

Below you will find a breakdown of the children that were supported during the past year:

Border Land School Division (Altona)

Range	Number of Children	Countries Represented
Early Years Pre-K - Grade 4	80	Syria, Philippines, Venezuela, Sudan, Columbia, South Korea, Ukraine, Russia, Nigeria, Uganda, India, Somalia, South Africa
Middle Years Grade 5 – Grade 8	55	Syria, Philippines, Venezuela, Sudan, Columbia, South Korea, Ukraine, Russia, Nigeria, Uganda, India, Somalia, South Africa, Eritrea
Senior Years Grade 9 – Grade 12	49	Syria, Nigeria, Venezuela, Paraguay, Philippines, Germany, Iraq, Eritrea
Total	184	

Mountain View School Division (Dauphin)

Range	Number of Children	Countries Represented
Early Years Pre-K - Grade 4	21	India, Morocco, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Philippines, Syria, Ukraine (But if you include Parents’country of origin –also Pakistan, Greece )
Middle Years Grade 5 – Grade 8	6	Nicaragua, Nigeria, Philippines
Senior Years Grade 9 – Grade 12	4	Philippines, Syria, Vietnam
Total	31	

Garden Valley School Division

Range	Number of Children	Countries Represented
Early Years Pre-K - Grade 4	67	Canada, Brazil, India, Mexico, Germany, Uganda, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Bolivia, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Ethiopia, United Arab Emirates, Russian Federation
Middle Years Grade 5 – Grade 8	27	Canada, Ukraine, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Russian Federation, Germany, Nigeria, Mexico, Jordan
Senior Years Grade 9 – Grade 12	18	Canada, Ukraine, Italy, Russian Federation, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Germany, Mexico, Nigeria, India
Total	184	

Western School Division (Morden)

Range	Number of Children	Countries Represented
Early Years Pre-K - Grade 4	30	Philippines, Algeria, South Africa, Nigeria, Canada, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Kazakhstan, Iraq, Hong Kong
Middle Years Grade 5 – Grade 8	11	Philippines, Ukraine, England, Bangladesh, Brazil, South Africa, India, Italy, Kazakhstan,
Senior Years Grade 9 – Grade 12	6	Philippines, Ukraine, England, Bangladesh,
Total	57	



# Volunteer Program

Written by Shepherd Chiwandire (Volunteer Coordinator)

In spring of 2021, Robyn Wiebe handed the torch to Shepherd Chiwandire who took the position of Volunteer Facilitator. Shepherd was excited to pick up where Robyn left off and continue to engage, support and connect newcomers to community members and external organizations within the Pembina Valley.

Volunteers continue to play a big part of the work that we do here at Regional Connections. Though we have a structured program that is in place, we realize that the success of this program would not be existent if it was not for you, the community. We want to extend our gratitude and thanks to you. We quickly learnt to adapt and adjust accordingly during the pandemic phase and despite the uncertainties, we continued to push one. We did see a fluctuation of volunteer retention and this was because of a variety of factors however, we were able to adjust and making sure protocols under Manitoba Health were prioritized for the safety of both clients and volunteers. We as an organization appreciated the efforts made by both volunteers and clients.

As we reach out to our communities for their continuous support, we also are motivated to find innovative ways to make our program a success. If there is one thing the pandemic showed us, it is the resilience of our communities.

Some of the highlights of our volunteer program:

## **Interpreters and Translation**

Volunteer interpreters have played a huge role when helping newcomers. We were able to provide interpretation between English and about 25 other languages. We have seen an influx of a few additional languages, requiring us to find more interpreters to meet these needs. To further accommodate clients, we had a few of our brochures translated from English into about five different languages. Thank you to our Staff as well who continue to provide interpretation and translation when needed.



## **Community Mentors**

The community mentor program continues to be active as we see more people arrive in our communities. We continue to promote community engagement in our different towns and cities. Since Our Community Mentorship program collaborated with the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot in Altona/ Rhineland, it has been a great working relationship so far and we continue to grow and work together.



## Language Buddies

Our language buddy program is a great way for our newcomers to practice their English skills out side of classes as well as to connect with and get to know others in an informal setting. Volunteers and clients continue to meet either in person or via video call. 65 volunteers and 51 clients matched.

## Success Story:

At first I was taking the lead in making connections, but gradually my wife, Ruth, came on board, especially as we tutored them planting their first garden ever at the community garden. That gave both of us lots of opportunity to connect and develop a friendship as families. They were very excited about learning how to grow their own food. It was also good to watch the excitement Gabriel had when he was promoted at Elmers Welding into the IT department giving him a job for which he is trained as well as a raise. We have had some interesting conversations about preparing for a cold winter such as they have never seen before. We also had them over at Thanksgiving to sample pumpkin pie, a staple in Canadian Thanksgiving. They had us over for coffee shortly before Christmas where we shared gifts with each other. Gabriel was also able to help me with a computer problem I was having so now ai don't have to depend on my son who lives in Steinbach. I can just call Gabriel. We look forward to continuing our friendship this year. In a sense it is a father/son relationship I have with Gabriel and for Ruth and Lina it is a mother/daughter relationship. We look forward to a good year of connection in 2022.



