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## **AAISA Launches Information Hub Website for Refugees in Alberta**

*Website helps refugees access information in multiple languages that can help them settle and thrive in Alberta.*

Calgary, Alberta, Canada – September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016: The Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA) announces the launch of a new website, [www.refugeealberta.ca](http://www.refugeealberta.ca), which will serve as a one-stop shop for refugees to access information on settling in Alberta and services to support them in their new life.

Following one of the largest resettlements of refugees in Canadian history, the website which is funded by the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, responds to a significant need across the province. Since November 2015, Canada resettled 25,000 Syrian refugees across the country, 3,792 of which were welcomed by Albertans. Another wave of Syrian refugees is set to arrive in the province this fall. Alberta offers a variety of programs and services that help refugees integrate into their new lives by providing support with language, employment and social well-being. Over 1,400 of these services can be found on the website's settlement service database.

Refugees like Sleman Aldib, an electrical engineer, theatre actor, and photographer who came to Calgary from Syria with his family eight months ago, can search for services in their area and find information on important every day topics like where to find a family doctor, what their rights are as a tenant, how to find a job, how the education system works and what to wear in the winter. Aldib, a privately sponsored refugee who provided input on the website, says that "all the information you need is in the same place." The website will also provide a much needed provincial hub to support communities and organizations that work with refugees. Lethbridge Mayor, Chris Spearman, commented that as a centralized resource, the website will "enhance the collaboration of municipalities and agencies throughout Alberta."

### **About AAISA**

AAISA is a regionally and nationally recognized leader, representative, hub, and an amplifier of the settlement and integration sector in Alberta. As an umbrella organization of immigrant serving organizations, AAISA's mandate is to build sectorial capacity through professional development, research, and stakeholder engagement. AAISA's member agencies provide services to assist newcomers in becoming fully integrated members of society. For more information, visit AAISA's website at [www.aaisa.ca](http://www.aaisa.ca).

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Recently arrived Syrian refugee, Sleman Aldib (left), and his sponsor, Maysoun Hneidi (right), using [www.refugeealberta.ca](http://www.refugeealberta.ca).