



North Bay & District
Multicultural Centre
Immigrant Settlement Services

NEWSLETTER

From Don Curry, Executive Director

First quarter results

Eleven new clients who have been in Canada less than one year were served by settlement counsellor Taslima Ahmed in June. First quarter results show that the number of clients in their first year in Canada



*Host participants gather for Laurier
Woods hike*

was higher than those who have been here longer than a year, reversing previous trends. This may be an indication that our marketing is helping newcomers find us quicker, or that more immigrants are arriving. Between 2001 and 2006 the number of immigrants arriving in North Bay rose 18% from the previous census. We fully expect the 2011 census to show another increase. The City of North Bay's attraction strategy just entered the implementation phase this year and

those results may not be seen until the 2016 census. Immigrants now comprise 6% of the North Bay population. The annual target for Host program matches (a volunteer friend matched with a client) is 25 and from April to June this year we had 17 already.

Immigration portal hits through the roof

The North Bay immigration portal went live in January at www.northbayimmigration.ca and the number of visitors to the site has gone through the roof. Since its launch there have been almost 17,000 hits and more than 6,000 people have bookmarked the site. It is averaging 150 visitors per day. We update the site regularly on a fee-for-service agreement with the City of North Bay. An advertising campaign in the Greater Toronto area and a March article in the Toronto Sun explain some of the interest. Check the site out. You'll be surprised at the quantity of information available.



Newcomer Network honoured

The North Bay Newcomer Network was honoured with a Newcomer Champion Award by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration in Toronto in June. The award was for NNN’s work in attracting, settling and integrating newcomers to Canada. Three members of our executive were available to receive the award—Marla Tremblay of the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development; Karen Strang of Nipissing University and our own Ann Welsh. As an added bonus they were invited back to Toronto to meet the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

LIP strategic plan

A lot of work has gone into the development of a strategic plan for our Local Immigration Partnership project through the North Bay Newcomer Network. After consultations Laura-Jane Coté developed terms of reference for our three committees: settlement, welcoming community and employers’ council—and an implementation plan for new initiatives. Our LIP contribution agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada expires August 31 and we will enter into a new one through March 31. L-J is the sole staff member of NNN and works here at the multicultural centre.

Employers’ Council

The North Bay Newcomer Network’s Employers’ Council evolved from our former Employment Committee. We learned about the concept at ALLIES conferences in Vancouver and Halifax and our council is now in operation, chaired by Joe Daniel of TeleTech. Other employers on the council are: Kristen Vaughan of North Bay General Hospital; Rafael Albino of the Ministry of Transportation; Sorel Harrison of Atlas Copco; Sherri Barber of North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit; Jodee Brown Yeo of Ontario Northland; Roger Perry of Fabrene and Patti Robichaud of Stantec. Patti Carr of the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce, Andrea Stoppa of the Labour Market Group, Laura-Jane Coté of NNN, Marla Tremblay from the City of North Bay and LeeAnne Maillé of Yes! Employment Services round out the membership. Watch out for new developments from this group.

Welcoming Communities Initiative

I attended my first meeting as a member of the Governing Council of the Welcoming Communities Initiative in Hamilton in June. This initiative is a research and action group working on attraction and retention strategies for Ontario municipalities excluding Toronto. It involves 15 cities, including North Bay, Sudbury and Thunder Bay in Northern Ontario. John Nadeau, a professor at Nipissing University, is the second North Bay representative on the council. The WCI has a 17-point document that identifies what a welcoming community looks like. Check it out on their website at www.welcomingcommunities.ca.



ESL summer school

While the English as a Second Language classes at Chippewa Secondary School break for the summer, some students are too keen to stop learning. We have dedicated volunteers teaching ESL during summer mornings in our board room and many immigrants are taking advantage of the opportunity to accelerate their learning of the language.

Facebook friends growing

Aaron Fallon, a Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation intern working with us, has created a North Bay & District Multicultural Centre presence on Facebook and we now have 108 friends and 89 people in our group. If you want to keep current on what's going on type in our name on the Facebook site and you'll find us. Also check out our own site at www.nbdmc.ca. I email the newsletter you are reading to almost 300 people and other staff members forward it as well. We're into another round of radio shows on North Bay Radio and you can catch them on demand as podcasts at www.northbayimmigration.ca under Features, or at www.northbayradio.ca.

