



North Bay & District
Multicultural Centre
Immigrant Settlement Services

NEWSLETTER

From Don Curry, Executive Director

New office in Timmins

Deborah Robertson and I were in Timmins April 4 and 5 interviewing candidates to become our first employee there. Cathy Ellis of the Timmins Economic Development Corporation also participated in the interviews. We had 40 applicants and a short list of six qualified bilingual people. We are very pleased that Andrée Fortin accepted our offer and will be at our North Bay offices May 2 for a few days of training before she sets up the Timmins office. It is upstairs from the TEDC offices at 12 Elm St. N., across the street from the Days Inn downtown.

Temiskaming Shores

With the opening of a Timmins office we will be responsible for everything between North Bay and Timmins as well. With that in mind we stopped in to visit James Franks, economic development coordinator with the municipality. We will be working with him to assess the need in that area and begin providing services. Kirkland Lake will be served with visits from Andrée from Timmins.

New CIC Contract April 1

Board Chair Susan Church and I signed a new two-year agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada that took effect April 1. The new agreement combines the former Host and ISAP (Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program) programs into one, and includes the Timmins office. I thank Shawn Gingras, our CIC Settlement Officer, for his work on getting the agreement in place before the end of March.

NNN Extended

Our Local Immigration Partnership agreement with CIC has been extended for another year, through March 31, 2012. Our LIP is the North Bay Newcomer Network, which is funded by CIC through the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre. NNN has one employee, Laura-Jane Cote, who has been extremely busy working with the Immigrant Employers' Council, NNN Settlement Committee and the NNN Welcoming Community Committee.



Professions North

I was in Sudbury March 28-29 to attend Professions North meetings with the Professions North team from Laurentian University and colleagues from Timmins, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. We serve as the local contact point for Professions North, which has a website at www.professionsnorth.ca and has programs in place to assist internationally trained professionals. At present their programs are for those in accounting and financial services, but they hope to expand to include engineering and nursing. Laurentian is working with Ryerson University on the project.

Metropolis Conference

L-J was in Vancouver March 23-26 representing North Bay at the Metropolis conference titled Immigration: Bringing the World to Canada. All the Northern Ontario cities were represented and Northern Ontario had a strong marketing presence. More than 1,000 delegates attended from across Canada. L-J is off to Calgary May 5-6 for an ALLIES conference on mentoring. She will be accompanied by Sorel Harrison of Atlas CopCo and the NNN Employers' Council. Watch for a new workplace mentoring program for newcomers when they return.

Employers' Breakfast

Staying with L-J and NNN, she organized a successful employers' breakfast and workshop in partnership with the Labour Market Group at the Clarion Pinewood March 29 that featured Naomi Alboim of Queen's University speaking on immigration statistics and trends and Fiona Murray of the Alliance of Sector Councils. She discussed the development of tools and resources to assist employers regarding hiring, retaining and engaging internationally trained individuals in the community small and medium enterprises. Titled Planning for the Future: Labour Force Trends and Immigration, it attracted more than 50 local employers, funders and service organizations. Mayor Al McDonald spoke on the topic as well. A Human Resources Employers' Guide was launched at the event, and French and English versions of a Relocation Guide are in the works, through funding from FedNor. The Employers' Guide will soon be up on the immigration portal at www.northbayimmigration.ca under Employer tools and resources.

Goodbye Jessica

We were sad to see FedNor intern Jessica Boissonneault leave us April 1. Her 12-month contract expired and Jessica was off to Ottawa. She assisted Maryline Pillet in francophone outreach and was a great help with her multimedia skills. A new FedNor intern will be joining us in May. We will also have two new Northern Ontario Heritage Fund interns.

Goodbye Taslima, Welcome Back Cindy

Settlement Counsellor Taslima Ahmed left on maternity leave April 8 and will be replaced by Cindy Collins. Taslima takes her fluency in four languages with her, while Cindy brings back her English-French bilingualism. Cindy has been trekking through Vietnam and Thailand since completing her NOHFC internship position with us December 31.



