



# PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada Annual Community Meeting

Monday, November 28 2016

Murphy's Community Center, Room 207

6:30 - 7:00pm – 'Meet and Greet'

## AGENDA

7:00pm

- Highlighted video:
  - "DiverseCity Summerside" (filmed by Jeff Eagar)
- Remarks from the President (Julius Patkai)
- Highlighted videos:
  - "Apples and Olives" (filmed by Yvette Doucette and Tori Vail)
  - "Three Cultures, Two Generations, One Love" for Girls' Action Foundation National Day of Action (project by YSS, filmed by Madi Selseleh)
- EDs message (Craig Mackie, Executive Director, PEI ANC)
- Highlighted video:
  - "Finding Home" (filmed by Yvette Doucette and Tori Vail)
- **Presentation of the 6th Annual PEI ANC Community Appreciation Awards**
  - PEI ANC Business Appreciation Award
  - PEI ANC Organization Appreciation Award
  - PEI ANC Outstanding Individual Award
- Highlighted videos:
  - "Christmas in Canada" (filmed by Jeff Eagar)
  - "Learn-to-Camp PEI" (filmed by A for Adventure)
- Closing remarks

Brown  
29.11.16  
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~~~ Snacks and refreshments ~~~

PEI ASSOCIATION FOR  
NEWCOMERS  
TO CANADA



ASSOCIATION POUR  
NOUVEAUX ARRIVANTS  
AU CANADA DE L'Î-P-É

## Message from the Executive Director – Craig Mackie

We have lived through a most extraordinary year. It was a year of awesome effort and achievement by all of the staff at PEIANC. The growth in overall immigration in PEI, coupled with the Syrian refugee arrivals, and the population of PEI's increase in interest in all things refugee and immigrant, made this the Association's busiest year ever.

From that day in September 2015 when the tragic picture of little Aylan Kurdi on the beach woke Canadians up to the most disastrous refugee situation since the Second World War, followed in November by the new federal government announcing their intention to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada, the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada moved into action. Governments, community groups, individuals, and media looked to PEIANC for information and leadership.

Within weeks, PEI received 181 Syrian refugees. Together with community and sponsorship groups, we provided a welcoming and safe place. It was an outstanding achievement and we feel proud to have played such an important part in this historic initiative. These new Islanders have many challenges ahead of them, but they will continue to receive support from PEIANC and their new communities.

PEIANC welcomed over 1500 new clients to PEI this fiscal year, helped more immigrants get jobs, and saw a massive increase in the number of volunteers who helped with our work, and so much more. Our activities to help newcomers integrate into Island and Canadian life, broadened, and included presenting the three DiverseCity festivals across PEI again, with a real, live, Citizenship ceremony as a jewel in the Charlottetown event.

It was a year in which the PEIANC team demonstrated our abilities, expertise, and professionalism. We look forward to continuing to support the large numbers of immigrants arriving over the coming years—people who are critical to the future of our Province. We look forward to building on our partnerships and to continuing to bring people and communities together to help make PEI a welcoming, respectful, and inclusive place.



## ***Highlights of the Fiscal Year***

**April 1, 2015 — March 31, 2016**

This year was an extraordinary year on Prince Edward Island, across Canada, and around the globe. The refugee crisis resulting from the conflict in Syria was met by Canada's commitment to settle 25,000 refugees. Refugees on PEI, Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) and Privately Sponsored (PSRs), receive support and services from PEIANC, including: settlement, language support, workshops on various topics, employment assistance, referral to community organizations and services, and social integration programs. While all PEIANC staff was involved in the resettlement of 181 Syrian refugees, special credit goes to the **Resettlement Assistance Program, Canadian Life Skills Program, Newcomer Settlement Services, and Youth Settlement Services** staff for handling many day-to-day pressures and overtime with humanity, grace and professionalism.

At the beginning of the year, PEIANC was reeling from a 17% budget cut, and sadly, several wonderful staff with significant expertise had to be let go. With reduced staff, and having to facilitate the settlement of so many refugees in such a short period of time, PEIANC spearheaded **The Welcome Project** with leadership from the Province's **Ministerial Advisory Council on Refugees**, and additional financial support provided by province. As the operation to resettle Syrian refugees continued, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) also provided incremental funding to the ANC to hire temporary staff to assist with this effort.

