

MISA Brochure

MISA is a community-based organization which welcomes newcomers and recognizes their essential role in Canada.

Founded in 1980, MISA is the primary immigrant serving agency in Nova Scotia. Staff and volunteers work together to offer programs and services to help newcomers in their efforts to participate fully in Canadian life.

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Services

Central Intake Services

The Central Intake process starts with a needs assessment to determine the clients needs and services eligibility. An action plan is developed, appropriate services are provided or referrals are made to other service providers. The follow-ups (based on need) ensure that clients are properly supported.

Orientation Services

Orientation services provide information and support to help newcomers develop their skills and knowledge to participate in Canadian society as quickly as possible. The services address personal needs of newcomers and are delivered via individual or group sessions at MISA and other appropriate places.

Settlement Services

Settlement services address the immediate to medium term settlement and orientation needs, ranging from everyday personal needs to dealing with systemic discrimination, to help newcomers integrate into Canadian life. The focus is on government assisted refugees.

Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)

RAP is a special program for Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) that provides for essential settlement and financial services within their first six weeks in Canada. RAP links GARs with social programs and community organizations that will help them to meet long term settlement needs.

Outreach/Crisis Services

Outreach/Crisis services provide support to newcomers who require additional support or experience serious difficulties or crises during the settlement process. Services include critical direct and emotional support, crisis intervention, follow-ups and referrals.

Canadian Language Benchmark Assessment (CLBA)

CLBA is a language assessment giving clients a clear and unbiased indicator of their language ability. Language educational options are discussed with newcomers afterward.

Translation/Interpretation Services

MISA provides settlement interpretation and translation services, including paralegal services, in approximately 20 languages. Volunteers and staff providing these services are trained and certified at the para-professional level according to federal standards.

Volunteer Services

Volunteer services recruit, train and coordinate volunteers to assist in delivery of many programs and services. Volunteers can be new friends under the HOST program, or ESL tutors, among other roles. Over 300 volunteers assist in service delivery in virtually every MISA Unit and Program.

Employment Services

Employment services assist newcomers in overcoming barriers and learning new skills necessary to access employment and educational opportunities. After an intensive needs assessment, services are provided via individual coaching sessions, group based programs, referrals and reference handouts. A staffed Computer Lab provides job search support and computer training.

New Beginnings Program (NBP)

NBP helps newcomers re-enter their former field of work. Participants must be referred by an Employment Counselor, take three core workshops, have a practice interview and complete a six-week, full-time unpaid work placement in this pre-employment program. Immigrant Entrepreneur Orientation Program (IEOP) IEOP provides information and contacts for newcomers wishing to establish businesses in Nova Scotia, and facilitates the involvement of immigrant entrepreneurs in the local business community. Services

are delivered through information and networking sessions, individual consultation, referrals and information handouts.

Speaker's Bureau

The Speaker's Bureau program trains newcomers to deliver effective cross-cultural presentations to groups and organizations in the community. It also responds to requests for presentations on issues such as immigration, diversity, respect and the settlement process. Presentations are designed to meet the needs of the audience.

Family Violence and Cross-cultural Awareness Program (FVAP)

FVAP raises awareness about family violence, parenting and cross-cultural issues among newcomers and service providers. Services are delivered via workshops for the community, newcomers, government and private organizations.