

LINC. the magic of Social Integration & Success!

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) is one of the principal areas through which the **Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)** helps facilitate the social integration of recent immigrants to Canada. Eligible applicants for this program are government and family sponsored refugees as well as others who have already become permanent residents. It is increasingly believed that participation at the LINC program is directly related to an expedited social integration process which, in turn, helps build an immigrant's personal and social wellbeing – the two vital keys for success in life.

Thanks solely to the generous funding we get every year from the CIC, we have been providing language instruction (Literacy to Level 4/5) for immigrants of Ethiopian and non-Ethiopian origin since the early 1990s. We now have a total of five classes, five fulltime teachers and four child-minders along with a fulltime program coordinator and a part-time outreach worker. Our student population is comprised of immigrants from Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Far East and Ethiopians, of course.

In addition to providing **computer supported** direct English language education to our students to help them improve in the four key skill areas: **Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking**, students attending our LINC program also benefit from other direct and indirect program supports and outcomes.

Some of the direct benefits include:

- Child-minding services for children from 6 months to 5 years old;
- Token/Transportation Support for those who qualify;
- School trips to historical places;
- Summer classes for children (Ages 5-12 Yrs) of LINC students,
- Support letter to social service agencies,
- General knowledge about the human and legal rights environment in Canada, and
- A better skill that would come in handy in the job industry and in the pursuit of higher/university education.

Some of the indirect benefits include:

- Survival Skills: A better opportunity to come out of social isolation, mix with people, fight stigma and discrimination,
- Accelerated social integration, exchange of ideas and knowledge between and across cultures,
- The development of positive attitude towards people of diverse cultures and/or interests, and

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- The realization of self-esteem and assertiveness – the building blocks of success in a new country.

What are the ongoing requirements demanded of a LINC-registered student attending classes with us? Once registered, any student registered at our LINC program (permanent resident) is expected to meet the following standards, if he/she wants to remain in the program and take advantage of the benefits that accrue (child-minding, token support and the like):

- Must attend classes fulltime, Monday – Friday, 9:00AM – 2:30PM
- Report status changes (Example: if he/she becomes a citizen, then he/she will no longer qualify).
- If he/she has started working (may not qualify for token, if adequate income is earned, and we will not issue support letter to social and children’s services).
- If parent and child stay out of school for three consecutive days because the child or the parent has been sick, we may require a doctor’s note for the child to protect the other children in child-minding from contracting communicable diseases.
- If he/she leaves the country for an extended period of time, and/or if he/she wants to return to the program six months after the first assessment at the YMCA-LINC Assessment Centre, then he/she must be re-assessed before we can admit him/her.

What to bring to us to book an appointment for assessment and/or when you go directly to the assessment centre:

- Your Permanent Resident (PR) card or an initial letter you received from Immigration Canada Refugee Board stating that your application has been approved (awaiting the issuance of the PR card);
- Your transcript/academic records to help the assessment centre determine which LINC level suits you best, and
- An ID showing your up to date mailing address and telephone number.

Those who are not eligible to apply at the LINC program, according to CIC regulations, include:

- Canadian citizens
- Refugee claimants, and
- Tourists/Visitors

We encourage Canadian citizens, refugee claimants and visitors who may have the need for language education, to apply to programs such as **English as a Second Language (ESL)** through school boards (TDSB & TCDSB). Unfortunately, we don’t have this program at the present time. We will diligently be working towards having one down the road.

For Further Information, contact:

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