

Vernon and District Immigrant and Community Services Society

VDICSS is an important community resource for newcomers to Canada and to Vernon. Our agency provides settlement services, basic employment services, language instruction, a tutoring program and WorkBC employment services.



Vernon and District Immigrant and Community Services Society

Our Services

Settlement Program

Needs Assessment and Referrals

Provide formal reviews of clients' needs across a broad spectrum of settlement areas and connect clients to settlement and community-based services.

Information and Orientation

Provides clients with information about Canada and their community, helping clients develop the life skills they need to integrate into Canadian Society.

Language Training

Support clients in developing the English language skills required for the labor market and/or navigating life outside work.

Employment –related

Equip clients with employment-related skills and support in accessing the labor market; including preparation for the credential assessment process.

Community Connections

Help connect clients with the broader community, public institutions and community organizations. These services also provide opportunities for partners, volunteers and local community members to be actively engaged in settlement programming.

Orientation and information on community services.

Help with familiarizing and adapting to Canadian culture and new surroundings.

Instructions on getting a Social Insurance Number (SIN) and medical (MSP).

Information on steps for assessing your credentials.

English classes; beginners, intermediate, tutoring.

Resume building

Job search and employment assistance.

Self-employment information.

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)

Vernon & District Immigrant Services Society provides free English language training through the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) program. Students learn and practice English through settlement-related topics such as housing, banking, transportation and community resources while learning more about the community of Vernon through field trips and guest speakers.

- Vernon and District Immigrant Services offers 3 language levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Upper-Intermediate/Advanced.
- Licensed childminding for children aged 3 months and older is available at no cost for parents attending class.
- Classes CLB Level 4 and above are eligible for the English Language Requirement when applying for Canadian citizenship.

How to Register

1. To be eligible for the free classes at Vernon and District Immigrant Services, you must have one of the following documents:
 - Permanent Resident Card
 - Confirmation of Permanent Residence/Landing Paper/IMM 1000
 - Letter of Approval (Permanent Residence or Provincial Nominee Program)
 - Citizenship certificate
 - Live-in Caregiver Work Permit
2. Make an appointment with the Language Coordinator.
 - Call: 250.542.4177
3. Take the Language Assessment; VDICSS is a National Certified Assessment Centre
 - An English level placement test will be taken to determine your current CLB (Canadian Language Benchmark) English level and the appropriate class.

Community Connections Tutoring Program

Vernon and District Immigrant Services offers Volunteer Tutors in Vernon and Enderby for one on one tutoring as well as Conversation Groups. Improve your English, Set your own hours, and meet new people!

If you are interested in joining the tutoring program, please call or email Theda at 250-542-4177 or connectionsvdiss@shaw.ca

You'll have the opportunity to:

- Make a difference in someone's life
- Contribute to your community in a meaningful way
- Learn about other cultures

- Gain new insights into your own culture
- Develop new friendships that might not be otherwise available to you
- Obtain volunteer experience

Steps to Becoming a Tutor

1. Contact the Coordinator at VDICSS.
2. Fill out and submit a Volunteer Tutor Application Form provided by the Coordinator.
3. Meet with the Coordinator for an interview.
4. Complete part one of the tutor training. The training is offered online and will take approximately 1.5-2 hours. If you are unable to complete the training online, contact your coordinator for more information.
5. Complete the second part of the tutor training. This free classroom session will give you “hands-on” practice with tutoring materials and a chance to meet other tutors.
6. Meet with a learner, for the first time, together with your Coordinator.

WorkBC Employment Services

Personal Services and Supports

- group workshops or individual sessions
- training services
- customized job placement and work experience placement services for clients with barriers to employment
- self-employment assessment services

In some cases, financial supports are available for eligible clients.

To be eligible for personal services and supports you must be unemployed and legally allowed to work in British Columbia.

You are considered unemployed if you:

- are not working
- are working an average of fewer than twenty (20) hours per week, AND
 - are actively seeking full-time employment
 - are unable to work full-time because of a disability, but want to work more hours
- have received a notice that you will be laid off soon
- must leave your current job because of a medical reason
- are at significant risk of losing your employment because of a disability

Full-time students are not considered unemployed.

To legally work in BC you must have a Social Insurance Number. If your Social Insurance Number begins with a “9”, contact your WorkBC Employment Services Centre to discuss eligibility.

Not all unemployed BC job seekers are eligible for personal supports and services—your WorkBC Employment Services Centre will help find out what services and supports are right for you.

Temporary Foreign Workers/International Students

TFW’s are eligible for services at the centre. Please call for services available.

Licensed Childcare Centre

For clients with children our facility offers a licensed 400 square foot child care room. The space for the children of clients accessing Settlement services, life skills, employment and education Services is well equipped for babies 3 months and children up to five years of age and can provide an area for the children up to the age of 12 years. This is a free service, offered to eligible clients.

Please call 24 hours in advance if you require childcare

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WelcomeBC



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