



North Bay & District
Multicultural Centre
Immigrant Settlement Services

NEWSLETTER

From Don Curry, Executive Director

French language outreach

I am pleased to announce the addition of Maryline Pillet to the North Bay Newcomer Network (NNN) and North Bay & District Multicultural Centre staff. She has a one-year contract with funding from FedNor and will be leading our French-language outreach. An immigrant from France, Maryline is looking forward to getting to know North Bay and area much better, particularly the francophone communities. A former high school counsellor, she studied Italian, French, Spanish and art at three universities in France. She will be working with our existing French-speaking staff members, Jessica Boissonneault, Cindy Collins and Aaron Fallon. Jessica, a Canadore College graduate, recently joined us as a FedNor intern.

International Cooking Club

Newcomer clients and volunteers have been pushing Host Program leader Vindra Sahadeo to establish an international cooking club and we plan to give it a try. Les Compagnons des Francs-Loisirs has offered its kitchen for the once-a-month event. Board member Dennis Mong says he will lead a Chinese-cooking class. For more information contact Vindra at vindrasahadeo@nbdmc.ca or at 495-8931.

LIP funding extended

Laura-Jane Coté and I were in London and were very pleased to hear that Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) funding will be extended for a second year across Ontario. I emailed NNN Co-Chair Marla Tremblay and she did a happy dance. Mary Barr of Citizenship and Immigration Canada publicly announced the good news at the LIP conference April 30 and May 1. I participated on a panel and we had a great opportunity to exchange information with our LIP and Welcoming Community Initiative colleagues from



Year-end results

We had 24 volunteers currently in a Host Program match with a newcomer at year-end March 31. Besides their one-on-one activities many participated in group activities, including English Conversation Circles, women's brunches, skating, skiing, bus tours and theatre-going. For the 12 months ending March 31 we had 563 visits to our offices by 64 eligible clients. Clients are coming from around the world. We now offer on-site services in English, French, Spanish, Italian, Bengali, Urdu and Hindi.

Toronto Sun article

Toronto Sun columnist Joe Warmington wrote a great piece on North Bay seeking immigrants in the March 11 issue. I had dinner with Joe in Toronto the evening before while attending the Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP) conference and later that night a story broke about new immigration statistics for Toronto, particularly the rise in immigrants from South Asia. We had talked about Joe eventually doing a story on North Bay but my Blackberry was vibrating that morning with Joe wanting to schedule an interview later that day. We did an interview outside on the waterfront (remember the warm days of early March?) and Joe got Marla Tremblay of the North Bay Newcomer Network and Mayor's Office of Economic Development and Taslima Ahmed of our office on the phone for more quotes. We have The Sun's three pages of coverage displayed in our offices. Joe earned his journalism diploma at Canadore College in the late 1980s when I was the program coordinator and print journalism teacher. Taslima got a chuckle from the article's presentation. The article said North Bay is a friendly community. Under her photo the caption was "Very friendly." She is now our "very friendly" ambassador.

New funding proposal

We are preparing a settlement services funding proposal for 2011-2013. Present Citizenship and Immigration Canada funding expires March 31, 2011. I thank all those who have provided terrific letters of support. You are helping us make a difference in people's lives by getting newcomers settled and connected as quickly as possible. CIC is moving away from measuring outputs (numbers of clients and consultations) to outcomes (finding jobs in their fields and integrating into the community.)

Hello Ann, goodbye Deborah

Great to see Program Coordinator Ann Welsh back May 3 from her academic sabbatical at the University of Toronto. Deborah Robertson did a superb job filling in for Ann for eight months and will now enjoy the summer off with teacher husband Chris. Deborah stood in for Ann to accept her Top Forty Under Forty award April 15. That's two awards in two years for Ann. Last year she was named a Diversity Champion by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.





Anti-Racism Lending Library

Our anti-racism lending library is up and running and available to the public. Check it out on our website at www.nbdmc.ca We have excellent resources, selected by educators from all four district school boards, available in both official languages. They are available free of charge to teachers and community groups. Resources are categorized by grade level and for general audiences. Resources were purchased with a grant from the Community Builders fund of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

