

Empowering RAP Staff: Innovative Strategies and Best Practices for Atlantic SPOs

Chocolate Lake Hotel, Halifax, NS
Meeting Room: Lakeview A

February 25, 2025

Times shown are Atlantic Standard Time (AST)

8:30 a.m. **Registration**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome, Opening Remarks & Ice Breaker**

9:30 a.m. **The RAP Program in Focus: IRCC National and Regional Perspectives, Requirements, and Insights from the National RAP Working Group**

- John Biles, Senior Director - Settlement Network, IRCC
- Maryse O'Neil, Director Integration - Settlement Network, IRCC
- Wenche Gausdal, ISANS, National RAP Working Group Atlantic Representative

Q&A

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**



February 25, 2025 (cont'd)

1:00 p.m. **Strength in Collaboration: Atlantic RAP SPOs Sharing Best Practices, Tools, and Strategies**

▶ Presentations

- Ammar Younus, MAGMA: RAP Staff Onboarding and the RAP Handbook
- Olga Romanos & Vesna Miroslavljevic, ISANS: RAP Housing Process Challenges and How to Overcome Them
- Melissa Hetherington, Newcomer Connections, YMCA of Southwestern New Brunswick: RAP to Settlement Handover Tool

▶ Panel and Q&A

Moderator: Carolyn Whiteway, ARAISA

Panelists:

- Aida Ben Amor, CRNANO
- Ammar Younus, MAGMA
- Melissa Hetherington, Newcomer Connections, YMCA of Southwestern New Brunswick
- Olga Romanos, ISANS
- Vesna Miroslavljevic, ISANS
- Tasha Corrigan, IRSA PEI

4:00 p.m. **Networking Event**

5:00 p.m. **End of Day 1**

February 26, 2025

9:00 a.m. **Check-In**

9:15 a.m. **Trauma-Sensitive Financial Literacy Guidance for Resettlement Assistance Program Delivery - Workshop with Chantel Chapman, Trauma of Money**

11:30 a.m. **Closing Remarks**

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**