

Settlement Worker

Help newcomers to Canada find housing, schools, health cards and work in their first months here.

TYPICAL PAY

\$54,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$40k to \$75k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Settlement agencies, schools, libraries, airports and community...

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12 English or French. Keep any other language you speak at home, it is a professional asset here. Grade 12
- 2 College or university** 2 to 4 years
A 2-year Social Service Worker diploma, a Community Worker diploma, or a degree in social work, sociology, international development or education.
- 3 Volunteer or placement in the sector** During school
Tutoring, conversation circles, refugee sponsorship groups, airport greeting teams. This is how almost everyone gets in.
- 4 First contract** Weeks to months
Often part time, at an agency funded by IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) or a provincial program.
- 5 Specialize** 2 to 5 years in
School-based settlement work, employment counselling, refugee resettlement or program management.

Pros and cons

- + You see families go from lost to settled within a year
- + Your own language and background are a direct asset
- + Entry is quick and the training is cheap
- Funding is political, and cuts hit the whole sector at once
- Contracts rather than permanent jobs are the norm
- You carry refugee stories home with you

Good to know

The services are free to the newcomer

Settlement help funded by IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) costs permanent residents nothing: language classes, job search help, orientation and community connections. So...

Settlement workers live inside schools

In several provinces settlement workers are placed in public schools so newcomer parents can get help at the same building where they drop off their kids. It is one of the most copied ideas in the sector.

Optional boosts

Community interpreter training. Career development certificate. Teaching English as a second language. Trauma-informed practice.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Settlement worker, community services, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Government of Canada: Services for newcomers to Canada
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
Canadian Association of Social Workers

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/settlement-worker>



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