



Saskatoon Open Door Society

Welcoming. Connecting. Belonging.

For over 40 years, Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS) has been the front line in helping newcomer individuals and families settle in Saskatoon.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers support immigrants and refugees at every step of their settlement journey; walking side-by-side with those newly arrived, those in transit, and those in their home countries planning their travel to Saskatchewan. We help newcomers navigate everything from housing, healthcare, and employment to creating important social connections.

At the same time, we provide training and resources for members of the public and employers to embrace newcomers so they stay in Saskatoon longer, and contribute to a stronger, more culturally-connected community for all.

We are proud to welcome newcomers to Canada and help them settle in Saskatoon. After all, there's no place like home.

A Settlement Success Story

Born in Somalia, Ali Abukar was forced to flee his country at the age of 18. As a civil war raged on, he no longer felt safe in the place he—and generations before him—called home. He left many of his loved ones behind to live, study, and work as a refugee in Cairo, Egypt.

It was in Cairo that Ali learned more about forced migrants and refugees, and in Uganda where he met with people living in refugee camps to understand their unique experiences. Since then, he has earned a master of social work degree, two postgraduate degrees in migration and refugee studies, and an undergraduate degree in business administration. All the while, keeping one goal in mind: to settle in a safe place, and do the same for others that his sponsor did for him.

Now CEO of SODS, Ali helps immigrants and refugees find hope—and home—in Saskatoon.



By the Numbers

“When I’m visiting Saskatoon Open Door Society, it’s like I’m going home. Even if I’m having stress, I will be relieved and I will laugh there, I will be good there. It’s like when they say home sweet home.
—Hamsi, refugee



As one of the largest not-for-profit organizations in Saskatoon, SODS employs over **190 talented, committed staff** who are supported by over **300 dedicated volunteers**. Our employees speak a combined **68 languages**, and represent **38 countries around the globe**.

160+
countries represented by SODS clients, past and present

1,200+
delegates from 41 countries attended Threads: Cultural Conversations

1,160
job seekers secured employment thanks to Employment Services programming

10,418
new clients served in 2022-23

3,108
returning clients served in 2022-23

355
hours of English as a Second Language instruction offered every week

350
guests attended the annual Diversity Awards Gala, including more than 90 local employers

335
Afghan refugees received in one weekend — the largest intake in SODS history

Beyond Inclusion

“Human beings, we cannot live alone, we have to live in society. When social life is there, that means communication, mutual respect, mutual relations. Saskatoon Open Door Society is the entrance way because they can connect you to the society, to the places that can feed you, help you, and satisfy you mentally.
—Medhi, immigrant

We believe in a diverse and inclusive community where newcomers fully participate in economic, social, intellectual, and cultural life. That’s why we provide holistic, client-centered, and evidence-based programs and services that empower newcomers to become more engaged and connected. By helping immigrants and refugees feel at home in Saskatoon, SODS is strengthening the community in more ways than one.



Starting the settlement journey

Coming to a new country means coming face-to-face with many challenges. We partner with settlement and integration services in Saskatoon to provide information and referrals regarding documentation, banking, healthcare, housing, education, family support services, and more—giving immigrants and refugees the guidance they need to start their lives in Canada.



Providing tools to participate

Doors open when language is no longer a barrier. SODS offers language training, translation, and interpretation services to help newcomers of all ages understand and participate in life in Saskatoon—equipping immigrants and refugees with the confidence and competence to communicate in any scenario.



Contributing to a prosperous Saskatoon

Immigrants and refugees are eager to bring their training and experience to the Saskatoon labour market. We offer career counseling, workshops, and networking events to help job seekers develop the skills and connections they need to start or return to work—creating a more diverse and inclusive workforce and closing the skills gap in Canada.



Ensuring a vibrant future for our city

Families who settle together stay longer. We provide programs and events that help children, youth, and families preserve their heritage, find balance in their new way of life, and establish friendships that make their transition easier—resulting in generations of active and engaged residents who care about their community.



Building cross-cultural bridges

Creating an inclusive and diverse community starts with understanding. We provide opportunities for people of all backgrounds to celebrate their cultural heritage, share their stories, and cultivate cross-cultural relationships—deepening community connections by better understanding our similarities and differences.



Saskatoon
Open Door
Society

Newcomers need you.

We all have a role to play in creating an inclusive and diverse community. Find out how you can support our work.



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