



NEWSLETTER

From Don Curry, Executive Director

Staff Changes

Settlement Counsellor Taslima Ahmed returned from maternity leave April 30 and North Bay Newcomer Network Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator Laura-Jane Cote left us May 18 to move to Hawaii. Cindy Collins moves from Settlement Counsellor to NNN Coordinator. Welcome back, Taslima, best wishes in your new role, Cindy, and bon voyage L-J!



Taslima Ahmed

Goodbye Marla

Marla Tremblay, Economic Development Officer for the City of North Bay and my Co-Chair of the North Bay Newcomer Network, resigned her position with the city. Marla started NNN in 2005 and her leadership role has helped make it what it is today—a strong and vibrant network of more than 50 partner organizations working together to attract, retain and integrate foreign-trained individuals. It receives funding through the Local Immigration Partnership program of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Marla and L-J leave big shoes to fill.



Cindy Collins

CIC Closes Sudbury Office

Citizenship and Immigration Canada staff cuts as a result of the federal budget will change the way we do business. The closing of CIC offices across Ontario, including the Sudbury one we have worked with since we opened in 2008, and cuts at the Toronto regional office mean we will be working with CIC directly through National Headquarters in Ottawa. We wish all our affected colleagues good luck as they move on to new challenges.



Laura Jane Cote

Globe and Mail Immigration Series

The Globe and Mail ran an excellent series on immigration over two weeks in May, both online and in the national newspaper. The newspaper proposes that Canada's immigration numbers increase from the present 250,000 a year to 400,000. We were featured as an innovator in the series and if you missed the excellent articles you can find them on The Globe's website. Denis Dubois of North Bay was the photographer and Dakshana Bascaramurty of The Globe and Mail was the writer. I talked about the



many active partners we have during the interview but the article focused on me, which was embarrassing.

Cooking Club Expands

We were very pleased to receive a second \$25,000 grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program through Service Canada. The first one established the International Cooking Club, with regular sessions at the Golden Age Centre matching Canadian seniors with newcomers in the kitchen. The second grant will take the show on the road, to Temiskaming Shores, Timmins, West Nipissing, Mattawa and other areas. The North Bay schedule will continue. If you would like to get involved contact Vindra Sahadeo at our office.



New Chamber Award

We are sponsoring a new award through the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce that will go to the employer or organization that hires foreign-trained individuals, has created a mentorship program or has launched a diversity training program, making the workplace a better environment in which to work. It will be presented every second year at the Small Business Week awards banquet in October, starting this year.

Professions North Presents Immigration Research

Professions North of Laurentian University hosted a half-day symposium May 7 featuring research on immigration in Northern Ontario. A few of us from our office attended by videoconference at the Contact North site at Canadore College. The symposium featured presentations by Dr. John Shields of Ryerson University; Scott Fisher of the Local Immigration Partnership of Greater Sudbury and Jean-Mathieu Chenier of the Greater Sudbury Development Corporation; Dr. Parveen Nangia of Laurentian University; and Dr. Matthias Takouda and Dr. Sylvie Albert of Laurentian University.

Client Numbers Increase Steadily

We served a total of 97 new clients in the last fiscal year, including 30 from our Timmins office. There was a total of 868 client visits and 35 group sessions. Under the Community Connections stream we had 32 client matches with Canadian volunteers, all from the North Bay office. With funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and the City of North Bay, we served an additional 30 temporary foreign workers, international students and Canadian citizens. All these numbers are new clients only. Clients from previous years often require new services and we are always pleased to serve them.

HR North Moving Ahead

The HR North project, covering from Parry Sound to Timmins and Cochrane, continues to move forward. The project seeks to provide human resources services to small and medium enterprises that do not





have their own HR departments. A research report funded by the Maytree Foundation’s ALLIES project will be completed at the end of May. Another component, an online tool for employers, is continuing its development through the City of North Bay with funding from FedNor.

NNN Committees Expand

The North Bay Newcomer Network, our Local Immigration Partnership project, has three standing committees: Settlement, Welcoming, and Immigrant Employers’ Council. With new directions identified these committees now have a number of subcommittees. Recent additions to the settlement committee are two subcommittees, for education and for health, while the welcoming committee has added five subcommittees: sports and recreation; entrepreneurial support and development; family and legal issues; housing; and diversity and multicultural events. These new subcommittees reflect the growing interest in immigration issues in our community.

Deborah Robertson, Program Coordinator at the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre, chairs the settlement committee and John Nadeau, a business professor at Nipissing University, chairs the welcoming committee.

New Chair for Employers’ Council

Naveen Ahuja, a branch manager with RBC, is the new chair of the North Bay Newcomer Network Immigrant Employers Council. He succeeds Joe Daniel of TeleTech, who assumes the role of vice-chair. The employers’ council had many accomplishments under his chairmanship, including the creation of both an Employers’ Guide and Relocation Guide, available for free download on the North Bay immigration portal at www.northbayimmigration.ca Professions North is now using the Employers’ Guide as a model for Timmins, Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. Research and design was done by Karen Jones and Clark Communications, with Employers’ Council members taking a hands-on role.

Newcomers Enjoy Trip to Sugar Bush

A trip to a maple syrup farm was the latest group expedition for newcomers and volunteers through our Community Connections program. They had a great day in the sugar bush. Prior to that, newcomers, staff and volunteers enjoyed a couple of skating sessions at Memorial Gardens. It is amazing to see the progress some have made in a very short time. We’re spending a lot less time helping skaters keep their balance.

Golf Tournament June 28

Our third annual charity golf tournament is Thursday, June 28 at Osprey Links with a shotgun start at 1:30. It’s a four-person scramble (best ball) tournament and for \$100 you get a burger lunch prior to tee-off, fabulous multicultural buffet prepared by Dennis Mong and the gang at Partners, 18 holes of golf, cart, a





shot at prizes, and a silent auction. We always have room for more golfers so let me know if you would like to play.

We always appreciate the support of the North Bay business community in supplying prizes and auction items. Courtesy of Union Gas we have a brand new barbecue to auction off.

The team of Marla Tremblay, Caroline Loiselle, Chetna Maharajh and Karen Jones could have a lock on the team that has the most fun prize. The Coldwell Banker, Vic Fedeli, Dennis Mong, Atlas Copco, North Bay Regional Health Centre, Rebuilt Resources and RBC teams are gunning for the Gateway Signs lads, who have won the tournament the past two years. I'm looking for one more golfer for my team—preferably someone who can drive like Bubba Watson, has a short game like Phil Mickelson and a putting stroke like David Toms. Anyone know someone like that? Me neither.

Canadian Feedback Sandwich

Lionel Laroche, Ph.D., P.Eng., has been in touch with me to tell me he has secured funding for a return trip to North Bay. It has been more than two years since his last visit, when his workshop evaluations were over to the top and everyone wanted him to return. His area of expertise is recruiting and developing culturally diverse employees and he will return early in 2013 to deliver a couple of workshops.

Everyone remembers his view of the Canadian “feedback sandwich.” The supervisor says something positive at the start of the performance evaluation session, puts the “but” in the middle and ends with something positive again. The newcomer employee only hears the good stuff on the outside of the sandwich. An American supervisor would be much more direct, but Canadians are so nice.

Check Our Websites

For current information check our settlement agency websites at www.nbdmc.ca and www.timminsmulticultural.ca or the city immigration portals at www.northbayimmigration.ca and www.immigrationtimmins.ca

