

Volunteer Settlement Mentor

As a volunteer Settlement Mentor, you'll provide newcomers with friendship, support and tips on community resources and services. You can help them with things like learning English, coping with stress, adjusting to their new community, and learning about Canadian life. You'll not only helping newcomers make a smoother transition, but you'll also enjoy many benefits, including:

- Forming rewarding friendships
- Learning skills that can be applied in teaching or social service careers
- Gaining greater understanding of your multicultural community
- Learning about other cultures, countries and languages

Some activities you might enjoy together include:

- Neighbourhood walks
- Practising conversational English
- Library and community centre trips
- Using public transit
- Shopping
- Visiting local attractions

Mentor Requirements

If you're a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident that has lived in Canada for more than three consecutive years, you're eligible to become a Settlement Mentor. You don't have to do it alone; you can mentor together with a partner, friend, family members or other groups.

Volunteers in this program are trained and then matched with a compatible newcomer. Matches are based on factors such as similar interests, family size, age, occupation and other needs.

Time Commitment and Location

Services are completely client based and will be requested as on-call basis. The commitment requires two to four hours of your time each week for a period of six months.

Qualifications

- Cross cultural sensitivity
- Respectful, open minded and objective
- Willing to listen and learn
- Police security clearance
- Understanding and compliance with HMC policies
- Attendance at general training and program specific trainings

Benefits

- Build on interpretation skills
- Opportunity to work independently
- Volunteers will also be able to gain satisfaction through helping a new immigrant or refugee access essential services which he or she may not be able to access otherwise.
- References can be provided upon completion of minimal time requirements.

Clients

- Newcomers to Canada

Application Process

- Applying online
- One-on-One meeting
- Submission of resume, volunteer Application Form, valid police clearance, along with a personal interview
- Training for Language Aide Volunteer

Due to the nature of working with HMC Connections clients, a valid criminal record check for vulnerable populations will be required prior to volunteering. In addition, all applicants must attend training as needed. We ask for applicant's patience as these strict selection criteria and processes can take time to complete.

Shinobu Yajima (Community Connections Community Worker) 905 842 2486 ext. 241

Email syajima@hmcconnections.com