

# The Newcomer

A Quarterly Newsletter on Immigration in Newfoundland and Labrador



Hon. Paul Shelley, Minister

The topic of immigration continues to garner considerable interest in the province. With current and impending skills shortages, difficult-to-fill positions in rural and remote areas, continued out-migration, lowest birth rate in Canada, and a declining and aging population, increasingly immigration is being considered as part of a possible solution.

Another reason, however, that immigration is important to the province is that immigrants historically have made a valuable contribution to the economic development of the province. Immigrants bring expertise in many areas and start businesses which employ local residents.

At the first ever provincial immigration symposium on September 18, we heard from a number of immigrants who have established successful businesses in the province. The symposium also provided an opportunity to hear from international

students and graduates about their experiences in Newfoundland and Labrador. These highly skilled and talented individuals represent a source of potential immigrants to the province.

That is why this third edition of *The Newcomer* is dedicated to international students and graduates. In partnership with the Department of Education, Memorial University, College of the North Atlantic, the Humber Education Alliance and the Newfoundland International Student Education Program, we are pleased to provide an overview of international student activity in the province, as well as testimonials of students and success stories of graduates.

Work on the provincial immigration strategy continues with plans to launch it later in the fall or early winter.

## International Students in Newfoundland and Labrador

### Province Extends Warm Welcome to International Students

In the 2005/2006 academic year, almost 1100 international students from over 90 countries were welcomed into our province's secondary and post-secondary institutions.

This number is up from the 484 international students who came to the province in 2001, when efforts to attract more international students to the province increased significantly.

Newfoundland and Labrador's educational institutions – Memorial University of Newfoundland, College of the North Atlantic, the Newfoundland International Student Education Program (NISEP), and the Humber Education Alliance (a non-profit partnership consisting of College of the North Atlantic, Academy Canada, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College and the Western School District) - are working together in a coordinated provincial approach to market the province as a destination of study for international students. These students enhance the cultural diversity of the province and prepare our youth to compete in the knowledge-based economy by exposing them to other cultures.

A representative of NISEP (Eastern School District) is pleased with the positive impact these students are making, adding, "Students from different countries have added a new dimension to our schools. Providing an opportunity for our students to interact with students from other countries and cultures is a tremendous learning experience and permits our students to gain insight into the lives of young people of a different language and ethnic background. This can only add to their educational life."

The benefits for international students are also significant. These students gain access to our province's high quality education system while experiencing the wonderful people, culture and environment that Newfoundland and Labrador is so proud of. International student recruitment brings outstanding students into our classrooms, many of whom are making significant contributions to their respective schools. For example Song Moon Oh



Dr. Axel Meisen, President, MUN and International Students at the Immigration Symposium

of South Korea, a junior high student enrolled in the Western School District, won the Rotary Music Festival's Rose Bowl in March 2006. Song Moon, who recently auditioned for New York City's Juilliard School of Music, also took home the provincial title and was invited to the national competition.

Education is recognized as a major global commodity and is considered one of the fastest growing economic sectors in Canada. The worldwide value of the international education market, taking into account all products and services, is estimated at about \$100 billion annually. In 2005/06, international students contributed \$22.84 million to the Newfoundland and Labrador economy.

International Student Enrollment Newfoundland and Labrador Fall 2005	Enrollment
<b>Memorial University of Newfoundland</b> (diploma, undergraduate, graduate and ESL students enrolled at Memorial's St. John's campus, Marine Institute and Sir Wilfred Grenfell College)	<b>947</b>
<b>College of the North Atlantic</b> (regular, contract, and ESL students enrolled at CNA's campuses across the province)	<b>56</b>
<b>Western School District</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Newfoundland International Student Education Program</b> (Eastern School District)	<b>71</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1099</b>

Growth in International Student Enrollment	2001	2005	% Increase
Canada	120,611	153,996	<b>28</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	484	1099	<b>127</b>

## International Students speak...

### Memorial University

Luling Zhang came to Canada from China, and after studying for one year in Vancouver, in 2003 he came to Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) to enroll in the Bachelor of Business Administration program. "The quality and reputation of MUN has definitely made a lasting and good impression on me. I am proud of being a MUN student. My professors' and friends' encouragement gives me strong confidence to continue pursuing higher academic achievement," says Luling.



