

The Newcomer

A Quarterly Newsletter on Immigration in Newfoundland and Labrador



Hon. Paul Shelley, Minister

Successful launch!

As Minister for Human Resources, Labour and Employment with responsibility for provincial immigration matters, I am pleased with the success of the first issue of this newsletter, *"The Newcomer."*

The newsletter was distributed widely throughout the province, both in paper and electronic format. I extend a special thank you to the Department of Education for including it in a mail out to schools, to the NLTA for distributing it to teachers, to the St. John's Board of Trade for inserting

it in the May edition of *Business News*, and to the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development for distributing it to members of the Ambassador program.

There has been considerable interest in the newsletter which brings a human face to the issue of immigration. The success stories are truly inspiring and I would like to thank the newcomers for sharing their experiences with us.

Work continues on the development of an immigration strategy. Stay tuned for an announcement in the fall.

Newfoundland and Labrador Participates in Immigration Fairs in Europe

In March 2006, Newfoundland and Labrador participated in three Immigration fairs in Europe. The fairs were held in Utrecht, London, and Glasgow and attracted thousands of people interested in immigrating to Canada. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency funded an Atlantic booth at each fair, and each of the Atlantic provinces set up a display of promotional materials designed to attract prospective immigrants.



Maria Yablon (INTRD), Nellie Burke (HRLE), Scarlett Hann, Physician Recruitment Coordinator

There was considerable interest in Newfoundland and Labrador as a possible new home. Many were impressed by the spectacular scenery presented in our promotional materials. Many of those interested were highly skilled individuals and those who were interested in starting businesses. They are looking for a better lifestyle and higher quality of life including a safe place to raise children, and a sense of community.

Over 100 individuals were interested enough to complete contact sheets for follow-up purposes. Many plan to visit the province this summer or fall to explore what we have to offer which will help them make their decision with respect to immigrating.



Debbie Sheppard, (in white) Human Resources, Labour and Employment

As follow-up, staff of the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, in partnership with Human Resources, Labour and Employment, prepared and shipped a package of information to each individual who provided contact information.

Participation in the Immigration fairs provided an excellent opportunity to promote the province and to make contact with prospective immigrants.

Immigration by the numbers 2006

January 2006-April 2006

Permanent Residents admitted to Canada	74,419
Permanent Residents admitted to Newfoundland and Labrador	147
Percentage share	0.19%

Did you know?...

- In January 2006, the number of visitors to the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website www.cic.gc.ca exceeded 2.6 million.
- International students are now able to work off-campus during their study here in Canada.
- International student enrollment in Newfoundland and Labrador is currently at 1,119 students with an economic contribution estimated at approximately \$22.84 million supplying 334 jobs to our economy.

Definitions

Canadian Citizen: In order to become a Canadian Citizen, you must:

- Be a permanent resident of Canada
- Have lived in Canada for at least three of the last four years
- Submit the completed application along with the required documentation to Citizenship Processing Centre, Sydney, Nova Scotia
- Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of English or French, of Canada as a nation, and of the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship.

Permanent Resident: Permanent resident status gives a non-Canadian the right to live, study and work in Canada. Permanent residents are entitled to most social benefits according to Canadian citizens (including health-care coverage), pay taxes and respect laws.

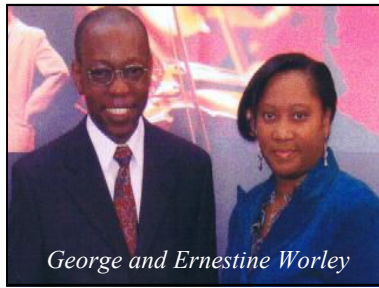
Temporary Resident: A foreign national who is lawfully in Canada for a temporary period of time. There are three classes of temporary residents:

1. Visitor
2. Temporary Worker
3. International (foreign) student



A Success Story...

