

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am your school settlement worker who, with the cooperation of the school, connects with newcomer families who may have arrived in Canada in the past few years. As your settlement worker in school, I am part of a multilingual team that supports your adjustment to your new country and community. I am here to provide settlement related service and connect you with free resources in the school and community. With your permission, I can help you to improve the communication between you and the school staff. Throughout the year we arrange informative group sessions on youth and parent specific topics. The group sessions are conducted by experts who will help you better understand life in Canada. You are encouraged to attend these sessions as they are excellent opportunities for learning, networking and socializing to build strong professional and personal relationships in the school and your community.

We provide information on any matter that concerns you, such as:

- **Employment** (assessment, evaluation of foreign credentials, upgrading, transitional and bridging programs, free pre-employment workshops and trainings and more);
- **Education for Parents** (Higher Education, English as a Second Language (ESL) courses or Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC);
- **Education for Children:** Understanding the Ontario school system (Elementary and Secondary /High schools), Preparing for Parent Teacher interviews and communicating with school staff;
- **Health** (applying for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), finding a family doctor, immunization, free/low cost dental care, health services for uninsured individuals);
- **Finances** (opening a bank account, filing income taxes, child tax benefits and social services);
- **Community Programs** (Locating daycare or other children's programs, applying for subsidized daycare, parks and recreation, public library services, community events, cultural organizations and much more.

I also encourage you and your child to participate in school activities/events, connect with their teachers and other staff and utilize school and community resources.