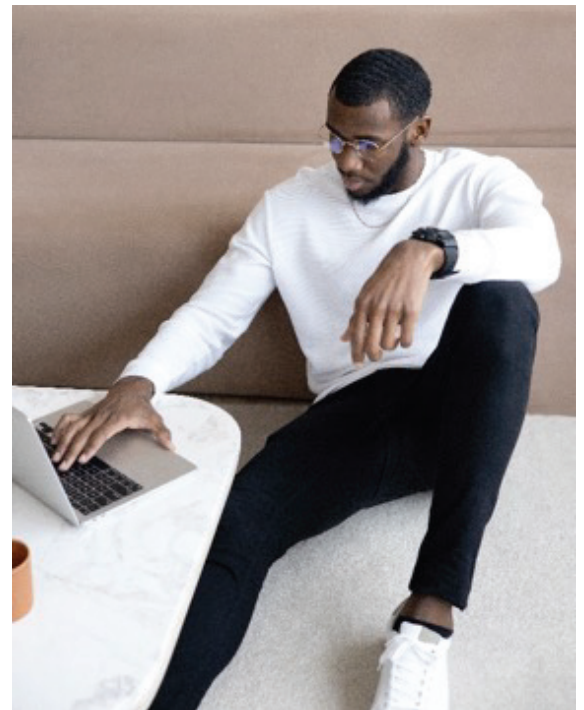
This free workshop is designed to help newcomers recognize the differences between the Canadian workplace and those from other cultures. Topics like Canadian values, workplace etiquette, body language, soft skills, and workplace conversations are introduced and discussed with the participants. The goal is to assist newcomers in understanding what is expected of them to be successful in the Canadian workplace.

Part 1—Thursday, March 3, 1–2:30 p.m.

Part 2—Thursday, March 10, 1–2:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, contact:

Jacqueline Dheere  
Settlement Facilitator  
jdheere@retsd.mb.ca  
Phone: 204.339.1984



Watch out for thinning ice on ponds, rivers, and lakes in the spring.

### Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness for New Clear Hard Ice.

7 cm (3") or less  
**STAY OFF!!**

No ice is without some risk.  
Be sure to measure clear hard ice in several places.



Lifesaving Society  
The Lifeguarding Experts

www.lifesaving.mb.ca



## Workplace Communication (Introduction to Email)—Virtual Workshops

This free workshop is an introduction to everything you need to know about receiving, replying to, and writing email in the Canadian workplace. Topics like formal and informal language, as well as gender-neutral language, are discussed. Participants will have a chance to analyze and understand what makes a well-written basic email message.

Part 1—Thursday, March 17, 1–2:30 p.m.

Part 2—Thursday, March 24, 1–2:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, contact:

Jacqueline Dheere  
Settlement Facilitator  
jdheere@retsd.mb.ca  
Phone: 204.339.1984

## Spring Break Camps for Kids—March 28–April 1

Many organizations and sport clubs offer spring break camps for kids. Look online for more information about camps, ages of kids, activities offered, and fees. If you are interested in more information about spring break camps for kids, speak with a settlement worker.

YMCA/YWCA of Winnipeg—[www.ywinnipeg.ca](http://www.ywinnipeg.ca)

FortWhyte Alive—[www.fortwhyte.org](http://www.fortwhyte.org)

University of Manitoba Mini U Programs —[www.umanitoba.ca/mini-u](http://www.umanitoba.ca/mini-u)

Assiniboine Park Zoo Spring Break Camp—[www.assinaboinepark.ca/programs](http://www.assinaboinepark.ca/programs)

## Learning English Tips

Are you looking for a fun way to practise your listening skills? The website ESL Video has many videos with quizzes to test your listening abilities. ESL Video has a wonderful selection of videos for all levels from beginner to advanced. You can find the website at [www.eslvideo.com](http://www.eslvideo.com). Check it out! It's free!



