



# The Connection

"Keeping our community connected"

## MAY 2021

Monthly Newsletter of the East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc.



### ECNWC OFFICE UPDATE

Our office hours are Monday to Friday from 8am to 12pm and 12:30pm to 3:45pm. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are closed to the public but still booking individual client appointments. Call (306)783-2777 to book an appointment

**Our Office will be CLOSED on May 24 for Victoria Day.**

### Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Minister Mendicino announced a new pathway to permanent residence for over 90,000 essential workers and international student graduates who are actively contributing to Canada's economy. Starting May 6, 2021, this pathway will allow eligible international graduates, who studied in Canada, as well as temporary workers in health care and other essential occupations, to apply for permanent residence. IRCC will accept applications under these policies from May 6 - November 5 2021, or until a program stream has reached its limit: 20,000 temporary foreign workers in health care, 30,000 temporary foreign workers in selected essential occupations, 40,000 international graduates.

Learn more about the new pathway to permanent residency for over 90,000 essential temporary workers and international graduates by clicking [HERE](#).

### **FUN Fact about Canada!**

In 1816, Canada didn't have a summer! The country's eastern population was snowmobiling in June and thawing water cisterns in July. Trees shed their leaves and there were reports of migratory birds dropping dead in the streets. Ironically, as eastern Canada stayed cool, the Arctic warmed, creating flotillas of icebergs off the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. At the time, it was thought that the icebergs were the cause of the cooling. What was the real reason? In 1815, the Tambora volcano erupted in Indonesia, spewing tonnes of ash and dust into the air. Less sunlight reached the earth and this caused the planet's surface to cool. The volcanic eruption changed the climate in different ways around the world, but Eastern Canadians were treated to the summer that just didn't come. Hopefully that never happens again!

*We provide free settlement services to newcomers and their families within the East Central region. It's our goal to provide the information, referrals and advice you may need to assist in your settlement!*

*Call our office at (306) 783-2777 if you have ANY questions. We are happy to help you!*

## **This is HOME**

### **Meet Maria de Jesus Morales**

Maria and her family moved from Mexico to Bredenbury in 2019. She currently works on a chicken farm and studies English at the Parkland College in Yorkton. There are many things that Maria likes about Canada!

*"I like spring, the colorful flowers and the green grass. In autumn, the color change of the leaves is very beautiful. Winter is a bit long but we love the snow. And in every season, there are things to do for fun. There are very friendly people, it is very clean and above all it is a very quiet place where you can walk, ride a bike and nobody bothers you. I have 3 kids and they all go to school, they are speaking English. I am grateful to the East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre for helping in taking care of the children..." - Maria*



### **EXPLORE our Community!**

Have you ever visited the snake pits north of Pelly, Saskatchewan? If not, now is the time and it's quite the sight to see! With the arrival of warmer temperatures, red-sided garter snakes (which are harmless) begin seeping out of crevices where they've spent the winter hibernating and begin their mating season. Tens of thousands of snakes blanketing the forest undergrowth. A gathering of this many snakes is not a common occurrence and only takes place in a handful of sites in North America.



To see this fascinating marvel of nature, take the grid road north of Pelly for 5 km to the sign for Fort Livingstone. Head west for 2.7 km to the historic marker, then continue another 0.2 km past the marker to a clearing between two bushes. Park here and walk north only a few metres to the riverbank. This sight is short-lived, usually for only a couple weeks or so in early to mid-May. Call the Pelly village office for updates. To learn more click [here](#) or google the Fort Livingstone or Pelly Snake Pit.

For more information and updates, please visit and like our [East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Facebook Page](#).





# Community Activities & Event

Here is a list of some of the upcoming activities or events happening in our community!  
If you are interested in any of these please call our office at (306) 783-2777 and we can help you register and /or attend with you.



## Citizenship Test Tutorial

Education / Permanent Residents

- WHAT?** If you have applied for Canadian Citizenship and need help preparing for your Citizenship Test, this forum is for you! We will review the Discover Canada study guide and you will learn tips to help you succeed!
- WHEN?** May 5, 1:00 pm to 3:00pm
- WHERE?** Online through ZOOM.
- COST?** FREE. Must register by emailing [sallard@ecnwc.ca](mailto:sallard@ecnwc.ca) or call our office.



## SGI Information Session

Education / Adults

- WHAT?** A virtual workshop hosted by the SGI Community Outreach program that will provide information to newcomers about driving and vehicle registration here in Saskatchewan.
- WHEN?** May 19, 1:00 pm to 2:00pm
- WHERE?** Online through ZOOM.
- COST?** FREE. Must register by emailing [sallard@ecnwc.ca](mailto:sallard@ecnwc.ca) or call our office.



## Victoria Day

Statutory Holidays in Canada

- WHAT?** Victoria Day is a federal Canadian public holiday celebrated on the last Monday preceding May 25. Initially in honour of Queen Victoria's birthday, it has since been celebrated as the official birthday of Canada's sovereign.
- WHEN?** Monday, May 24, 2021
- WHERE?** It is informally considered to be the beginning of the summer season in Canada so many people enjoy the outdoors weathers that's by camping or planting their gardens!



**CALL FOR VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS**

We are seeking applications from individuals who share our values and mission to help our clients achieve their settlement and integration goals.

The Board of Directors provides strategic planning and support, fiscal oversight and policy development to our organization

For more information please visit our website at [www.eastcentralnewcomercentre.ca](http://www.eastcentralnewcomercentre.ca)

## Multifaith Festivals in May

- Baha'i Faith** May 1 – Twelfth Day of Ridvan  
May 16 - Azamat  
May 23 – Declaration of The Bab  
May 28 – Ascension of Baha u'llah
- Buddhism** May 26 –Wesak (Buddha Day)
- Christianity** May 1 – Holy Saturday  
May 2 – Pascha (Orthodox Easter)  
May 13 – Ascension  
May 23 – Pentecost  
May 30 – Trinity Sunday
- Islam** May 7 – Jum at al-Wada  
May 7 – Layla al-Qadr  
May 13 – 'Td al-Fitr
- Jainism** May 1 – Shrimad Rajchandra Dehvilay  
May 15 – Akshaya-tritiya
- Judaism** May 17-18 – Shavuot
- Scientology** May 9 – Dianetics Day
- Shinto** May 15 – Sanja Matsuri
- Wicca** May 1 – Beltane
- Zoroastrianism** May 4 – Ghambar Maidyozaem ends
- Aboriginal Spirituality**  
May – Penawen (Moon of the Camas Harvest)  
May 25 – 28 – Aboriginal Awareness Week

## **Supplemental May 9 – Mother's Day**

These dates were highlighted in the Multifaith Calendar which is distributed by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan.



**EAST CENTRAL NEWCOMER WELCOME CENTRE INC.**

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