



INFORMATION BRIEF

Meeting: June 23, 2025

SILP Grant Completion

DESCRIPTION:

The Town of Claresholm has successfully completed its Settlement, Integration and Language Program (SILP) grant, which funded the coordination of the Welcoming Claresholm initiative. Over the course of the project, we delivered dozens of events and activities focused on supporting newcomers, building inclusion, and strengthening community connections. Highlights include the Spread the World event, antiracism and diversity training, holiday potlucks, newcomer welcome boxes, the Newcomers Guide to Claresholm, media campaigns, Welcoming Week, an invested and active Committee, and consistent collaboration with partners like WCIS, FCSS, the Library, Social Centre, and other service providers. These efforts have led to increased awareness of available resources, a network of support, opportunities, and connections for newcomers, improved understanding of newcomer needs, and stronger cross-sector partnerships.

Participation in the Welcoming Claresholm Committee has grown steadily, with both newcomers and long-time residents volunteering, leading events, and helping shape a more inclusive community. With the grant's conclusion, the next phase of the project focuses on sustainability. With support from provincial Community Development Officer, the committee is now in the process of becoming a registered society. This transition will enable the group to continue its work independently, apply for future funding, and deepen its role in making Claresholm a welcoming place for all.

BACKGROUND:

The Welcoming Claresholm project was launched in 2022 through funding from the Settlement, Integration and Language Program (SILP), as a phase two to a previous SILP grant project, Community Takes Roots. Both projects were created in an effort to add elements of settlement and integration to our community in response to Claresholm's participation in the Rural and Northern Immigration Program. The goal of the project was to enhance the community's capacity to support newcomer integration by increasing awareness, reducing barriers, and building meaningful connections between newcomers, service providers, employers, and residents.

The Town of Claresholm partnered with Willow Creek Immigrant Services (WCIS) and other local organizations to deliver the project. Activities were led by Town staff with support from the Welcoming Claresholm Committee, an open, volunteer-based group that played a key role in hosting events, welcoming newcomers, and promoting diversity and inclusion. The SILP grant supported event delivery, marketing, newcomer engagement, stakeholder collaboration, and the development of tools like welcome boxes, a website, and newcomer guides.

PREPARED BY: Ali Hemmaway – Economic Development Coordinator

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney – CAO

DATE: 2025-06-18
