



AAN Newcomers with Disabilities

November 30, 2021
 Teleconference
 Minutes of Meeting

Chair: Mezaun Lakha-Evin

Present

Michael Farr (EmployAbilities)
 Fiona Hayes (CIWA)
 Eva Jones (U of C / AAN)
 Arevik Tokmajyan (CLIP)
 Kate McDougall (CFN)
 Jenny Krabbe (CIWA)
 Pratibha Singh (ILRCC)

Wandyer Paquiz (U of C / AAN)
 Mezaun Lakha-Evin (AAN)
 Ermira Kusari (AAN)
 Shiri Dirisina (U of C / AAN)
 Ben Patmore (CCIS)
 Christopher Gordon (CNIB)

1.	<p>Land Acknowledgement</p> <p>Welcome and Introductions</p>
2.	<p>October minutes - Approved</p>
3.	<p><u>Newcomers with Disabilities Environmental Scan and Resource List</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - So far, 50 agencies North of Red Deer have been identified as potential agencies that could be invited to the Newcomers with Disabilities table. - Information included: services and supports that they provide. They have branches throughout the province or in certain cities across Alberta. <p><u>Feedback required for a U of C research project on building the capacity of immigrant serving agencies to provide occupational safety information and worker rights training to new immigrants.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mezaun will be connecting with the University of Calgary to identify ways in which AAN can support data collection. - CIWA has a number of services and bridging programs when it comes to employment that cover the basics (taxes, EI, calculate pay, workers rights and responsibilities). Some programs have more time dedicated to this topic. Trainers are trained and certified to ensure that they can deliver the program (a key occupational safety feature). Food safety certification is another certification offered. It is important that people gain the knowledge and confidence to ensure their safety in the workplace. When it comes to accommodations, HR is responsible to ensure that those are in place during the hiring process or after being hired. CIWA partnered with Naomi Lightman from the University of Calgary in this 12-month initiative that will highlight immigrant women's unique lived

experiences working in long-term care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<https://www.ciwa-online.com/resources/news/more-than-just-a-health-care-aide.html>

- At CNIB, they work with clients to be aware of the accommodations they need and how to appropriately disclose their needs and request accommodations. CNIB also reaches out to employers as well to raise awareness about hiring people with sight loss. The stigma around people with sight loss continues to be a challenge.

- EmployAbilities: with many newcomers, culture plays a significant role when it comes to asking or not asking for accommodations and worker's rights. The industry in Alberta also is geared towards not reporting safety hazards and incidents. In addition, newcomers often fear of losing their status or job if they report incidents or safety concerns in the workplace.

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/par%C2%ADa%C2%ADlyzed-filipina-tem%C2%ADpor%C2%ADary-for%C2%ADeign-work%C2%ADer-to-meet-with-health-min%C2%ADis%C2%ADter> (this link talks about a how when temporary worker was struck on her way to work, what we did as Canada. We didn't have anything in place at the time, some wanted to send her back to her country with her medical bills, while others wanted to care for her.)

Inquiry from a rural Disability agency regarding the development of an app to provide COVID-19 updates regarding issues related to settlement, immigration, legal rights, employment, mental health, schooling, trustworthy information on settlement, immigration, legal rights, employment, health.

- Apps can be a useful tool however the idea of an app is not necessarily useful or accessible for newcomers, how it can be useful to them and how we can ensure that people know about it.

- Welcome to Alberta is a settlement mobile app designed to help immigrants and refugees to achieve a smooth and successful transition into their life in Canada. The mobile app will help newcomers to be able to access information on immigrating to Canada in a centralized fashion.

RDSP program promotion, information sharing and challenges

- Many newcomers are not aware of the program and how it can support them.
- Banks have separate departments that handle the accounts when it comes to RDSP, therefore going through bank branches can be challenging as they employees are not aware fully aware of the program.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CtFJYwgHg0- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRc5NRKLRzo <p>Phone It Forward</p> <p>- Phone it Forward is a CNIB program that gives smartphones to people with sight loss who need them: https://www.phoneitforward.ca</p>
4.	<p>Wrap-Up/Adjournment</p> <p><u>Next meeting:</u></p> <p>Date: TBD</p> <p>Time: 1:30 – 3:30 PM</p> <p>Location: Zoom</p>
