

Our new Volunteer Coordinator: Argaw Argaw



My name is Argaw and I am the new Volunteer Coordinator at BCIS.



After arriving in Canada from Ethiopia with my family, I lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba for about two years and recently moved to Brooks.

After completing my undergraduate studies in management, I began working as a trainer and administrator of human resources in the telecom industry. Most recently, I was the Volunteer Coordinator at Newcomers Employment and Education Development Services (NEED Inc), in Winnipeg.

I enjoy watching soccer, listening to music, reading personal development books and spending time with family and friends.

I look forward to matching your volunteer interests, knowledge and skills with the diverse volunteer opportunities in Brooks and area. BCIS offers on-going training which would enable you to be successful in whatever volunteer position you are assigned.

National Animal Of Bangladesh



The Bengal tiger's coat is yellow to light orange, with stripes ranging from dark brown to black; the belly and the interior parts of the limbs are white, and the tail is orange with black rings.



Family Members

A B R E H T A F O	
V R J P P P H M X	
H O E J U N O H X	brother
U T F T W T O U K	daughter
S H I C H U P S E	father
B E W E U G C Q G	husband
A R R N F N U N X	mother
N S I S T E R A V	sister
D F L A Q E Q X D	son
	wife

March Newsletter Contributors:

Check us out!



Mohammed Idriss
Heather Kazimir
Criselda Narvacan



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We want to hear from you! If you have anything you would like to add to the BCIS express please contact the office!!



BCIS OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY	8:30 - 4:30
TUESDAY	8:30 - 4:30
WEDNESDAY	8:30 - 7:00
THURSDAY	8:30 - 4:30
FRIDAY	8:30 - 2:00

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Our Community



The curtain just came down on the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games. For 17 days, 2,873 athletes from 88 nations competed in 98 different events. The cost is estimated to surpass US\$51 billion, making this the most expensive Olympics in history. Lots of numbers, isn't it.

The Olympics is much more than just numbers. There are currently 204 recognized Olympic Nations. That is more than the membership of the United Nations, which has about 192 member states. The two main events of the Olympic challenge are the summer and winter games. Most tropical countries do not compete in the winter games. The Olympics is where athletes from around the world come together in peace to play sports and bring nations closer together. I am sure the beautiful opening and closing ceremony, all the cultural events that happen during the games, and the Paralympics that follow, are

all but a confirmation that this is more than just a game.

I am not sure about you, but I did have my fair share (and may be a bit more) of TV time during the games, of course mainly following our great Canadian athletes, who once again proved they are the best. We came back with a total of 25 medals. Ten of those were gold, ten were silver and five were bronze. That puts us in third place after the host country, Russia and second place Norway.

Congratulations team Canada, and see you all next in Rio, Brazil for the 2016 Summer Olympics! Pyeongchang, South Korea will be host for the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Til next time, have fun!!!

"I don't regret the things I've done, I regret the things I didn't do when I had the chance." – **Unknown**



The opening ceremonies in Sochi.

READING LEVEL GUIDE:

Easy	
Intermediate	
Advanced	

TFW Corner

Who can apply for an open work permit?

You may be eligible to apply for an open work permit if you are in one of the following situations:

- 1) You are already working in Canada and your application for permanent residence has been approved under one of the following :
 Spouse or Common-law Partner in Canada class
 Live-in Caregiver Program
 Federal Skilled Worker Program
 Canadian Experience Class
 Provincial Nominee Program
 Federal Skilled Trades Program
 humanitarian and compassionate grounds

You may also be eligible if you are a family member of someone whose application for permanent residence has been approved under one of the above.

- 2) Your spouse is:
 a skilled worker in an occupation under the National Occupational Classification (NOC) skill type 0, A or B ,
 a foreign student
- 3) You are in Canada under a federal-provincial/territorial immigration agreement, including an [active pilot project](#), or you are a spouse or dependent child

of someone who is in Canada under a temporary foreign worker annex of a federal-provincial/territorial immigration agreement with an applicable [pilot project](#).

- 4) You are a full-time student enrolled at an eligible publicly funded post-secondary educational institution or you are in an approved program at an [eligible privately funded institution](#).
- 5) You have a temporary resident permit valid for at least six months.
- 6) You are participating in the Canada World Youth Program; or [International Experience Canada](#) .
- 7) You have filed a claim for refugee protection in Canada and you are waiting for the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada to decide on your claim; and you cannot pay for your basic needs without working.
- 8) The RPD has rejected your refugee claim but the Government of Canada is not yet ready to remove you from the country and you cannot pay for your basic needs without working.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"How do you divide your love among four children?"
 "I don't divide it. I multiply it."

Question of the Month

The longest snake in the world measured:

- A) 25 ft
- B) 22 ft
- C) 30 ft

You can send us your answer via email to ryan.kiedrowski@bcis.brooks.ca.

We'll post the answer in next month's BCIS Express!

Answer to last month's question: Windsor, Ontario.

Newcomers and Canadian Taxes



Do you have to file a tax return?

You become a **resident of Canada for income tax purposes** when you establish significant residential ties in Canada. You usually establish these ties on the date you arrive in Canada.

As a resident of Canada for income tax purposes for part or all of a tax year (January 1 to December 31), you must file a tax return if you:

- owe tax; or
- want to claim a refund.

Even if you have no income to report or tax to pay, you may be eligible for certain payments or credits.

In order to receive the following payments or credits, you must file an income tax return.

- the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit;
- Canada child tax benefit payments; and
- payments from certain related provincial or territorial programs.

Save the Date!

English Language Assessment

The team from SALAS will be at the Brooks Campus of Medicine Hat College on **Wed. March 12**.

They will hold two assessment sessions, starting at **9:30 a.m.** and **4:30 p.m.** To book an appointment, call the Brooks Campus at (403) 362-1677 and speak with either Lorelei, Khmla or Marian. You can also call SALAS toll-free at 1-888-329-4811 or email salasld@telus.net.

Generally, your income tax return has to be filed **on or before April 30** of the year after the tax year.

To find out if **you are eligible for help at the BCIS office**, use the income levels shown in the table below.

Maximum income levels: Tax-payer status	Family Income
Single person	up to \$30,000
Couple	up to \$40,000
One adult with one child	up to \$35,000

For each additional dependant you have, add \$2,500 to the family income. You should not have interest income of more than \$1,000.

BCIS Calendar of Events

- Vehicle Insurance**
Sunday March 9 1:00 pm
- Hunting and Fishing guidelines**
Sunday March 16 1:00 pm
- Lunch and Learn**
March 26 12:00-1:00 pm
- Newcomer Orientation**
Sunday March 30 1:00 pm

2014 Olympic Fun Fact: There were 12 new events in the Olympics this year including women's ski jumping.