Ernestine Worley and her three children, Josephine, Frank, and Georjinnie, arrived in St. John's in September 2000. Since their native country of Sierra Leone was experiencing civil war, the Worley family became refugees. George Worley, Ernestine's husband, became separated from the family and when the opportunity to come to Canada became available, Ernestine made the difficult decision to apply for resettlement without George.



George and Ernestine Worley

Upon arrival at St. John's airport, officials of the Association for New Canadians (ANC) warmly welcomed the Worley family. Ernestine speaks fondly of the Association, "They were very thorough in ensuring that all our needs were met." "We were provided with food, taken to grocery stores, and given directions to drugstores and a family physician, and they made all arrangements for the children to resume their education."

While the Worley family settled into their new lives, thoughts of a father and husband left behind in The Gambia remained. With the assistance of the ANC, Ernestine submitted a successful application for reunification to the federal government, and George was reunited with his family in February 2002. After arriving in St. John's George participated in the AXIS Career Services Program at the ANC which he credits with assisting him to find his

initial employment with a local call centre. After two years of workplace experience, George is proudly employed with a federal government agency.

Ernestine also appreciates the help of a local nurse whom she met through her church. "She assisted me with my preparations for registration with the Association of Registered Nurses and acted as a mentor," says Ernestine. "I was successful in completing the Nursing examinations and eventually was hired as a nurse by the Healthcare Corporation of St. John's."

Over the last few years, the Worley family have become involved in many volunteer activities in their church and community partly as an expression of gratitude to the community for welcoming them with open hearts and hands. Frank volunteers with the Refugee Immigrant Advisory Council while Georjinnie volunteers at the Health Science Centre and the Multicultural Women's Association. For the past three years, George has made himself available for the Volunteer Income Tax Program helping seniors, students and people with low incomes prepare their income tax returns.

The Worley family are a long way from their native country but they now consider St. John's their home.

Community News ...

The Association for New Canadians

A creative way to learn English

Our local settlement agency, The Association for New Canadians, has found a unique way to enrich their work in teaching English to newcomers.

Through a partnership with *The Telegram* and the Newspaper in Education Program, the newspaper has become an integral part of the daily curriculum. Teachers at every level, from Literacy to Advanced English, have found creative and novel ways of including *The Telegram* in their daily classroom activities.



The newspaper is a great resource for teaching new immigrants about Canada and about Canadian values.

Reading the local, the national and international news every day centers them in this country and helps them to reconnect with the world.

Newfoundland and Labrador welcomes its newest Canadians

On Wednesday, May 31, 2006, a Citizenship Ceremony took place at Holy Heart of Mary High School in St. John's.

Forty – six immigrants representing 26 countries took the oath of citizenship. Dr. Greg Radu and his wife Oana, are two of our 46 new Canadians. Dr. Radu and wife Oana came to Newfoundland and Labrador under the Provincial Nominee Program administered by the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development. The Radu family arrived in this province almost 5 years ago from Romania.



Dr. Radu continues his education in medicine at Memorial University and Oana is a faculty member in the Mathematics Department.

Memorial University

ACE Memorial and the Multicultural Women's Organization of Newfoundland and Labrador foster entrepreneurship

In January of 2006, Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE) Memorial partnered with the Multicultural Women's Organization of Newfoundland and Labrador (MWONL) to create a program promoting entrepreneurship as a career option to members of the province's multicultural community. **Project Passport**, a series of educational business seminars, was designed to teach newcomers the fundamentals of accounting, budgeting, technology, and business planning, resume writing, and interview skills. Forty participants completed the seminar in April, 2006.

Featuring this project, ACE Memorial competed at the ACE National Exposition in Toronto in May, 2006, winning top honours and will represent Canada in Paris in September, 2006.

ACE Memorial intends to follow-up with many of their participants this summer and monitor their progress. They also hope to expand the program again next year to include even more participants and local business organizations. For more information on ACE Memorial visit www.acememorial.com.

