Provincial Recommendations for Refugee Claimants

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AAISA believes that collaborative, coordinated responses elicit effective outcomes for newcomers to Canada, and Government of Alberta could play a crucial role in strengthening the system of support for refugee claimants in Alberta. By ensuring support in the claims process as well as through ensuring access to foundational supports from service provider organizations, both the immediate wellbeing and long-term integration of refugee claimants in Canada would drastically improve.

To facilitate stronger systemic support for refugee claimants across the province of Alberta, it is imperative that the Government of Alberta undertakes the following recommendations:

* **Ministry of Labour**
	+ Update its strategic framework “Supporting Immigrants and Immigration to Alberta” to reflect the changing context of immigration to the province
	+ Create a framework for agencies to receive dedicated funding to support settlement support for refugee claimants, including:
		- Expand its eligible beneficiaries to include refugee claimants
		- Provide funding and informative resources to agencies to ensure that they can support refugee claimants in filling out work permit applications
		- Allowing refugee claimants to access language assessments and therefore have placement in English classes
* **Ministry of Justice**
	+ Improve information on and accessibility to Legal Aid for refugee claimants
	+ Ensure that the Government of Alberta’s investment in Legal Aid is reflective of the number of claimants needing support
* **Ministry of Health**
	+ Communicate with Alberta healthcare providers on the process to register for Interim Federal Health (IFH) and the importance of access to healthcare as a basic human right for refugee claimants