Over 300 volunteers—established Islanders to recently arrived newcomers—shared their time and talents to assist The Welcome Project with everything from interpretation, to sorting items at a temporary **Donation Centre**. The Donation Centre operated from December 2015 until April 2016, providing initial necessities to many Syrian families. It was filled to capacity by the generosity and goodwill of Islanders. Many of the new-to-PEIANC volunteers have now become EAL (English-as-an-Additional-Language) tutors, or Community Inclusion Program (CIP) matches).

In addition to the families from Syria, PEIANC also assisted more than 40 GARs who are destined to PEI each year. Tragically, the refugee crisis is world-wide and ongoing, and not limited to any single nation. To that end, this year's **World Refugee Day** was marked by our event, "*On Foot and on Film*," which expressed solidarity with the 51.2 million refugees and internally displaced persons who have been forced to leave their homes and journey into uncharted territory—physically and emotionally. In March the Province held the **Premier's Welcome Reception** for all refugees new to the Island. There were many hundreds of Islanders in attendance to meet the newest members of our communities.

**The total number of new arrivals to the province over the year was 1520.** To deal with the need for social integration opportunities from so many new clients over the winter months, PEIANC's **Community**

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**The PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada brings people and communities together by providing settlement services and fostering inclusion and integration.**

**We see PEI as a welcoming, respectful, and inclusive community that supports newcomers as full members of society and values their contributions.**

## Overview of PEIANC Programs and Services

| PEIANC Services                                    | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Intake and Referral Services                       | Before accessing PEIANC's free services, newcomers must register through our Intake process. Intake does the following: determines eligibility for PEIANC programs; completes a needs assessment for each newcomers and their family; and directs client to, or explains about, other important community services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Newcomer Settlement Services (NSS)                 | NSS workers assist newcomers with settling and integrating into Canadian society. They provide assistance with orientation, translation, interpretation, referral to community services such as immunizations, doctors, and applying for government programs. NSS staff also act as a liaison with outside community organizations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Resettlement Assistance Program for Refugees (RAP) | This program is designed to meet initial settlement needs for Government Assisted Refugees. It is delivered within 6-8 weeks upon their arrival in Prince Edward Island. Services include: temporary accommodations, an initial assessment and the delivery of orientation and needed information in order to begin the resettlement process, as well as linkage to other existing programs and services.                                                                                                                                               |
| Canadian Life Skills (CLS)                         | CLS staff offer support to refugees, and information workshops to all newcomers, regardless of immigration category, on a wide variety of topics including: winter, income tax, summer fun, budgeting, and legal issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Multicultural Education Program (MEP)              | The Multicultural Education Program (MEP) focuses on the areas of cultural diversity education, inclusion, and combating stereotypes and racism. MEP is a leader in this education on Prince Edward Island. By working with government representatives, businesses, teachers, students, and community organizations, MEP assists in easing the cultural transition of newcomers into Island workplaces, schools, and communities.                                                                                                                       |
| Employment Assistance Services (EAS)               | EAS counsellors help newcomers overcome employment barriers in your search for work on PEI. They assist by: assessing newcomer's employment strengths and skills, and exploring options to address any employment barriers. They help identify suitable employment or volunteer opportunities, and they offer one-on-one career counselling. EAS help clients create a work plan and offer ongoing support and guidance to get you working. Staff work closely with employers and with the Connectors Program of the Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce. |
| Employment Services for Island Employers           | Employment Assistance Service (EAS) has also been assisting Island businesses build stronger and more diverse workplaces since 1995. For instance, our expert team members can: send out your query or employment ad to hundreds of immigrants legally entitled to work, provide workshops on cross-cultural communication, awareness and inclusion, and locate and provide information on government wage subsidy programs, if applicable.                                                                                                             |

## Mary Catherine Connolly

In January 2015, CHANCES Family Resource Centre, in partnership with Medavie Health Foundation, implemented a community-based, nurse practitioner-led family health clinic, which has proven to be highly beneficial to PEIANC clients. Families with children under the age of twelve, who do not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, have been referred to this clinic. Mary Catherine Connolly is the nurse practitioner at the Charlottetown centre, and the continuity of having a health professional looking after newcomer families health needs has shown to be invaluable.

