



AJAX Community News

ESL/LINC Classes Schedule

Classes schedule may vary based upon provincial lockdown restrictions.

- Daytime classes available online Monday to Friday.
- ESL/LINC classes are available online on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.
- Citizenship Preparation for ESL Learners.

For more information on courses and schedules visit con-ed.ca.
To register for all of our LINC & ESL classes, email us at LearnEnglish@dcdsb.ca or click on the image below:



Whether you're a newcomer to the country or would like to better develop your English language skills, our English as a Second Language (ESL) and Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) programs enable students at varying levels to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Happy New Year!

The global pandemic made safety precautions a way of life, but the **AWC** worked creatively to bring services and aid to our community:

- Our Free Income Tax Clinic helped 167 newcomers and low-income families, generating \$929,743.56 in benefits for clients.
- In partnership with FoodShare, AWC delivered food hampers in July to 24 families in Durham Region to help address food insecurity.
- In partnership with the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, AWC distributed 663 hygiene kits to Durham residents.
- This winter, with the support of **DRPS** and Southside Worship Centre, the Centre distributed food hampers to 76 families and toys to 158 children.



**A Word From
WELCOME
CENTRE
Management**

Looking Ahead to 2021:

Due to the current lockdown, in-person services are temporarily suspended, still we are optimistic that the new year will bring control over COVID-19, allowing us to serve you better. **Wosen Yitna Beyene**



Start a Business

We help individuals who want to start a business navigate through the essential steps required to turn their start up idea into a profitable business.



Grow a Business

We work with existing businesses to develop strategies, action plans and direction to tackle obstacles allowing them to expand their market and grow their business.



Business Events

Join us at our business events designed to help you stay informed, learn new skills and connect with other businesses in Durham Region's entrepreneurial community.

The **Business Advisory Centre Durham (BACD)** is the go-to for business guidance. With business advisors on-hand, we guide you every step of the way!

For the month of January, BACD will be hosting a series of business workshops.

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| • Wednesday, January 6 | 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. | BACD Start Up Session |
| • Thursday, January 7 | 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. | BACD Business Fundamentals: Business Planning |
| • Wednesday, January 13 | 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Maker Meet Up – Planning for a great 2021! |
| • Wednesday, January 13 | 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. | BACD Business Plan Masterclass |
| • Thursday, January 14 and 21 | 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. | BACD Start Up Session |
| • Tuesday, January 19 | 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. | BACD Business Fundamentals: Marketing & Sales |
| • Tuesday, January 26 | 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | BACD Business Plan Masterclass |

For more information please call **905-668-4949** or visit bacd.ca/events.

A Path to Success

Reconnecting with your Profession!

Leaving war-torn Syria, his job and his family behind, Ahmad and his bride, Nour headed off for the safety of Canada. It was a joyful day when they received the long-awaited news that they had been accepted by this country. They dreamed of a new life; one with safety, stability, and success. Arriving in November, 2017, they had their language assessed in December, and were immediately enrolled at Durham Continuing Education in Oshawa. They were soon part of the school community, engaged in full-time LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) classes offered by the Durham District School Board (DDSB). With hard work and help from many instructors, they progressed from LINC level 3 to Level 7, improving their English language skills each step of the way.

Nour headed off to Durham College and Ahmad, who had a university degree and skills as a political analyst, researcher and writer, decided to take Enhanced Language Training (ELT) offered through the DDSB. In the eight weeks of instruction, Ahmad learned how and where to look for work and improved his interview skills. ELT offers an internship; an opportunity to work with an employer in order to gain valuable skills, network, build a resume, obtain a Canadian reference, and reconnect with a person's profession. Durham Workforce Authority generously offered to accept Ahmad as a researcher. DWA provides "reliable research focused on local labour market information". The executive director, Heather McMillan says, "From a host perspective, the oversight has been minimal, the addition to the office team has been amazing, and the support from the DDSB has been great. This is a phenomenal program that benefits students, employers, and our community at large."

Ahmad has now been offered a contract by DWA and is looking forward to a bright future. His advice to newcomers is take time to learn, improve your English, have integrity and honesty, work hard, be patient, and your dreams will come true.

To learn more about ELT please email maureen.johnston@ddsb.ca.



ON-GOING PROGRAMS

- **English and French Language Assessment:** Call for more information
- **English Language Classes:** Visit [LINC/ESL classes](#)
- **Fully Accessible Resource Centre:** Suspended until further notice
- **Job Search Workshops (JSW)** - Available [online](#) only
- **Triec Mentoring Partnership:** Available [online](#) only
- **Settlement Services:** [Available](#) daily by telephone, online or in-person appointments.
- **DRIVEN Intimate Violence Counselling Services for Women:** Available by telephone and video chat
- **Toastmasters Public Speaking Club (Adults):** Available [online](#) only
- **Herizon House:** Transitional Housing for Abused Women and Children, Support, Safety Planning and Counselling: Available by telephone and email
- **Durham Mental Health Services:** Available [online](#) only
- **Service Canada:** Available online only
- **AIDS Committee of Durham Region (ACDR/MSM):** Available [online](#) only
- **English Conversation Circles:** Available [online](#) only
- **Seniors Group:** Wednesdays at 3 p.m. Available [online](#) only
- **Virtual Welcome Back Party:** For clients and volunteers Wednesday, January 6 at 6 p.m.
- **Community Kitchen:** Tuesday, January 19 at 11 a.m
- **Ladies' Social for Newcomers:** Wednesday, January 27 at 6 p.m.

All immigrant settlement services are free, confidential, and culturally sensitive. For more information please contact with at welcomecentre.ca, call 1-877-761-1155 or email us at awc@welcomecentre.ca.

eBooks in More Languages!

Whitby Public Library is excited to announce eBooks in different languages are now available in their OverDrive [More Languages](#) collection.



Durham residents can access these eBooks with a Whitby library card. Discover additional languages in Hoopla under Advanced Search. Visit the [Digital Content Help](#) page to start reading today!



Mark Your Calendar!

January is Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

January 1 New Year's Day - Centre closed

January 25 Chinese New Year



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458 Fairall Street, Unit 5
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www.welcomecentre.ca