



THE BCIS EXPRESS

BLIP NEWCOMER EVENT

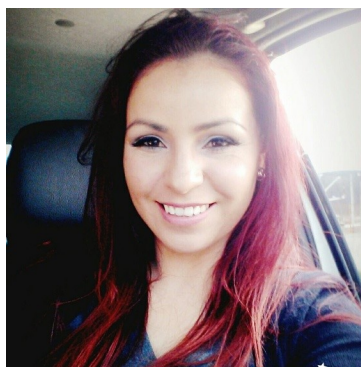
February 2017



Brooks Local Immigration Partnership hosted an event for all newcomers to Brooks. With over 20 local organizations, newcomers had an opportunity to learn about the services offered in the community as well as enjoy some fun activities, dance and meet other newcomers.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Thank you to
Nancy Erdin Farfan
and **Jamaal Suldaan**
for volunteering to work
at the front desk for
most of January. We
truly appreciate the time
you spent assisting us!



1000 Faces of Brooks: Our Children, Our Future

Each year we observe **March 21**, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It was first proclaimed back in 1966. You may have seen some of the previous events over the years in Brooks. We try to hold a major event, leading up to a Unity Walk on that Tuesday.

This year, the lead-up campaign will be interesting and engaging and this time we are looking to our children. Entitled the **1000 Faces of Brooks: Our Children, Our Future**, the committee will be gathering a thousand faces of local youth for a large banner that will be used during the Unity Walk. If you would like to submit a picture, check out our Facebook page (March 21 Eliminate Racism) or call our office at 403-362-0404 and ask Heather or Ryan for more details.



Unity Walk 2016

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE BY Jamaal Suldaan



My name is **Jamaal Suldaan** and I was born in Somalia. I am married and have a beautiful daughter named Isra. Both my wife and daughter are in Africa and I always visit them.

Volunteering is more than working without getting paid. I have an extraordinary passion to help others in the community. I dedicate time to help others in the community. It is our responsibility to help each other. If you follow your passion, it will lead you to your purpose. If you do what you find is interesting, you will enjoy the experience.

Volunteering is mutually beneficial, because while you are dedicating

your time to help others in the community, you are gaining huge life experience. Therefore, volunteering improves and increases your general knowledge. The time I spend time to help others, I gain worthwhile knowledge.

Volunteering is also fun. When you are at home, you feel bored. You need to search for entertainment. Outside activities are very important. It makes you an energetic and active person. Volunteering at BCIS is not my first volunteering experience. I have volunteered a number of times before. I helped Somali speakers in Winnipeg. I started volunteering at BCIS in November of 2015. My aim was to do interpretation and translation in BCIS, but Gurpreet, the volunteer co-ordinator, placed me in the high school to help our youth. My main job was to tutor the youth. I was working with Joseph, Saido and other volunteers. I was helping them to understand lessons and assignments. I was also helping them to build confidence and self esteem. Our youth are the generation of tomorrow; they are the leaders and the politicians of the future. We want to invest and educate them. Doing this, I have gained lots of practical experience. It reminds me of my youth and my high school

education. It refreshed my memory.

I also assisted with filing income tax returns. Professional BCIS staff trained me to do that. I gained an amazing amount of experience that I hope will help me in the future.

Volunteering experience is not limited to youth and filing income tax returns. At this moment, I am volunteering at the reception desk. This is the hardest placement I have ever had. My job is to direct incoming calls to the right person (counselor), and book appointments.

It is my responsibility to make sure I am accurate with what I am doing. It is a great benefit to me to do this. I will never forget the experience I have gained, it is unforgettable.

In general, whenever I see "people serving people" I feel happy because it shows me the tremendous effort that our citizens are making. If we do not serve our Brooks community and our country, we will not be as developed and successful as we can be. If you have little extra time, BCIS staff is ready to welcome you. You will enjoy it. Together, we can build a better community. Better work leads to a prosperous and better future.


