

# Your legacy needs sharing: volunteer with us and make new friends

We want to tell you a story of resilience and community effort. In March 1980, the Kamloops Chinese Cultural Associations responded to the need for settlement assistance for many Southeast Asian refugees arriving in Kamloops.

The Vietnamese and Immigrants' Community Center was opened with a staff of two. Many will remember this time as the arrival of the Boat People incident. In 1982, the Kamloops Chinese Cultural Associations fulfilled their two-year assistance mandate. However, the need for services for immigrants from various backgrounds was evident. Thus, on January 20, 1982, the Kamloops-Cariboo Regional Immigrants Society was incorporated as a non-profit society to sponsor an immigrant service agency. This agency was named "The Immigrants' Community Centre". A few years later, in 1985, the agency was more appropriately re-named as Kamloops Immigrant Services (KIS).

43 years later, our mission and support to the community continues. KIS hosts regular programs, events, and activities, from language exchange to cultural festivals, where newcomers can meet and connect with others who share their experiences. It also delivers programs and services designed to advance immigrants, migrants, refugees, visible minorities, first-generation Canadians, and their families to become whole and equal members of Canadian society.

Our programs help raise awareness of the importance of immigration, multiculturalism,

and diversity in Canadian society. It promotes respect and understanding in the elimination of barriers and challenges faced by Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour (IBPOC), newcomers, first-generation Canadians, and members of in/visible minority communities.

None of this would have been possible without the talent and time of all our volunteers, which is why we want to invite you to continue writing new success stories with us. Our volunteers are at the heart of our agency; many of them come from all corners of the globe and bring valuable skills and experiences that make our community more diverse and welcoming. Volunteering with us can include activities that range from language interpretation, mentoring, and assisting programs and services to create a welcoming community.

Volunteering with Kamloops Immigrant Services can be an enriching experience for many seniors. It's a chance to give back, share your skills and expertise, and learn about different cultures and ways of life from all around the world.

Whether you have a few hours a week to spare or are looking for a more regular commitment, we welcome all kinds of experiences and look forward to working with you to make a positive change in the lives of newcomers in our community. Because together we're better.

Contact us today to see how you can become a volunteer!



778-470-6101

[kis@immigrantservices.ca](http://kis@immigrantservices.ca)

**HELPING  
NEWCOMERS FOR  
OVER 40 YEARS IN  
THE THOMPSON-  
NICOLA REGION**

 [www.immigrantservices.ca](http://www.immigrantservices.ca)

 **Kamloops Immigrant Services**

 **(778) 470-6101**

**Volunteer now!**