International Cooking Club

Canadian seniors and newcomers to Canada continue to get together at the Golden Age Club kitchen for our international cooking club events, sponsored by New Horizons. They are having a ball, learning new recipes, and compiling recipes for a cookbook at the project's conclusion.



Skating and Skiing

Vindra Sahadeo likes to keep newcomers busy. She put together two skating events at the Sam Jacks Arena recently plus a skiing adventure for newcomers. It was amazing to see the skating progress many had made since we did the same thing last winter.

Andrew Hazelwood Joins Human Rights Hall

Our 23rd annual Evening of Applause was held March 23 at the Nipissing University Theatre. Held as part of our International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination project, it honours Students Who Make a Difference from all school boards and post-secondary institutions, anti-racism poster contest winners and inducts someone to the Nipissing District Human Rights Hall of Fame. Thanks to Cogeco TV and Canadore College television students for broadcasting the event. Andrew Hazelwood was this year's inductee, and his photo will be displayed at the entrance to Canadore College, along with the other members. He was honoured for his work in Costa Rica, and is now raising funds and school supplies for a return trip to repair a damaged school. If you can help he can be reached at St. Alexander School at (705) 472-9141 or at home at (705) 472-1560.



Immigration Conference a Hit

We rolled two conferences into one February 28, March 1-2 for three days of speakers, panels and discussion on immigration issues facing Northern Ontario. The first day was organized by the City of North Bay and the Conference Board of Canada, with the second two days organized by the Welcoming Communities Initiative and the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre. Almost 100 people attended from across the north, plus Ottawa, Toronto, London and Kingston. Reports on the conference plus video excerpts will be up soon on the WCI website at www.welcomingcommuniites.ca

Billboards Coming Soon

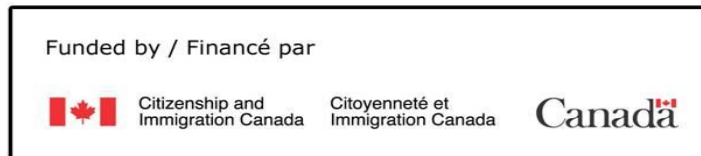
We are pretty active in outreach activities to let possible clients know we are here. We've had huge posters on North Bay city buses, been on the radio, TV, newspaper and Facebook. We've got podcasts of our radio programs on the immigration portal at www.northbayimmigration.ca We have our own website at www.nbdmc.ca and we're creating one for Timmins. We do a weekly round of posters at grocery stores and other locations. We're out there. Our latest project is a couple of billboards advertising our services. Look for them when the frost is out of the ground. We will have one on



Highway 17 between Sturgeon Falls and North Bay and another on Highway 11 between Powassan and North Bay.

Golf Tournament June 30

Last, but certainly not least, we set the date for our second annual charity golf tournament as Thursday, June 30. A poster about the event is on the next page. Please circulate it as widely as possible, print it and post it in your workplace, and then give me a call to register your team. We had a great day last year and this year we want to see a full slate of golfers and sponsors. Jeff Rogerson at Osprey Links is hosting once again, and our fabulous multicultural buffet at Partners on Main Street is back for a return engagement. Most people said that was the best part of last year's event. Board member Dennis Mong will make sure you are not disappointed. To book your team or sponsorship call either one of us. The numbers are on the poster.





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2nd annual
Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 30th

Time: 1:00 pm

Cost: \$100 per player
Includes golf, cart, dinner
& silent auction

\$500 includes golf for 4,
cart, dinner, sponsored hole
& auction item

\$20 dinner only

Format: 4 player scramble

Venue: Osprey Links

Dinner: Multicultural Buffet
Partners on Main Street, 6:00 p.m

Registration: Don Curry - 495-8931
Dennis Mong - 474-4500

Visit: www.nbdmc.ca
www.partnerspool.com