



## What is SSWIS?



## Settlement Support Workers in Schools

Providing in School Support to Newcomer Students and their Families



SSWIS stands for **Settlement Support Workers in Schools**. The SSWIS program is a partnership of the Saskatoon Open Door Society, Boards of Education and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. It is a school based outreach program designed to help newcomer students and their families settle in their school and community. The first few years in Canada are particularly difficult for newcomer students and their families. SSWIS connects newly arrived families to services and resources in the school and community in order to promote settlement and foster student achievement.



Saskatoon  
Open Door  
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### Saskatoon Open Door Society

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### Partnerships:

Immigration, Refugee and  
Citizenship Canada

Saskatoon Public Schools

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

Le Conseil de écoles fransaskoises

Prairie Spirit School Division

Saskatoon Open Door Society



## Who is SSWIS for?

The SSWIS program focuses on newcomer families that are in the first few years in Canada and on newcomers that have unresolved first year settlement needs.

## Why locate settlement workers in schools?

Schools are one of the first services that newcomers connect with in the community. With the cooperation of the school, the SSWIS worker will systematically contact all newcomers and refer them to specific services.

## What schools are involved in SSWIS programs?

SSWIS is provided in all  
Saskatoon Public Schools,  
Catholic Schools and  
Fransaskois Schools  
(*Elementary and High Schools*).

All other schools are welcome to call for assistance.

## How do SSWIS workers help?

### The SSWIS worker seeks to:

- Support successful school integration by identifying barriers in the school system and providing education, information and guidance to students, parents, teachers, and school administrators
- Help students transition to life in Canada by providing, practical guidance, culturally sensitive counselling, and immediate intervention in crisis situations
- Increase communication effectiveness by providing linguistic and cultural interpretation to students, parents, teachers and other service providers
- Increase student and parent awareness about the total range of opportunities and services available to assist them in settlement by providing information and practical guidance throughout the school year either individually or in small group sessions
- Advocate on behalf of students and their families
- Promote respect for cultural diversity by informing and educating school personnel, parents, students and the community regarding refugee and Immigrant issues



### Settlement Support Workers in the Library

Settlement Support Workers in the Library is a program run in partnership with Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) in 7 libraries located in different neighbourhood in the city. The goals of the program is to make settlement support services more accessible to newcomer families in the summer months when school are closed by bringing SSWIS worker into different SPL locations. The services provided through this program includes one-on-one settlement information sessions, referrals and community outreach. This program runs in July and August in libraries located in communities with a high newcomer populations.