Fire in Timmins

Faithful readers may recall that in the last newsletter I mentioned I was going to Timmins in May to speak at their Diversity Day. My wife Mary came along for the ride. As we approached Timmins a dark cloud of smoke was hanging over the city. When we got to the hotel the power was out and we had to climb five flights of stairs at the Days Inn to get to our room. With the air conditioning out it was very hot. John Okonmah, the Local Immigration Partnership officer for Timmins, phoned me and said there's a forest fire threatening homes in the city, but we should be okay for the event at the Shania Twain Centre. An hour later I headed over, to find the gates to the centre padlocked, with a sign stating the event was cancelled because there was no power. The trip was not in vain. The hydro was back on later so I met John for a beer and we discussed his project. Prime rib was the special at the excellent Days Inn restaurant and we saw two moose on the trip.





Charity golf tournament



Board member Dennis Mong auctions up a storm

We had a lot of fun at our first charity golf tournament June 27 at Osprey Links. The weather was perfect, some spectacular and some not so spectacular shots were made and people enjoyed themselves. The multicultural buffet at Partners was superb and board member Dennis Mong was a joy to watch as he squeezed money out of people during the auction. With a \$1,000 donation from RBC Royal Bank and Dennis getting \$500 for a meal for six at his home, the event raised \$5,500 for our programming.

We'll do it again next year and make it even better!

Goodbye Ann, hello Deborah

The May newsletter had this headline reversed, as Program Coordinator Ann Welsh was returning from her academic sabbatical at the University of Toronto and Acting Program Coordinator Deborah Robertson was leaving our staff. Well, Deborah will be back in early September as Ann leaves once again. This time it's a maternity leave, as she and husband Ryan are expecting their first child toward the end of September. Deborah, an immigrant from England, was a very capable replacement the last time Ann left us and has continued to volunteer with us.

Anti-racism lending library

Please take advantage of our free anti-racism lending library. We have books and DVDs on diversity, other cultures and racism plus other materials selected by educators from the four school boards. They are categorized by grade level going from K to adult. Check them out on our website at www.nbdmc.ca and then give me a call at 495-8931 if you want to borrow some materials.

International Cooking Club

Vindra Sahadeo's work on the International Cooking Club has resulted in a great success. Clients and volunteers are using the kitchen at Les Compagnons and are having a lot of fun learning to cook international dishes. Board member and renowned Chinese cooking chef and cookbook author Dennis Mong is leading a session soon.



Canada Day

The multicultural showcase at the Kiwanis band shell on the North Bay waterfront on Canada Day was well received, and this year the weather cooperated. Thanks to intern Aaron Fallon and all his volunteers for organizing this annual event, and the international soccer game later in the day.

Salsa on the Streets

We were approached by Juan Carlos Suarez, an immigrant originally from Cuba now living and working in North Bay with his family, to assist him with Salsa on the Streets, a celebration of Latin American and Caribbean culture. The event will be held on the Saturday of the Labour Day weekend at the Kiwanis band shell on the waterfront, and includes a top salsa band from Toronto, local talent, Latin dance demonstrations by professional dancers, kiosks for Latin and Caribbean food, and more. The event is free so check it out!

Business matchmaking service

Check out the next couple of pages for details on a North Bay-Sudbury partnership project that confidentially matches businesses for sale with qualified immigrant business people.





How it works

This confidential program has been designed to collect information about the prospective buyer's investment criteria such as price, sector, location, etc. and match it with suitable businesses. With support from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the businesses and prospective investors will be matched. The following illustrates how this process works.



Did you know?

In order to ensure future growth and develop sustainable communities, Canada has welcomed an average of about 240,000 newcomers each year for the past five years. The majority of the immigrants to Canada are in the skilled worker and business immigrant categories. Roughly two-thirds of Canada's population growth now comes from net international migration, with the major urban centres being the biggest recipients of newcomers. Ontario continues to be the main attraction centre for immigrants to Canada. More than half of all new immigrants to Canada settle in Ontario and 84% of those settle in the Greater Toronto Area.

Given North Bay and Sudbury's proximity to the Greater Toronto Area, we are in an ideal position to promote our region and showcase our small business sector to Business Immigrants residing in Southern Ontario.

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact us. Given the confidential nature of this initiative, signed confidentiality agreements can be provided prior to the businesses involvement.

The information collected will be kept confidential and will be stored in a secure database accessible only by the project leads. During the search process, Business Immigrants will receive the number of potential matches available, however information about any specific business will not be released without written consent from the business representative.

For more information please contact:
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