During three years of hard work, Luling achieved his dream and obtained an honours degree, Bachelor of Business Administration. During his studies he also obtained a business scholarship in 2005, and made the Business Dean's List in 2006. As well, with help of the staff of the Career Development Center of MUN, upon graduation he immediately found a local job related to his field.

In order to help more international students adapt to local life, Luling volunteered as International Orientation Group Leader, Event Specialist and Orientation Coordinator. "Compared to Vancouver, St John's is a peaceful and harmonious city. Most local people are very friendly. I like studying and living in St John's. After enriching my working experiences, I will definitely choose MUN to continue my studies at the masters level," said Luling.

Luling believes that Newfoundland and Labrador has tremendous potential and he hopes that his story will encourage more international students to choose or continue their study at MUN and stay here after graduation and contribute their knowledge and skills to the province.

### College of the North Atlantic

"The College of the North Atlantic is surely what I was looking for when I decided to study abroad. It had an easy academic flow in my first year which helped me settle down easily into a new education system. Newfoundland and Labrador, is ideal for studying and living in a new country. It is very peaceful here with enough sceneries and history to provide for one's recreation. All in all I know that I made a very good decision by coming here"

*Amandeep Wadhawan, India- Biomedical Engineering Technology*

"I've always wanted to study abroad, and had attended many tradeshow with information about schools in Canada. I am doing my first year of Business here at CNA, and then will continue my degree at MUN. I'm happy to be here for my first year. The teachers are great and I like the small classes."

*Eric Resendiz, Tecozautla, Mexico-Business Studies*

### Sir Wilfred Grenfell College



"Grenfell College's small class sizes and friendly environment ensure individual attention; this helps students make the transition from high school to university. It certainly helped me to make the transition from a different country. Plus, Grenfell is a fun place to be!"

*Imuetinyan Igbo-Osagie, Sir Wilfred Grenfell*

## Community News ...

### The Association for New Canadians

#### Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Donates Computers to the ANC Career Information Resource Centre

The Career Information Resource Centre of the Association for New Canadians officially opened its doors in June to help newcomers make career choices and assist in their job search. The centre is equipped with an automated bibliographic database and circulation of over 1500 books, journals and periodicals covering a variety of academic disciplines. The centre was part of an initiative funded by Service Canada, and was also made possible through community and corporate sponsorships. Memorial University in particular is an ongoing contributor of resource materials for the centre.



Recently, the RBC Foundation and the Atlantic Community Investment Committee made a generous donation that allowed the ANC to purchase a number of new computers for the centre. Pictured above are Mr. Glen Kelsey and Mr. Shane Kennedy from RBC who visited the centre to talk with students from the Enhanced Language Training class. These students are using the new computers to do a research project related to their prospective careers.

### Symposium builds momentum



*Hon. Monte Solberg, Minister,  
Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
With Hon. Paul Shelley*

On September 17 and 18, 2006, the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment hosted the province's first ever immigration symposium at the Fairmont in St. John's.

Over 250 participants from many areas of the province attended the symposium which featured a diversity of topics for discussion.

This event served to highlight the value of immigration to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and provided the very first opportunity to look at immigration from cultural, social, educational and economic perspectives. The overall feedback from the participants and the media was very positive.

Sessions for the symposium included:

*The Benefits of Immigration: The Manitoba Experience  
Integration and Retention  
Immigration: Opportunity for Growth  
Welcoming Communities  
Immigrants Sharing Stories  
International Students as Potential Immigrants  
Foreign Credential Recognition  
Provincial Nominee Program  
Settling into an island society*

The symposium fulfilled its objective of creating awareness of the benefits of immigration and building momentum for the provincial immigration strategy.