

The Complicated Path to Citizenship



When Peter, Sara and their five children (plus one on the way) arrived in Ontario from Kansas, they faced a number of complicated hurdles to settling well in their new country. They knew MCC Ontario could help them sort out what to do. The family arrived at the Chatham office first thing Monday morning, looking for direction.

Together, the eight family members would follow at least three different paths to achieving legal status in Canada.

Peter, Sara and their oldest daughter, Anna, were all born in Mexico. The following 4 children were born in Bolivia. A sixth child was about to be born in Canada. Documents would have to be sourced from a number of different countries.

Further complicating the situation were a number of historical and legislative factors. Both Sara and Peter's grandparents

had been born in Canada, yet only Sara had a claim to Canadian Citizenship. Sara's grandparents had registered their marriage with the Mexican government and the births of their children with CIC while Peter's grandparents had not. This meant that Sara was already a Canadian citizen, while Peter would have to first become a permanent resident and then apply for citizenship.

Sara's citizenship allowed her to apply for citizenship for their 3 middle children; Martha, Susie and Jacob. Catalina, their youngest, was born after April 2009, the year when CIC laws changed and children born to citizens outside of Canada were no longer automatically granted citizenship. This meant that she would need to apply for permanent residence status along with her father.

Getting permanent resident status

The settlement process began right away. The initial step was to identify the myriad of documentation that Peter and Catalina would need to complete their permanent residency applications. They also needed to find a way to pay for the expenses.

Both needed to complete a medical exam with a CIC designated medical practitioner. The closest approved practitioner was more than an hour away, which meant the family had to hire a car and driver to get to their appointment.

Peter needed to purchase 7 sets of fingerprints in order to complete the required police checks

for the various countries he had lived in. The fingerprints, coupled with the requisite 14 professional photographs of him, were a costly endeavour. There were also the additional costs of mailing certified documents to the various governments.

Once these requirements were fulfilled, Peter and Catalina could finally begin the process of applying for permanent residency.

Completing the Settlement Process

Peter, Sara and their children faced a long road to settlement. In addition to the applications that needed to be made, each family member would also need to apply for Social Insurance Numbers and Health Cards, which were subject to various waiting periods. Due to her pregnancy, Sarah was unable also to work. As she was the sponsoring citizen for her family members, she was unable to apply for Ontario Works benefits. Peter was in Canada on a Visitor's Visa. He was unable to apply for a SIN card and would have to wait 10-12 months to achieve permanent resident status and receive a work permit. This left the family with little money and no income. The application process could not begin until the family could afford the associated expenses.

Peter and Sara were creative in finding the money needed to complete their applications. They worked odd jobs for various contractors and borrowed money from friends. Once they had the money together, they went back to MCC Ontario's settlement office in Chatham where they received assistance to fill out the required forms – this was especially necessary because Peter and Sara were unable to read or write in any language and were unable to speak English.

After becoming a permanent resident, Peter would have to wait another two years before applying for Canadian Citizenship. Altogether, it will take him at least 6 or 7 years to receive Canadian citizenship and be assured of his ability to remain in Canada with his family.

Obtaining Canadian Citizenship is just one in a host of activities and changes that Peter and Sara's family will go through in order to settle well in Canada.



Calculating the Social Value Created by MCC Ontario's Low German Program

- 1 The Social Value Chart illustrates the minimum value that is created for the stakeholders of MCC Ontario's Low German Program.
- 2 SROI Outcomes describe the change have has occurred in a stakeholders life or in society in general as a result of the program.
- 3 The proxies listed below represent an item that one might purchase in the local marketplace in order to achieve the corresponding SROI Outcome.

Program Outcomes	SROI Proxy	Unit Cost	Number of Units	Total Value Created Over 5 Years
Increased Well-being for MCC Ontario Clients				
Increased social connection for mothers and children	Cost of Membership in a Social Club	\$100 / year	48	\$18,230
Increased knowledge of 'best practices' in Canadian parenting	Cost of interpretation services if hired in the local community	\$70 / hour	297	\$54,321
Increased confidence in communicating with services providers	Cost of Toast Master's membership, a club that works to improve confidence	\$120 / year	226	\$134,648
Increased understanding of cultural differences	Cost of similar cultural training in the local community	\$150 / session	28	\$15,233
Improved English language skills	Cost of English language classes	\$8 / session	297	\$9,484
Clients are empowered to make more informed decision about their own health and education	Cost of personal empowerment workshop	\$75 / session	48	\$8,175
Decreased stress leading up to and during appointments with Public Service providers	Cost of stress management training	\$120 / training	28	\$15,896
Better understanding of and connection to public services in Canada	Cost of similar training in the local community	\$150 / training session	28	\$13,908
More children enrolled in highschool	Cost to society of dropping out of highschool including cost of EI, lost taxes and crime	\$7515 / person who drops out of high school	48	\$147,715
Improved education as parents are able to better communicate with teachers	Personal costs of dropping out of high school including higher health costs and lost income	\$16,980 / person who drops out of high school	48	\$333,759
Improved employment outcomes	Local cost of Job Fair, resume writing and other job related appointments	\$20 / session	572	\$4,576
Direct cost savings for clients' immigration matters	Average cost of hiring immigration consultant	\$4000 / application	158	\$632,000
Increased Ability for Service Providers to Confidently Carry Out their Mandate				
Increased understanding of and compassion for Low German Speaking newcomers	Cost of membership in a cultural club to gain understanding of another culture	\$100 / year	35	\$16,557
Decreased frustration and increased confidence that there is true understanding between service provider and client	Cost of stress management training	\$120 / training session	35	\$19,869
Staff are Involved in Work they Believe in and are Proud of				
Staff have the opportunity to put their faith and values into action	Cost of accessing spiritual advisor to assist in improving spiritual health	\$780 / year	6	\$10,022
More integrated into Low German Speaking culture	Cost of Membership in a Social Club	\$100 / year	6	\$1,285
Increased knowledge of health care and immigration systems and best practices for making change	Cost of comparable training in local community	\$150 / training session	6	\$2,366

*The final SROI value of 3.63 includes a net present value calculation using an interest rate of 2.5% each year over 5 years.

*The calculation also includes a discount rate of 22%, which is the Federal government standard when calculating the costs and benefits of social programs in Canada.

*These robust standards are applied to ensure that the Social Value reported is a lower bound estimate of the value created by the Low German Program.

SROI Value Summary

Total Social Value created by the Low German Program	\$1,098,091
Total Social Value invested in the Low German Program	\$302,499
*SROI Ratio	\$3.63