
Immigration Settlement Services Offered in the Quad Counties

Friday, December 4, 2009

Newcomer Settlement Services remain strong in the quad-county region with the continuation of the Newcomer Settlement Project. The Strait-Highland Regional Development Agency (S-HRDA), the Antigonish Regional Development Authority (ARDA), and the Guysborough County Regional Development Authority (GCRDA) consider the retention and successful settlement of newcomers in the region a priority and have been involved in newcomer settlement activities for several years. They are pleased to announce that newcomer settlement services are continuing for another year with Tanya Felix in the role of regional immigration navigator as part of a Newcomer Settlement Project which receives funding from both provincial and federal partners.

The regional immigration navigator provides support to newcomers as they make their transition to life in Canada. Felix acts as a starting point for anyone considering a move to the quad-county region that is Inverness, Richmond, Antigonish, and Guysborough counties. She also works with community groups, employers, and organizations in trying to make our communities more welcoming for newcomers and discusses options for hiring internationally.

“The regional immigration navigator is a consistent and centralized point of contact for newcomers settling in the area,” says Alisha Grant, development officer at ARDA. “We provide a central location where both newcomers and stakeholders can obtain information related to immigration and settlement needs.”

Partnerships are a key component of providing this valuable service. Just last month, the regional immigration navigator was pleased to partner with the Nova Scotia Community College to bring a strong newcomer settlement message to their Multi-Cultural Day event at the Strait Area Campus.

“We rely on our partners to help us build a network of resources that will help newcomers settle successfully in the region,” explained Amanda Mombourquette, innovation and skills facilitator at S-HRDA.

In the next year, Felix will be working on engaging newcomers in community activities, engaging stakeholders and businesses in welcoming newcomers, and providing navigation and guidance to newcomers related to general community information, employment, regulations, etc.

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“To ensure that a move is successful, no matter where you are coming from, it is very important to be informed,” says Tina Dickieson, development officer at GCRDA. “With input from newcomers and partners, we’ve created a guide that will assist people in getting started with a new chapter in their lives.”

The Relocation and Settlement Guide has been designed with immigrants in mind but is also a valuable resource for people moving here from other parts of Canada and even former residents.

The guide was developed in response to requests from newcomers and organizations for more information on the process of immigration and settlement. The primary focus of the guide is to assist newcomers with settling in the area, but it also includes information on resources available in other parts of Nova Scotia, neighboring municipalities, and Canada.

“Not only does the guide provide information to help non-residents and potential immigrants better understand what is required if they are planning to stay in Canada, but it also provides information on how to get here, climate, culture, and lifestyle,” says Felix.

The Relocation and Settlement Guide and other project-related information are available at www.immigrationnavigator.ns.ca and www.antigonishrda.ns.ca/antigonish/comingto/.

To find out more about services for newcomers in Nova Scotia, how to get connected in the community for employment, how to begin the immigration process, or plan your move, please contact Tanya Felix at 902-625-3929, ext. 6 or by e-mail at: tanya.felix@immigrationnavigator.ns.ca.

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