

CIRCULAR

Date: March 7, 2012

CIRCULAR NUMBER: EIA #2012 - 21

Alternate Program(s):

To: **Winnipeg** Community Social Service Supervisors

Subject: Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council – Welcome Place

Reference:

Type: Policy Replaces # _____
 Procedure
 Rate
 Information Only

Effective Date _____ Immediately _____

The intent of this circular is to highlight important updates to the Letter of Agreement between Welcome Place and EIA. Specifically, a process for handling refugee claimants without immigration documents and Government Assisted Refugees whose federal funding ends mid-month:

- Refugee Claimants may or may not have any immigration documents. If they do not, staff from Welcome Place will accompany the refugee claimant to Immigration to initiate the refugee claim process. Welcome Place will provide EIA with a letter confirming the process has been started. This is sufficient to verify that the refugee claimant plans to reside in Manitoba and it is sufficient to enrol the participant (assuming all other eligibility criteria are met). The outstanding immigration documents will follow (usually within three months).
- Government Assisted Refugees transferring from Federal support to EIA will be eligible to receive prorated assistance effective the day after the Federal support ends.

Staff are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the entire updated Letter of Agreement.

Background:

Welcome Place is operated by the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council Inc. (MIIC) and oversees the operation of a number of accommodation units in Winnipeg. The MIIC promotes and supports the protection and resettlement of refugees and offers a range of services that welcomes and assists refugee newcomers in their settlement and integration into Canadian society. MIIC strives to enable independence and full participation of these newcomers in our community.

The goals of the MIIC include: To welcome refugees/immigrants who come to Manitoba by:

- assisting them to adjust to life in Canada

- providing initial accommodation for all Government Assisted Refugees designated to Welcome Place and some Refugee Claimants (depending on space available)
- orienting them to the service provided to all citizens as well as settlement services directed specifically to newcomers
- developing comprehensive and continuing programs to familiarize them with the skills needed in daily life in Canada
- assisting them to find permanent accommodation
- enhancing their experience and potential to contribute to the community.

Dave Fisher, Executive Director
Employment and Income Assistance Programs

Michelle Dubik, Executive Director
Winnipeg Services, Community Services Delivery

Debbie Besant, Executive Director
Rural and Northern Services, Community Service Delivery

CC: Distribution List