TFW CORNER by Kofi Adu-Parko

Changes to the TFW Program

The Federal Government has announced changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. As of December 13, 2016 an application in progress is no longer subject to cumulative duration, whether it is work with a permit or without a permit. However, some requirements of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* (IRPR) should be met, along with other eligibility criteria, such as the need for a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA).

For applications where a final decision is reached before December 13, 2016 cumulative duration applies. Closed files will not be re-opened for reconsideration; however, an applicant previously refused solely on the basis of

paragraph R200(3)(g): [“has the foreign worker been employed in Canada for a cumulative period of four years...?”] may submit a new work permit application if all other requirements are met. The applicant may, necessarily, have to include the payment of any applicable fees.


YOUTH HAPPENINGS by Saada Abdalla


My name is **Saada Abdalla** and I am part of the BCIS youth group. I am Oromo and I am from Oromiya, which is part of Ethiopia. I live with my six siblings and my mother in Brooks. My family came to Canada in December 2013.

When I was new, I had some difficult times

with the language. I first went to school in Winnipeg, Manitoba and it was difficult to

speak in English.

When I got

on the bus I could not tell the driver where I was going. I moved to Brooks, Alberta in September 2014 and started school at Brooks Composite High School. I make new friends in my new school. When I joined the BCIS youth group, they helped with homework assignments, helped me speak English and took me on field trips to the Calgary Zoo, and Science Centre (Telus Spark). I enjoy the youth group and we have a lot of fun.

Save the Date!
English Language Assessment

The team from SALAS will be at the Brooks Campus of Medicine Hat College for two assessment sessions.

Tuesday, February 14, 4-8 pm

Wednesday, February 15, 9 am-1 pm

To book an appointment, call the Brooks Campus at (403)362-1677 and speak with Lorelei, Khamla or Marian. You can also call SALAS toll-free at 1-888-329-4811 or email salasltd@telus.net.

**Bay 2-500 Cassils Road East
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



Connect with us!

www.bcis-brooks.ca



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THE GAMES ROOM

Valentine's Day Word Search

Find the hidden words associated with St. Valentine's Day.

K O C X X D L E C N H F F R I M T E
G D B A I V A U W S V A M O U R J W
W G W O P U P P A R R P U P V R B K
K F I S P I Y A D E S O C G U U B G
S U L F D X D S A W D D M B W O L X
S D F W T S C S R O R S F E G M B T
S O E B A S S I L L A N F L O A E W
W M W A S P K O I F C U W O T R J Q
E X M G R B P N N N E N F V Z A I N
E L S Y S E Z E G F I G I E F P C O
T I X G T G S Q Q C J K A D F C U W
H Q A W V S U T Z T U P C R S N U F
E P H P T L E N G A P M A H C V R R
A Q S R U E Z V E O E C F K J L K P
R P A N E B J B O P T C I U C X Y I
T E U O A D J W N R V J N A H O C V
H C C H O C O L A T E M N A X B V W
F V A L E N T I N E A D C A M T B O
V E V O L B Z J A N Y T K F R O Q F
P X I T N R F E V O L E U R T H R E
H C N O W S M E O P Y X E K W D J O

AMOUR
BEAU
BELOVED
CANDY
CARDS
CHAMPAGNE
CHOCOLATE
CUPID
DARLING
DEAREST
FLOWERS
GIFTS
HEARTS
LOVE
PARAMOUR
PASSION
POEMS
ROMANCE
ROMEO
SWEETHEART
TRUE LOVE
VALENTINE

All About Puzzles
puzzles.about.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS



Vehicle Insurance

Make sure you have the correct insurance for your vehicle and know what to do if you have an accident.

**Sunday, February 12
1pm**



Immigrant Women's Breast Health

Get the facts and ask questions to be sure you have important information regarding your health.

**Saturday, February 11 & 25
2 - 4 pm**



Family Day

Office closed

Monday, February 20



Newcomer Orientation

Important information for newcomers to the community.

PLUS

Protect yourself From Fraud

Join us as we hear stories of fraud attempts in Brooks and how to protect yourself.

**Sunday, February 26
1 pm**



Lunch & Learn Series

Held on the last Wednesday of each month.

**Wednesday, February 22
12-1 pm**