

Settlement Services in the Bow Valley

Settlement Services in the Bow Valley (SSVV) provides free and confidential supports and services for Permanent Residents of Canada, Refugees, and CUAET Visa Holders (Ukrainians). Our school support also extends services to all foreign-born students and parents including Temporary Foreign Worker families. SSBV services are funded by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). SSBV provides services across the Bow Valley and has been providing services since 2011.

Staff - 11 full-time staff members – 3 staff members dedicated to school services:

- Settlement Worker in Schools (40 hours / week)
- Settlement Worker in Schools (35 hours / week)
- School Programmer (35 / week) – dedicated to school group activities

N.O.W. Program (Newcomer Orientation Welcome)

- Grades 7 to 12 - Recruitment of 25 Peer Leaders: May/June
- Peer Leader Training: 4 days, 2nd week of August
- N.O.W. Program for newcomer students Grades 7 – 12 led by Peer Leaders, 3rd week of August
- Schooling in Canada Parent Orientation - K-12 parents, 1 full day, 3rd week of August

Orientation for Newcomers Students

- Lead the reception of newcomer students including registration for school, provide a Newcomer Family Schooling in Canada 3-hour Orientation including “Welcome to School in the Bow Valley” Handbook, and Newcomer Intake Questionnaire (shared with schools)
- “Youth Connector Program” - newcomer student matched with a settled immigrant student with regular check-ins
- In-Depth Needs and Assets Assessment and Referrals (NAAR) - completed with grade 7-12 students to develop a settlement plan and ensure understanding of path to graduation and post-graduation options

Orientation for Newcomer Parents

- Lead the reception of newcomer parents including child’s registration for school; provide a Schooling in Canada Orientation along with “Welcome to School in the Bow Valley” Handbook; In-depth Needs Assessment and Referrals (School Needs) and In-depth Needs and Assets Assessment and Referrals (General Settlement); Living in Canada as a Permanent Resident of Canada Information Session; “Passport to Settlement in Canada” distributed to systematize Settlement Plan and coordinate connections to service providers for the first year in Canada; ongoing Settlement Services provided individually and in group sessions
- Schooling in Canada 4-Part Workshop Series: Skill Building for Parent for Child’s Success in School; Report Cards and Assessment, Kindergarten, Grade Advancement and Graduation
- Appointment with Settlement Services counsellor upon arrival to Canada and ongoing as needed
- Community Connectors Program match – newcomer with long-term resident to familiarize newcomer with community and services

- Specialized Workshops – Parent Teacher Meeting Preparation, Cross-Cultural Parenting, Family Reunification
- Monthly Newsletter - containing information and resources for successful settlement
- Daily Facebook Posts
- Specialized workshop and focused support for Foreign-born parents
- Focus group research into family reunification and other schooling needs

Student In-School Supports

- On-site Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) support – 2 full-time positions
- Settlement Programmer – full-time position to support school group-programming
- Fund an on-site language learning class for Grades 9-12 – BCHS
- After School Program – Banff Elementary School Grades 1-4
- Leadership Program – Banff Elementary School Grades 5-6
- Wellness Program – Banff Elementary School Grades 7-8
- Homework Club Grades 7-12 – *implementation for 2023-2024 school year*
- Specialized 1 Day Information Sessions – Mental Health; Family Reunification; Post-Secondary 3-Part Series; Wildlife Awareness; Living in Canada as a Permanent Resident and more

Student Summer Supports

- 🚩 Summer Language and Activity Program – Month of July, Monday to Thursday afternoons
- On-going support of School Settlement Workers

School Staff and Administration

- Cross Cultural Workshops for School Staff
- School Newsletter – share link to Settlement Services Newsletter
- Parent-Teacher Interview support
- School meeting and committee representation
- Special Event Participation
- Open Forum Consultations – with immigrant students, parents
- Collaboration with Learning Support Team/ESL/teachers and staff
- On-site school settlement worker support
- Provision of Interpreters and Translation services for meetings with families/parents/students

Service Limitations

While settlement workers will be able to perform a wide variety of services for their clients, they do not have the mandate to:

- Translate/interpret in **non-settlement** contexts or without settlement staff participation
- Act as an in-class Teaching Assistant
- Provide extensive support to International Students, Children of Foreign Workers, or Canadian Citizens; however, all students and families will be wrapped into group programming but with limited one-to-one support