It is also because of who Mary Catherine is that this program has been so successful. Her thoroughness and attention to detail in her care have truly contributed to the well-being of those families who have unfamiliar health problems which could have gone undetected and untreated. Mary Catherine has been diligent in finding remedies for their ailments, in ensuring that they are receiving follow-up care, and in referring them to other health professionals and community resources. Overall, these families are enjoying healthier lives.

Mary Catherine is concerned for the well-being of her clients and is patient, kind, and culturally sensitive. Mary Catherine cares about the refugee population, referred to her through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) at PEIANC, so much so that in order to serve her patients better, she chose to attend a conference in Toronto that focused on refugee health.

She is passionate about what she does and the clients, who are fortunate enough to have her as their health care provider, clearly see her passion.

Mary Catherine Connolly is committed to ensuring that newcomers and their families enjoy the best health possible. She recognizes that good health will enable them to seek work, lead active lives, and consequently, integrate more successfully into the community.

PEIANC is pleased to award Mary Catherine Connolly with the Community Appreciation Award for an Outstanding Individual who goes above and beyond normal everyday commitments in order to support overall newcomer well-being. Congratulations Mary Catherine.

## Trinity United Church

Trinity United Church has consistently provided support to PEIANC in various ways. They have offered the use of their gym, and more recently of the upstairs multipurpose room for a very minimal cost for the YSS Summer Program, the Seniors/Intergenerational line-dance, and other integration events (Women's Group, Volunteer Appreciation Day). The staff has been supportive of the unusual requests we make, and tolerant of a lot of ruckus - they take everything in stride with a sense of humour.

Trinity-Clifton has been involved with refugee sponsorship since the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in the 1980s. The Pastoral Charge organized to help reunite a family that had been separated for years. The Trinity-Clifton Pastoral Charge has also sponsored refugee families, including this past year, when they went above and beyond by offering the manse building on the church property to one of the Syrian refugee families to call home.

There are countless volunteers who have committed thousands of hours over these years to make Trinity-Clifton an open and welcoming place in our community.

This year, Trinity offered one of its rooms as the location for weekly clothing donations drop off - and the monthly clothing giveaway offered through our Women's Group and Community Connections program. This act of generosity has enabled an important free event to continue after it had stopped due to a lack of a suitable location.

The PEI ANC is pleased to recognize Trinity-Clifton with its Outstanding Organization Community Appreciation Award for its commitment to refugee settlement and integration, and its contribution to building the spirit of inclusion and cross-cultural understanding on PEI. Harry Kiley, a member of the Pastoral Charge and refugee sponsorship group, is here to accept the award on behalf of Trinity-Clifton. Congratulations!

## **GoCuts Family Hair Salon (Jason Pitre)**

Recognizing the eagerness and capability of newcomers settling on PEI, Jason Pitre, owner of GoCuts Family Hair Salon, reached out to The Welcome Project and the Employment Assistance Service at PEIANC to offer an employment opportunity to a newly arrived Syrian refugee with hair styling experience. The result: Jason hired two Syrian refugees! Hiring two fully trained and certified hair stylists has provided a long-term opportunity to a husband and wife team to gain Canadian workplace experience in their field, while being able to fully support their family.

Jason recognized the contribution newcomers can make to the Island's society, and immediately stepped up to engage the best way he knew how. Jason matched up two people with the right skill set into his business and it is a win-win situation for everyone.

The Ibrahim / Allaham family continue to settle and make connections within the Island community with help from stable employment. At PEIANC, we work to bring people and communities together so it's rewarding to witness these opportunities being spearheaded within the community.

PEIANC is please to present GoCuts Family Hair Salon with its Community Appreciation Award for Outstanding Business. GoCuts an Island business that demonstrates the social and economic benefits of employing newcomers, and is an excellent model of how to succeed in supporting immigrant retention and business growth. Congratulations Jason and GoCuts!