

# The Newcomer

A Newsletter on Immigration in Newfoundland and Labrador



## Message from the Minister

As Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment (HRLE), it is my pleasure to highlight some of the activities underway which are helping immigrants to our province settle and integrate into their new communities.

Since the launch of the immigration strategy in 2007, the number of immigrants to our province has been steadily increasing, largely due to growth in the Provincial Nominee Program. As of March 18, 2011, the province has nominated 1,255 individuals under the Provincial Nominee Program. The nominees are from 76 different countries and have settled in 48 communities. Recognizing that retention is equally important, focused efforts are made to encourage our newcomers to remain in the province. During the fall of 2010, The Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism conducted a retention study by surveying all the Provincial Nominees that had received Permanent Residence status. The results are in, and 82 percent of all the people surveyed are still in the province!

The province is particularly interested in encouraging international graduates to remain in the province and recently launched the International Graduate Retention Incentive Program. We are also pleased to support the establishment of a Research Chair on Culture Change in Rapidly Developing Modern Societies at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The provincial Policy on Multiculturalism is garnering respect both regionally and nationally. This policy, with its emphasis on inclusion, continues to gain in popularity with our provincial partners. Tangible evidence of the success of the Policy can be seen in the numerous activities which took place during Multiculturalism Week from March 20–27. Thank you to all our community partners for hosting the many vibrant and exciting events across the province. As the theme notes: Together We Rock!



Did you know that OIM is on Facebook and YouTube?

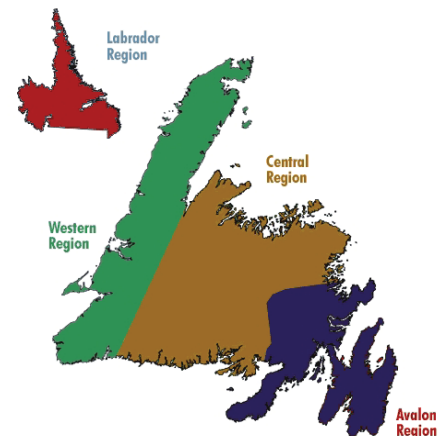
## Settlement & Integration Support

The Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism has four Settlement and Integration Consultant positions located in St. John's, Grand Falls-Windsor, Corner Brook and Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

These individuals foster welcoming communities for newcomers by creating awareness and promoting the benefits they bring to their new homes. They help to link newcomers to the services offered in their towns. In addition, they promote the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) to local companies unable to meet their skilled worker needs with Canadians as well as support PNP applicants through the process. Often they assist newcomers reunite with family members through our Family Connections category of the PNP.

Contact one of the Settlement Integration Consultants in your region. We connect people with possibilities! Labrador Settlement Consultant: 709-896-0335; Western Settlement Consultant: 709-637-2313; Central Settlement Consultant: 709-292-4372; Avalon Settlement Consultant: 709-729-7732.

Send ideas for future issues of "The Newcomer" to: Human Resources, Labour and Employment; Office of Immigration & Multiculturalism, P.O. Box 8700, 136 Crosbie Road, 2nd Floor, Viking Building, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6; Phone: 709-729-6607; Fax: 709-729-7381 Email: [immigration@gov.nl.ca](mailto:immigration@gov.nl.ca); Visit us on the web: [www.nimmigration.ca](http://www.nimmigration.ca).



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE in the Community



## Welcoming Communities

Anyone who has relocated to a new area is aware of the challenges faced when attempting to settle into new surroundings. This challenge can be much greater when faced with additional barriers such as language proficiency, culture shock, and unfamiliar customs and traditions. At times, this lack of community integration can be severe enough to cause an individual to leave the area due to social isolation. In the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador we are working to address this nationwide challenge by developing expertise to assist communities in becoming more welcoming and inclusive to newcomers.

Specific Welcoming Communities Sessions are offered to key community stakeholders on how to attract, welcome and retain newcomers to their respective areas. Since 2009, the Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism has delivered workshops to the towns of Grand Falls-Windsor, Placentia and St. Anthony, and the regions of the Northeast Avalon, the Baccileau Trail and the Irish Loop. These workshops have resulted in concrete, personalized action plans for each area to position themselves to be more welcoming and inclusive communities for newcomers. If you are interested in this initiative for your community, please contact the Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism: [immigration@gov.nl.ca](mailto:immigration@gov.nl.ca), or 709-729-6607.



## Multiculturalism Week

Multiculturalism is thriving in Newfoundland and Labrador. This was certainly evident during the 2011 Multiculturalism Week designated to celebrate the cultures of all individuals living in the province.

During March 20-27, 2011, all four regions (Labrador, Western, Central and Eastern) across the province embraced the celebrations by lighting up their communities with multicolored lights and by organizing over 50 activities that recognized the importance all diverse cultures in their respective communities. Equally noteworthy was the support received from several mayors including those in Carbonear, Channel-Port aux Basques, Corner Brook, Deer Lake, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador City-Wabush, Mount Pearl, St. John's and St. Anthony who proclaimed their very own Multiculturalism Week in their respective communities.



In Labrador, there were a number of special events to mark the importance of this week. The presence of the Multicultural Council of Labrador West is strong and gathering momentum. The Council has established Vision and Mission statements, hosted multicultural potluck suppers and multinational displays. Similarly, in the Western region, educational institutions such as the College of the North Atlantic and the Grenfell Campus Memorial University Newfoundland did an outstanding job of organizing several events designed to combat discrimination and promote cross cultural understanding. The Central region focused on sharing cultures through food and art, while in the Eastern region several service agencies such as the Social Workers Council, the Health Sciences Corporation and the Association for New Canadians organized educational seminars to recognize the importance of cultural diversity in the workplace.

Through community partnerships, local and world class dancers gave stellar performances at the Arts and Culture Centre and the LSPU Hall. As we reflect on these wonderful events hosted by our community partners, we know that our theme for this week is most appropriate -Yes, Together, We Rock! For a more detailed list of activities visit [www.nlimmigration.ca](http://www.nlimmigration.ca).

