

# Support Networks for Rural Newcomers to Alberta Research Project

## WHY JOIN?

### Network!

**Given its title, a Support Network of key municipalities will be established to help guide this project. This network will allow municipal leaders to connect, learn, and collaborate to better support newcomers unique to their municipality. Sharing knowledge is key to increasing capacity!**



### Unique Programming

**Through the creation of the Support Network, AAISA will take the findings and discussions to create sustainable programming to support the rural network. AAISA will directly support municipalities by leveraging existing programming through tool development, training, platform development, and other tools as determined through the Support Network.**



# WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

## 1. Survey

**A Needs and Asset Assessments survey of your municipality. The aim is to identify the needs and assets of each municipality so that systems, policies and supports already in place can be leveraged to increase the capacity of network members to meet newcomers' needs. The survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.**

## 2. Support Network Focus Groups

**Meetings will engage stakeholders to collaborate and share successes and challenges. The first meeting will be held in November 2022, with a minimum of seven meetings over the project lifespan, from November 2022 until 2024, but can meet more frequently if needed.**

## 3. Interviews with AAISA Staff

**In between the focus group meetings, AAISA staff will conduct voluntary one-on-one interviews to explore each municipality's local context and needs more deeply to better inform programming and recommendations.**

# DEFINITION OF NEWCOMER



Please note that when we refer to “**newcomers**”, we are referring to individuals who are new to Canada and have gained **status** in the country through the various entry systems available such as:

- **Permanent residents** who gain this status through the **federal skilled worker** program and **family sponsorship**.
- **Government Assisted Refugees (GAR)** are individuals determined to be a refugee by an organization and given **permanent residence** in Canada with the assistance of the **Canadian Government**.
- **Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR)** are individuals determined to be a refugee by an organization and **sponsored by a private or community group** to claim refuge in Canada.
- **Temporary residents** are individuals who are given **residence in Canada for a specific period of time**. Temporary residents include Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) and those issued **student visas, temporary resident visas or temporary resident permits**.
- **Refugee claimants** are individuals who have travelled into Canada and have **claimed refugee status** and are **awaiting the Canadian governments response to their claim**.

If you are interested in learning more, our [AAISA Toolkit](#) provides more information on various terminologies used in the settlement and integration sector and the various entries of arrival of newcomers into Canada.