



Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016

## NEWS RELEASE

### Indigenous Welcome for Syrian Refugees

In response to the Syrian refugee crisis and the ongoing resettlement process across the four Saskatchewan reception centers (Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina and Moose Jaw; the partner agencies for the BRIDGES *(Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement)* project: Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies (SAISIA), Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS), the Aboriginal Friendship Center of Saskatchewan (AFCS) are pleased announce an Indigenous welcome event for Syrian refugees and others that arrived in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina and Moose Jaw since November 1, 2015 on the following days:

- **Prince Albert - February 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Albans Cathedral Hall from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**
- **Saskatoon - February 24<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Cathedral Hall, 123 Nelson Road from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**
- **Regina - February 26<sup>th</sup> at EVRAZ Place, 1700 Elphinstone St. from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**
- **Moose Jaw – February 29<sup>th</sup> at Mosaic Place Conference Centre from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

“This event will bring together Indigenous groups, Elders, representatives of settlement service providers, government officials, multicultural organizations and other members of the community to welcome newcomers in a way that honors Indigenous people and their relationships to this land we have come to call home,” said Beulah Gana, Executive Director for SAISIA. “We will learn about the Treaty relationships between Saskatchewan’s original people and all those who have settled here, and have information about First Nations, Métis and Syrian cultures.”

The event agenda include a grand entry, welcome, presentation on Treaty relationships, cultural information exchange, round dance and reception with light refreshments.

The BRIDGES partnership shares a common belief that a welcoming community is one that encourages and promotes positive aspects of cultural diversity and seeks out commonalities in humans by developing intercultural relationships between Aboriginal people and Newcomers.

This event is possible in part with funding from SaskCulture and community support.

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#### **For more information please contact:**

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