It has been a year of adjusting and adapting but overall a great year for our Volunteer Program. A big thank you to all our volunteers and all who have participated in various aspects!





# Dauphin

Written by Deborah Slonowsky (Regional Program Manager)

While Dauphin settlement services began in 2013, 2021/22 was Dauphin's second year as a Regional Connections office. Our clients, community members and regional stakeholders have come to recognize the expertise, services and programs offered by Regional Connections and depend on our office for settlement assistance and information.

The Dauphin office is staffed by two settlement workers (one full time and one part time,) a part time SWIS employee and a Regional Program Manager/LIP Coordinator. Regional clients can access online LINC classes instructed from the Pembina Valley and one of our settlement workers has been training with the language department so our office can offer in-person classes for clients who are unable to join online learning because of lower language skills.

Regional Connections now offers settlement support for newcomers living in Churchill. One of the Dauphin settlement workers is the contact person for Churchill clients and provides online and over-the-phone settlement services while community connection support is provided by Churchill partners. This successful collaboration is another example of how online technology and strong partnerships can overcome geographical distances and remove barriers to multi-region services.





For the second year, the global pandemic impacted the planned activities originally set out in the PVLIP Action Plan. However, with best practices learned from last year, it was an easier transition to continuing meetings and planned activities adopted to a virtual platform.

We were grateful to see our membership remain engaged during the 2nd year of added stress and increased workloads for many of the newcomer voices and sectors represented on our 2 councils and 3 working groups. Nationally, many LIPs have struggled with maintaining engagement through virtual meetings and increased social isolation combined with the uncertainty of this historic era.

Several planned action items were successfully completed along with expected activities from our contribution agreement. In addition, PVLIP was able to expand staffing by successfully gaining an additional grant from Heritage Canada to develop a Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Toolkit with a video series and resources focused on Diversity in the Workplace.

Overall, we had a successful year, with increased community engagement, as demonstrated with our fully sponsored Diversity Calendar where local employers contributed \$7000.00 to help cover the design and printing costs. 1700 copies were distributed throughout the Pembina Valley to help bring a greater appreciation for the diversity in our communities and workplaces!



PVLIP has a 5 year Action Plan, and the following successes occurred this during this 2nd Fiscal Year of activities:

1. Six Municipal Councils passed a resolution to adopt the Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Policy developed last year by PVLIP. This commitment will ensure ongoing engagement and collaboration between communities as we work together on initiatives.

2. Created an interactive Pembina Valley Service Map highlighting programs, services and resources in communities throughout the region. The intent is to provide newcomers a visual representation of where they can access information regardless of location. This will require ongoing partnership contributions to maintain accurate and up to date content.

3. The Communication Working Group created and launched the PVLIP Podcast Series. To date, 12 interviews highlight awareness on diversity, newcomer programs and services, as well as personal stories. This is completely volunteer led and has received recognition and support from Golden West Radio.



4.To help promote PVLIP in the community, we held our 2nd Annual 'Connecting Cultures & Communities Celebration' highlighting local and newcomer artists.They were interviewed and asked to describe their art as it relates to 'welcoming communities'. Seven 'Our Home' videos were produced and promoted on Facebook and our PVLIP You Tube Channel.

5.PVLIP conducted a comprehensive Immigrant Survey which had over 400 responses. After eliminating the incomplete or 'out of the region' responses, we had 271 that provided feedback on needs and gaps in the region. This data will provide a baseline for ongoing research and a full report is available.

In addition to these major accomplishments, 44 articles were submitted to the South Central Post (now discontinued) as a way to increase community awareness. Social Media engagement increased substantially: Instagram saw a 60% increase and [www.pvlip.ca](http://www.pvlip.ca) website had a 77% increase in new users. Facebook had a post reach of over 19,000.





# DAWCC

## (Dauphin & Region Welcoming Communities Coalition)

Written by Deborah Slonowsky (DAWCC Coordinator)

2021/22 was DAWCC's second full program year. Branding was finalized and the DAWCC website was launched ([www.dawcc.ca](http://www.dawcc.ca)) providing us with a recognizable logo and online presence. This past year, members of the Regional Partnership Council (RPC) and Immigrant Advisory Table (IAT) focussed on information-gathering to learn about regional newcomer needs. The result of that work is DAWCC's first Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Strategy which will direct DAWCC's work over the next three years.

DAWCC's three strategic priority areas were identified as: 1) Improving Social Inclusion, 2) Building Support Services and Improving System Capacity, and 3) Improving Labour Market outcomes.



As DAWCC heads into the action phase of its work, it is increasingly involved in information-sharing and learning opportunities such as providing support to a regional immigration recruitment initiative with the City of Dauphin and 5 surrounding municipalities and assisting a community volunteer group which is assisting Ukrainian families to relocate to the region.

The many successes and accomplishments of 2021/22 are due, in large part, to the vast knowledge and experience of PVLIP and Regional Connections' colleagues who help guide our region's work.

**To learn more about DAWCC, visit**  
**<https://dawcc.ca/>**

### Thank you to our funders:

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Financé par le  
gouvernement  
du Canada

**Canada**

**Funding Provided by:**  
**The Manitoba Government**

**..and more!**