# New Journey Housing

Housing Resource Centre for  
Newcomers to Canada



Rental supports - how to  
find housing in private  
market and apply for  
subsidized housing



Access benefits - we can  
help you apply for benefits  
like Rent Assist, GST, CCB  
and file income tax



Home Purchasing - how  
to buy a home



All services are  
FREE

# New Journey Housing

Housing Resource Centre for  
Newcomers to Canada



## Contact us!

204-942-2238

info@newjourneyhousing.com

Appointments ONLY  
Monday-Friday 930-5

200-305 Broadway  
Winnipeg MB  
R3C 3J7

[www.newjourneyhousing.com](http://www.newjourneyhousing.com)

# DOING YOUR TAXES WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

The Canada Revenue Agency's Outreach Team invites you to a series of information sessions

Find out what benefits and credits you may be eligible to receive!

**Benefits** – Canada child benefit, child disability benefit, Canada workers benefit.

**Credits** – Disability tax credit, age credit, GST credit, medical expenses, home accessibility tax credit.

Other topics that will be covered include:

**Don't be a victim** – learn how to be scam smart.

**Where to get help** filing your 2021 Income Tax and Benefit return.

**Post-secondary Students** – Tuesday March 1, 2022 & Saturday March 12, 2022

**Adults 65+** – Thursday March 3, 2022

**Disability Tax Credit** – Wednesday March 9, 2022

**New to Canada** – Tuesday March 15, 2022 & Saturday March 26, 2022

**Indigenous** – Thursday March 17, 2022

**Benefits and credits for all** – Wednesday March 23, 2022

*All sessions will be approximately 1 hour*

*Weekday sessions: 7pm CT/6pm MT*

*Saturday sessions: 11am CT/10am MT*

Please register for any or all of the sessions by [clicking here](#)

\*\*\*The password for all events is: **Outreach1!**\*\*\*

## FREE INCOME TAX FILING DROP-OFF SERVICE ONLY

ACCESS TRANSCONA—845 REGENT AVE. W.

- **STARTING MARCH 8–APRIL 29, 2022**
- **AS A CONTACTLESS SERVICE, A DROP-OFF FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT WITH YOUR RETURN**
- **DROP-OFF FORMS AVAILABLE AT FRONT DESK AT 845 REGENT AVE. W. — MUST BE COMPLETED AND INCLUDED WITH TAX SLIPS**

### **Eligibility:**

- One person up to \$35,000
- Couple up to \$45,000
- Each additional dependent \$2,500

**NOT eligible:** (including if a client filed for bankruptcy in 2020)

- Self-employed
- Have more than \$3,000 interest income
- Have rental income
- Are filing for a deceased person



### **BE SURE TO BRING THE FOLLOWING (IF APPLICABLE)**

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. T4 INCOME, T4RIF, T4RSP, T4As (including CERB, CRB, CRSB)  | 6. T22202 TUITION RECEIPTS     |
| 2. T5007 INCOME ASSISTANCE  | 7. CHILDCARE EXPENSES          |
| 3. T4E EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE   | 8. PROPERTY TAX BILL           |
| 4. T5, T3, T5008 (interest, dividends, capital gains)   | 9. RENT/RENT ASSIST RECEIPTS   |
| 5. MEDICAL RECEIPTS (e.g., prescription drugs, dental bills, eyeglasses, foot care, physiotherapy, chiropractor, private health insurance premiums, medical travel insurance) | 10. RRSP CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS |

**For more information, contact:**

**Stacy Boone, WRHA community facilitator, at [sboone@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:sboone@wrha.mb.ca) or 204.223.6535.**



## CONTACT FREE INCOME TAX DROP OFF SERVICE

March 1- April 30, 2022

Access River East, 975 Henderson Hwy, Monday to Friday  
8:30-4:30pm

COMPETE AND SIGN THE TAX INFORMATION SHEET AND PUT  
IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR TAX PAPERS AND RECEIPTS



### Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)

#### The CVITP is

A collaboration between the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and community organizations. The community organizations host free tax preparation clinics and arrange for volunteers to prepare income tax and benefit returns for eligible individuals who have a modest income and a simple tax situation.

