

Around Town



Don't forget!

- **May 4**
Grasslands
Literacy Night
- **May 22**
Office Closed
- **May 17**
Job Fair

Job Fair

On May 17, from noon to 3 p.m., Brooks & County Immigration Services will host the first of several Job Fairs. This will be an opportunity for clients to meet one-on-one with employers and respond to employment ads.

"It's no secret the economy has been bad in Alberta over the past few years," said Ryan Kiedrowski, Employment Counselor at BCIS. "We are seeing signs of improvement, and many clients want to market their skills to local employers."

The unemployment rate in Alberta peaked last November at

9% and has gone down slightly (reported as 8.3% in February, 2017). Many of these new jobs have been in the part-time sector, and Brooks businesses have begun posting "Help Wanted" ads again.

"The main barrier is connecting skilled workers with employers," Kiedrowski continued. "Events like the Job Fair at BCIS meets those needs."

Employers from different sectors will be on hand.



For more information contact Ryan at 403-362-0404.

VOLUNTEER NEWS



Cafe Conversation

The Cafe Conversation is held twice a week (Mondays & Fridays) and is designed to help new Syrian immigrants integrate into the community. By doing this, they have an opportunity to interact with others in the community.

They also use this as a platform to improve their English language skills. It is through such interactions that they learn new social skills and also make good friends. The group is facilitated by our dedicated volunteers, Brian and Norma Dunlop.



Café Conversation at BCIS

Temporary Foreign Worker Corner

A recent research study focused on TFWs and the challenges they encounter in Canada; and what needs to be done to enhance their stay.

When asked about the greatest challenges for TFWs in their community, respondents most often cited language barriers (73%). Isolation, difficulty changing jobs, and violation of workers' rights each had a 48-50% response rate. Lack of job security, barriers in accessing services, and lack of access to permanent residence were all cited by 45-48% of respondents.

Some respondents felt that employers regularly took advantage of migrant workers' vulnerability.

One respondent from an urban settlement agency stated, *"It is very difficult to see how TFWs are dependant [on] their employers, and how most employers take advantage of this situation."*

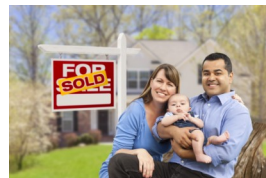
Ideal service provisions that respondents cited included; more one-on-one support counselling, increased information sessions on migrant worker rights, more community connections programs to decrease social isolation, language programming, legal advice, employment mentoring & skills training, and advocacy.

One respondent in a small city felt that her organization was providing the right services, but needed more staff to provide these services due to the high demand.

In a related issue, the government is taking the abuse of TFWs very seriously. Business owners in Red Deer who employed six (6) TFWs and constantly abused and exploited them, have been found guilty by the courts and are awaiting sentencing on May 11, 2017.

<http://www.reddeeradvocate.com/>

WHAT'S GOING ON!



Buying a House

Find out what is involved when you start thinking about owning your own home.

Sunday May 28 1-3pm



TFW orientation.



CONNECT WITH US

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Brooks, Alberta

Phone: 403-362-0404 ~ Fax: 403-362-0435

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8.30am-4.30pm
 Wednesday 8.30am-7.00pm
 Friday 8.30am -2.00pm

www.bcis-brooks.ca



@askBCIS

City of Brooks Recreation Services

Join the City of Brooks as they share information on the new JBS Canada Centre.

Sunday May 7 1-3pm

Job Fair

Meet with employers one-on-one.

Don't forget your resumé!

Wednesday May 17 12-3pm



Newcomers

Workshop

Important information for newcomers to the community.

Wednesday May 24

TWO Sessions 11am-12pm or 5-6pm

Lunch & Learn Series

Held on the last Wednesday of each month.



Wednesday May 31 12-1 pm

