

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Columbia College Announces Launch of the Columbia Immigrant Centre for Foundational Skills Training (CICFST) at Annual International Day Celebration

CALGARY, AB, June 23, 2023 – Columbia College proudly announces the launch of the Columbia Immigrant Centre for Foundational Skills Training (CICFST), marking a significant milestone in the college's commitment to empowering immigrant students and providing comprehensive support for their educational and career goals. The CICFST will be presenting foundational skills programming offered by Columbia under one umbrella to ensure a unified and centralized framework, aiming to better address the needs of immigrant learners within the community.

Led by dedicated staff and facilitators, the CICFST encompasses a wide range of foundational skills training programs, equipping students with essential language skills for everyday life, employment, and academic pursuits in Canada. Complemented by supportive services, including career counseling and employment workshops, the CICFST empowers students to succeed in their chosen careers and pursue further educational opportunities.

*"For over two decades, Columbia has been a beacon of academic excellence and support for immigrants seeking to enhance their language skills and integrate into Canadian society,"* said Fariba Mohammadi, CICFST Manager at Columbia College. *"The establishment of the Columbia Immigrant Centre for Foundational Skills Training marks a new chapter in our commitment to empowering our students, facilitating their pathways to success, and supporting their personal and professional growth."*

Columbia acknowledges the invaluable support of its partners and supporters, including the provincial government, Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and Calgary Language Assessment & Referral Centre (CLARC). Their continuous support enables the college to provide exceptional programming and resources for immigrant students.

The official announcement of the Columbia Immigrant Centre for Foundational Skills Training took place on June 22, 2023, during Columbia College's annual International Day celebration, a highly anticipated event that showcases the College's ongoing commitment to supporting immigrant students and fostering cultural diversity within the Calgary community.

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#### **About Columbia College:**

Columbia College, located in Calgary, Alberta, is a private, not for profit post-secondary institution that has been providing quality education and support to adult learners from diverse backgrounds and situations since 1986. The college offers various academic programs, including academic upgrading, English language training, diploma programs, certificate programs, and continuing education courses. To learn more about Columbia College Calgary and its commitment to inclusive education, visit [www.columbia.ca](http://www.columbia.ca).