



# Newcomers With Disabilities - Navigating The System

**Date/Time:**  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 / 1:00PM – 3:00PM

**Location:** Zoom

**Chairs:** Michael Farr, Meri Topchieva

**In Attendance:**

Ashija Joshi (ASSIST Community Service Centre)  
Ben Patmore (CCIS)  
Emma Kieftenbeld (Edmonton Employment Resource Centre)  
Fiona Lowes Boyd (CIWA)  
Fran L.  
Manisha Dave (Immigrant Services Calgary)  
Melinda Noyes (Autism Edmonton)  
Meri Topchieva (Alberta Ability Network)

Michael Farr (EmployAbilities)  
Phillip Ney (Inclusion Alberta)  
Sarah Brazeau (Easter Seals Alberta)  
Sholeh Mahdavi (CCIS)  
Teagan Catingub (Catholic Social Services)  
Tessa Turner (ACT Alberta)  
Yuki Landry (Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton)

## Meeting Minutes

Welcome  
Land Acknowledgement  
Breakout Rooms  
Meeting considerations  
Review of last month's meeting minutes

**Spotlight Agency:**

Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers

- Enhanced SWIS (Settlement Workers in Schools) is a new initiative by IRCC which is an extension of the SWIS program.
- ESWIS supports newcomer children, youth, and families who are considered vulnerable, at risk, or high risk due to poverty, social isolation, disability, mental health and more.
- Some of the services and supports they provide are system navigation, emotional support, multicultural brokering, referrals for specialized services, skill-based groups, complex case coordination and more.



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- Their goal is to assess enhanced clients' needs holistically as well as their strengths and resources while building the best wraparound services for the family.
- Their audience is newcomer youth (ages 1-17) and families who are considered vulnerable, at risk or high risk to their integration and overall well-being.
- ESWIS also provides personalized support to students and families in settings convenient for them.
- To get more information about programs please send an email to [eswlcoordinator@emcn.ab.ca](mailto:eswlcoordinator@emcn.ab.ca)
- They provide some training for the teachers supporting kids with disabilities. They go into their weekly/monthly meetings, talk about the programs, the kids, and their challenges.

Wrap Up Adjournment

**Next Meeting:**

**Date:** June 27<sup>th</sup> , 2023

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Location:** Zoom