

Introduction to our Services



Campbell River Comox Valley North Island

www.ImmigrantWelcome.ca

Date:

Presentation to:

By:

Mission



The Multicultural and Immigrant Services Association of North Vancouver Island (MISA) assists local communities in attracting and retaining newcomers by providing education and professional services to members of those communities while offering advocacy for vulnerable populations and settlement services, thereby fostering welcoming and inclusive communities.

MISA Vision Statement



A North Island region that embraces diversity and inclusivity while actively engaging with the vibrant cultures in the region, and where newcomers feel welcome, safe and respected.



Client Services



- Help with Forms & Documents
- Citizenship, Immigration & Refugee Protection Support
- Digital Literacy
- Employment Support
- LINC English Classes
- Settlement Worker in Schools (SWIS)
- Interpretation & Translation
- Housing Information
- Health Care Information
- Addressing Education Needs
- Citizenship Preparation
- Child Care & Family Concerns
- Income Tax Intake and Referral
- Access to Legal Aid, Canadian Law and Human Rights

Settlement Services 2022-2023



1,149
Clients served



94 Client program sessions

138.5
Hours of language interpretation



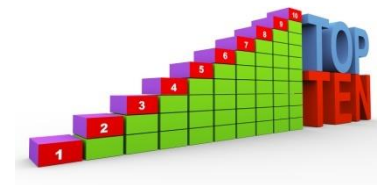
6,371
Services Provided



99 Countries of origin represented by our clients

Top Ten Countries of client origin

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Philippines | 6. South Korea |
| 2. Ukraine | 7. Great Britain |
| 3. Vietnam | 8. USA |
| 4. China | 9. Mexico |
| 5. India | 10. Syria |



Client Programs



- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)
- Book Club
- Conversation Group
- Youth Integration Programming
- International Seniors Group and Family Recreation
- Citizenship Preparation Classes
- Settlement Orientation
- Community Presentations
- Open House



Volunteers



- The support and participation of volunteers is important to the organization and we take great pride in all of our volunteers who dedicate their time serving our community
- Without such great volunteers we have had over the years, we would not be able to succeed.
- 46 volunteers within CR/CV
- 1,498 volunteer hours in 2022 - 2023





- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada, also called LINC, is a nationwide language program led by a qualified instructor.
- Students learn the practical language needed for life in Canada and make measured progress through Canadian Language Benchmarks for listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- 147 language students in Comox Valley, Campbell River, and the North Island
- Provided 93 Language Assessments in Comox Valley and 55 in Campbell River



Community Partners



**Angel Tree Society
Campbell River Art Gallery
Campbell River Chamber of Commerce
Campbell River Family Services Society
Campbell River Literacy Association
Campbell River Office Service BC
Campbell River Syrian Refugee Support Committee
Campbell River Transition Society / Ann Elmore House
City of Campbell River
City of Courtenay
Community Futures Strathcona
Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce
Comox Valley Community Health Network
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre
Comox Valley Family Services Association
Comox Valley Lifelong Learning Association
Comox Valley Refugee Support Group
Comox Valley Regional District Recreation Department
Comox Valley Transition Society**

**Comox Valley Ukrainian Cultural Society
Creative Employment Access Society
North Island College
North Island Employment Foundation Society
RBC Campbell River
School District 71
School District 72
Service BC Courtenay Office
Service Canada – Courtenay
Strathcona Regional District
The Shoebox Project
Tidemark Theatre Society
Town of Port McNeill
Vancouver Island Regional Library, Campbell River
Vancouver Island Regional Library, Courtenay
VIVRS Discover Your Abilities
Volunteer Campbell River
World Community Education Development Society**

Thank you to our Funders



**Immigration, Refugees and
Citizenship Canada**

**Province of BC Ministry of Municipal
Affairs**

**Province of BC Gaming Policy &
Enforcement Branch**

**WorkBC: North Island Employment
Foundations Society (NIEFS) &
Creative Employment Access Society
(The JobShop)**

RBC Campbell River

History



- 1992** MISA is incorporated
- 1997** Hosted the first annual Walk for the Elimination of Racism
- 2002** Started the English Conversation and Social Group for immigrants 50 years and older
- 2003** Youth 4 Diversity started
- 2005** Safe Harbour program introduced to the community
- 2007** First International Dialogue on Racism is hosted
- 2009** Youth 4 Diversity received the Nesika Award
- 2011** Opening of the Comox Valley office
- 2012** MISA accepted the Welcoming Communities Award on behalf of Campbell River
- 2013** MISA awarded Not-for-Profit of the Year by Campbell River Chamber of Commerce

History



MISA appoints new Executive Director, Jim Brennan.
New Staff position created for settlement in North Island

MISA celebrates their 25th anniversary and new logo

Executive Director appointed to National Advisory Committee for the Community of Practice

Successfully managed the safety of clients and staff while continuing to provide services during COVID 19 pandemic

Celebrated MISA's 30th Anniversary with special events in each community.
Welcomed new Executive Director, Shams Alibhai

2015

2017

2019

2021

2023

2014

Funding transition to CIC. MISA awarded the Riasat Ali Khan Diversity Award by AMSSA

2016

20th Anniversary of the "Walk Away From Racism"

2018

Successful completion of LINC pilot program.
MISA represents BC LIPS at National Settlement Conference

2020

Largest ever funding contracts received, two 5-year regional contracts with IRCC

2022

Celebrated our 30th anniversary. Launched updated interactive website. Awarded the Riasat Ali Khan Diversity Award by AMSSA. Opened new office in Port McNeill