#### BE SURE TO BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. VALID GOVERNMENT PHOTO ID                                       | 6. CHILDCARE BENEFITS AND EXPENSES  |
| 2. T4, COPY OF LAST PAYROLL  | 7. RRSP CONTRIBUTIONS               |
| 3. T4E, T5007 STATEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND OTHER BENEFITS | 8. MEDICAL RECEIPTS                 |
| 4. RC62 (UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE BENEFIT STATEMENT)                    | 9. RENT ASSIST DOCUMENTS (RECEIPTS) |

#### Family Income Eligibility

- One person: up to \$30,000
- Couple: up to \$40,000
- One adult with a child: \$35,000
- Each additional dependent:  
+ \$2,500

#### You are not eligible if you

- Are self-employed
- Have more than \$1000 interest income
- Have rental income
- Have more than \$100,000 foreign property
- Are filing for a deceased person

## Protect yourself: detecting, avoiding and reporting immigration scams



Are you or someone you know going through the immigration or citizenship application process? Unfortunately, there are people out there who try to take advantage of immigration and citizenship applicants.

### Falling for fraud can have disastrous results

Whether these people are “crooked consultants” or simple criminals, the scams they push on applicants can have disastrous results, such as the applicant losing money, having their application denied, or being barred from entering Canada. Other results of these scams can include:

- identity theft
- money stolen from your bank account or credit card
- computer viruses

### Always keep in mind

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is committed to detecting and combating fraud, and to protecting potential immigrants and Canadians alike from falling victim to scams. Here are some things that all prospective applicants should remember:

- No one can guarantee you a job or a visa to Canada.
- Only immigration officers in Canada, and at Canadian embassies, high commissions and consulates can decide to issue a visa.
- Processing fees for our services are the same in Canada and around the world. Fees in local currencies are based on official exchange rates. They are the same amount as fees in Canadian dollars. IRCC does not recognize gift cards or cryptocurrencies (bitcoin etc.) as a payment for processing fees.
- We will ask you to pay fees for Canadian government services to the “Receiver General for Canada” unless we state something different on a Canadian visa office website.
- Be wary of representatives or individuals charging a fee for supporting documents, such as Labour Market Impact Assessments and job offer letters, etc.

### Our employees will never:

- ~ ask you to deposit money into a personal bank account
- ~ ask you to transfer money through a private money transfer service
- ~ offer special deals to people who want to immigrate
- ~ use free email services, such as Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo Mail to contact you
- ~ contact you via social media
- ~ threaten to have you removed from Canada if you do not send money.

- You do not need to hire a lawyer or consultant to help you apply – that decision is up to you. You will find [free application forms and guides](#) for all our services on our website.

- Be careful if the salary of a job you are applying for seems too high.

### What to do if you spot a scam:

To report an Internet, email or telephone scam, contact the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) toll-free at 1-888-495-8501. Outside of Canada, report the scam to your local police.

Call the Canada Border Services Agency [Border Watch Toll-Free Line](#) at **1-888-502-9060** to report offences such as, but not limited to:

- suspicious activity at the border
- a marriage of convenience
- a person who has given false information on an immigration application or
- a person wanted on an immigration warrant

**For more information on detecting, avoiding and reporting fraud, please visit [Canada.ca/immigration-fraud](https://Canada.ca/immigration-fraud).**

# Take it Slow in Ice & Snow

A Message from Curtis Basso, Director of Transportation



Oh boy, it's been a tough winter—and it isn't over yet! The never-ending snow and extreme cold have been a challenge for us all. With very little places to put the snow, the windrows at street corners combined with slippery conditions can make it difficult for drivers to come to a stop when they see our school buses.

Remember—we're carrying precious cargo!

So, please adjust your driving to suit the conditions, especially when you see one of our many buses on your commute—keep your eyes peeled for their stop signs and our students. The piles of snow that line streets can make for tempting hills to climb, so parents, please talk to your children about the danger of slipping into traffic and advise them to stay on the sidewalk.

And drivers, be especially alert when driving near schools. Student safety is all our responsibility. Take it slow, and we will all get to where we need to be, safely.



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 @RETSDtransport