

## Immigration and Refugee Services Questions and Answers

### External Stakeholders

January 2026 (Final)

#### 1. What is the Immigration and Refugee Services Project?

The Immigration and Refugee Services Project kicked-off in November 2025 in response to a [Situational Assessment Report](#) that identified a gap in legal aid services in Saskatchewan. This gap compromises access to justice for immigrants and refugees (I&R).

The project is focused on the development and implementation of legal aid funded refugee and immigration services in collaboration with existing service providers and community agencies.

Legal Aid Saskatchewan (LAS) hopes to offer immigration and refugee services this summer (2026).

#### 2. Where is the funding coming from for this project?

LAS submitted a business case to the Federal Government, Department of Justice (Legal Aid Program) for funding to deliver immigration and refugee services. Saskatchewan was one of only two provinces not funded to provide immigration and refugee services. The Federal Government, in November 2025, approved immigration and refugee funding to March 2028, pursuing its goal to create a national legal aid funded immigration and refugee program.

#### 3. What are the objectives of the Immigration and Refugee Services Project?

The key objectives of the project include:

- Addressing the access to justice needs of immigrants and refugees in Saskatchewan
- Delivering high quality, innovative services cost-effectively and efficiently
- Ensuring service provider collaboration and building a community response
- Deepening relationship with LAS' partners in the legal system and community
- Demonstrating national leadership in access to justice

**4. What is the status of the Immigration and Refugee Services Project?**

The project kicked off in November 2025. The initial months focused on project governance, planning and committee building, including the creation of the Immigration and Refugee Services Advisory Committee consisting of I&R service providers and community agencies. Discussions are underway regarding the I&R service delivery model and areas of coverage.

**5. How are I&R services going to be delivered?**

LAS intends to maintain its existing model of service delivery used in other areas of law (family, criminal), with staff services being the primary method for serving immigrants and refugees, and panel services in circumstances that warrant it (conflicts of interest, excess demand, expertise).

Lawyers, students at law, and regulated immigration consultants will provide the staff and panel services aimed at cost-effectiveness and efficiency. All staff and panel providers will have to meet quality standards to represent legal aid funded immigration and refugee clients.

**6. Which immigration and refugee areas is LAS planning to cover?**

LAS has some preliminary ideas regarding areas of coverage, including Immigration and Refugee Board-Refugee Protection Division Basis of Claim Preparation and Hearing Representation. LAS will consult with staff, existing service providers and settlement agencies to ensure the areas of coverage respond to community need.

**7. Is LAS consulting existing immigration and refugee service providers and settlement agencies?**

Yes, LAS is consulting with existing immigration and refugee service providers and settlement agencies. LAS has created an Immigration and Refugee Services Advisory Committee and has invited service providers and agencies to sit on this committee to provide input and advice regarding the development and implementation of I&R services.

The community voice is critical to ensuring the legal aid services respond to the needs of immigrants and refugees in Saskatchewan and access to justice is upheld. Please contact

Jawad Kassab, project lead, if you would like to share your thoughts on the development and implementation of legal aid funded immigration and refugee services.

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**8. Who do I contact if I have questions and would like more information about the project?**

Should you have any questions regarding the Immigration and Refugee Services Project, please contact LAS VP Operations and Administration and project sponsor, Sarah Mihailovich, at [smihailovich@legalaid.sk.ca](mailto:smihailovich@legalaid.sk.ca).