

MEDIA RELEASE

April 2025

Provincial Grant Fuels Inclusive Community Growth in Smoky Lake

Smoky Lake, Alberta – The Town of Smoky Lake is proud to announce it has been awarded \$211,520 from the Government of Alberta, through the Ministry of Immigration and Multiculturalism, to enhance newcomer support through a new Newcomer Navigation Supports Program.

This two-year initiative will strengthen community capacity, improve information-sharing networks, and promote intercultural inclusion. The goal is to make it easier for newcomers to access timely, accurate information and feel a strong sense of belonging in the Smoky Lake region.

The program will be led by a Newcomer Navigation Facilitator who will act as a community connector - working with schools, businesses, health services, libraries, and local organizations to ensure that resources are accessible, programs are culturally responsive, and residents - new and long-standing - feel welcomed and informed.

"Smoky Lake is a community that welcomes growth while staying true to its roots," said Amy Cherniwchan, Mayor of Smoky Lake. "This initiative gives us the tools to grow thoughtfully - by strengthening the way we connect with newcomers and ensuring every resident feels informed, included, and proud to call Smoky Lake home."

The initiative emphasizes systems navigation, community awareness, and building partnerships that support sustainable inclusion. Activities will include newcomer-friendly materials, intercultural events, and strategic interagency coordination to reduce barriers and improve service access.

"This funding gives us the chance to strengthen the way we connect as a community," said Rachelle Amyotte, FCSS Director. "It's about building systems that feel welcoming, inclusive, and easy to navigate for anyone who chooses to make Smoky Lake home."

Launching in spring 2025, the program complements broader regional initiatives such as the Rural Renewal Stream by supporting not just newcomer attraction but long-term retention and integration.



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