

WORK CENTRAL AB

Settlement Services

Free Support to Help You Settle In Successfully

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

Settlement Services Across Central Alberta

Settlement agencies exist specifically to help newcomers navigate the practical and emotional work of building a new life in Canada - often at no cost. This guide covers what these services typically offer and where to find them in Central Alberta.

1. What Settlement Services Typically Include

- **Orientation and information** - help understanding Canadian systems, from health care to schooling to workplace culture.
- **Language services** - language assessment and referral to LINC or ESL programs (see our English Language Programs guide).
- **Employment services** - resume support, mentorship, bridging programs, and connections to local employers.
- **Community connections** - helping newcomers build social networks and access public services.
- **Government paperwork support** - help with forms for AHCIP, SIN applications, and other essential registrations.

2. Key Organizations Serving Central Alberta

Catholic Social Services - offers immigration and settlement services free of charge, in English, French, and more than 50 other languages.

Care for Newcomers - provides language classes, youth settlement support, community resource referrals, cultural education, and employment support programs.

Bredin - delivers LINC language instruction for newcomers in the Red Deer region.

Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association (CAIWA) - supports the social, economic, and cultural inclusion of immigrant women and their families.

Red Deer Local Immigration Partnership (RDLIP) - coordinates community partnerships and planning around newcomer needs across Central Alberta.

3. Other Helpful Resources

- **Alberta Supports Contact Centre** - a provincial resource connecting residents with family, social, and employment supports.
- **Career Assistance Network** - offers employment-focused services for diverse clients, often at no cost thanks to government funding.
- **Red Deer Public Library** - beyond books, the library offers newcomer-specific resources including language learning tools and citizenship test preparation.

4. How to Access Services

- Most settlement agencies accept walk-ins or phone inquiries - you generally don't need an appointment to get started.
- Services are typically available regardless of how long you've been in Canada, though some federally funded programs (like LINC) have specific immigration status requirements.
- Many organizations offer services in multiple languages, so language barriers shouldn't stop you from reaching out.

5. Building Your Support Network

Settlement agencies are also a natural starting point for building community - many host social events, workshops, and cultural programming that go beyond their core services. Attending even one or two events can be a low-pressure way to start meeting people in a similar stage of settling in.

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Common Questions

Do I have to be a permanent resident to access settlement services? Not always - many services are available to a broad range of newcomers, though some federally funded programs like LINC have specific status requirements.

Is there a cost to these services? Most core settlement services are free, funded through federal and provincial newcomer support programs.

Can settlement agencies help with my resume? Yes - most offer employment-focused support alongside their settlement services, including resume help and job search coaching.

Settlement Services Checklist

- ✓ Identified at least one settlement agency in your community
- ✓ Reached out for an orientation or initial appointment
- ✓ Asked about language, employment, and paperwork support available
- ✓ Explored Alberta Supports for broader social service connections
- ✓ Looked into community events hosted by settlement organizations

Keep Settling In With Work Central AB

See our Community Support Organizations and Cultural Associations guides for more ways to build connections locally. Visit **workcentralab.ca/resources**.