



Winter Issue  
March, 2009

# MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF FREDERICTON INC.

# MOSAIC

123 York Street, Suite 201  
Fredericton, NB, E3B 3N6  
Tel: (506) 454-8292  
Fax: (506) 450-9033  
Email: [mcaf@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:mcaf@mcaf.nb.ca)  
**We're on the web!**  
[WWW.MCAF.NB.CA](http://WWW.MCAF.NB.CA)

## Message from Dexter J. Noël, President of MCAF

I would like to take this opportunity to formally greet all the Newcomers who have joined us since the publication of the last Newsletter. All of us at MCAF extend a very warm welcome to you and wish you all the best as you become part of the Canadian family.

I imagine that, so far, this winter has been a challenge but yet a source of wonder to all of you. Don't worry, spring is around the corner and remember all the fun you had and all the new friends you made at the Halloween and the Santa Drop-in parties. This Newsletter will highlight our Youth and their activities. They are our future.

*This is a digital newsletter, so please feel free to share it as widely as possible, and, remember that your comments and suggestions are always appreciated.*

**Dexter J. Noël, President of**



## Sharing the holiday spirit

We would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions to the Holiday Gift Hampers:

- \* **BAP Equipment Ltd.**
- \* **Crowne Plaza**
- \* **Dr. Brent Graham**
- \* **Helark Investments Ltd.**
- \* **ROSS Drug Mart**
- \* **Scotia Bank**
- \* **Victory Meat Market**
- \* **York Credit Union**

With your support, the MCAF and the Wilmot Outreach Committee provided **39 full hampers** including groceries for a week, a turkey, a fruit basket as well as clothing items for each member of the family and toys for each child. An additional **111 toys and 115 fruit baskets** shared the holiday spirit with MCAF LINC class participants.

## Up-coming MCAF & Community Events

- **IT Reverse Job Fair**  
March 18, 2-6pm, Crowne Plaza
- **Multicultural Festival**  
March 19, 10am-4pm  
Boyce Farmers' Market
- **Celebrate Africa!**  
March 21, 6:30-9pm, Playhouse
- **NBELT Graduation/  
Employer Appreciation Night**  
March 25, 6-9pm  
New Maryland Center
- **Volunteer Appreciation Night**  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm  
Killarney Lake Lodge

**To register or for more info  
about our up-coming events,  
go to our website  
[www.mcaf.nb.ca](http://www.mcaf.nb.ca)**

## Newcomer Youth Participation in Sports

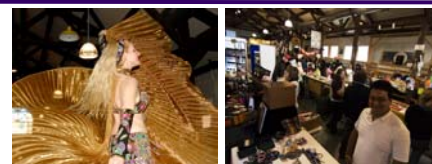
The MCAF is pleased to announce that we have received a True Sport Community Fund grant from the True Sport Foundation to facilitate Newcomer Youth Participation in Sports. For more details about this exciting new program, see page 3.



## Multicultural Festival In celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Thursday, March 19, 10:00am -4:00pm

In celebration of the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the MCAF will host its annual Multicultural Festival on March 19th, 10am-4pm, at Boyce Farmers' Market. The Multicultural Festival will feature 21 cultural music and dance performances and fashion shows of traditional clothing from diverse regions. Twenty-seven booths will showcase diversity, inclusion, international development, peace education and cultural displays. There will be international food for purchase. For more info. contact Haruka at 452-0654 or [haruka@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:haruka@mcaf.nb.ca).

*The Multicultural Festival is funded by NB Population Growth Secretariat and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and is sponsored by the NB Filmmakers' Co-operative and St. Thomas University Drama Department.*



*This edition features the*

# Newcomer Youth Programs

**MCAF Newcomer Youth Programs** provide various activities designed to facilitate the integration, full participation and engagement of newcomer youth settling in Fredericton.

Recently Carlos Cuellar was hired as a full-time Newcomer Youth Group Program Coordinator to coordinate our extensive weekly youth programming and partnerships for almost 50 newcomer youth. In addition to coordinating a range of youth activities each weeknight and weekends during the school year, MCAF Newcomer Youth Programming is full-time on March break, December break and Summer break. Participating are approximately 50 newcomer immigrant and refugee youth aged 13-21 from 11 countries: Algeria, Burundi, Colombia, Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Iran, Korea, Liberia, Mexico and Somalia.



## ***Newcomer Youth Group***

The Newcomer Youth Group provides newcomer youth aged 13 to 21 with an environment in which to socialize and enjoy activities while fostering self-esteem and leadership skills. The Group meets regularly to participate in educational activities and community events, including sports, outings, conferences, workshops and other personal development opportunities. Through the Youth Group activities, the youth develop skills, a sense of belonging and participate in our community. To join the Multicultural Youth Group, contact Carlos at [carlosc@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:carlosc@mcaf.nb.ca).



## ***Newcomer Youth Music Classes***

The MCAF offers music lessons to provide newcomer youth with an opportunity to express themselves creatively in their new culture, 38 newcomer youth aged 9-19 attend classes led by César Morales. Piano, percussion, recorder and guitar (beginner, intermediate, advanced) lessons are available three times per week, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. To register or for more information, contact Cesar at [ccmorale@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:ccmorale@nb.sympatico.ca).

## ***Coffee Houses***

Coffee Houses hosted by the MCAF allow the Youth from the Music Lessons to share their musical talents and skills along with musician from the community. The December and March Coffee Houses were well attended and very well received. You will be invited to the next Coffee House.

## ***Youth Blast Weekly Activities***

Newcomer youth participates in sports activities at the Nashawaaksis Field House gym and pool each Saturday evening.

## ***Volunteer Opportunities for Youth***

Placements from Renaissance College have presented volunteer opportunities for youth within the city. After field trips to organizations requiring volunteers, newcomer youth will have the opportunity to volunteer initially as a group and later individually.

## ***Homework Club***

In partnership with Frontier College, MCAF holds a weekly Homework Club for newcomer children and youth on Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm at MCAF. The Frontier College volunteers assist newcomer children and youth with their homework in English and French. For more information or to register, contact Carlos at 452-0658 or [carlosc@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:carlosc@mcaf.nb.ca).

## ***Concerts and Theatre Events***

Throughout the year, newcomer youth attends concerts or theatre events at the Fredericton Playhouse. MCAF coordinates participation, accompaniment and transportation. The Fredericton Playhouse/Outreach Education Subsidy program provides free or subsidized tickets for newcomer youth to participate in concerts or plays at the Fredericton Playhouse.

## ***Newcomer Youth Participation in Sports (NYPS)***

Funded by True Sport Foundation, the NYPS project facilitates the participation of immigrant and refugee youth in sports in their new community. The project is designed to bridge immigrant and refugee youth into local sports participation and to create an inclusive and supportive environment for newcomer youth to attain the knowledge, resources, skills and confidence to participate in mainstream sports programming.

### **The NYPS project:**

- introduces newcomer youth to three major North American winter sports: ice hockey, skating and skiing as well as other sports in the community,
- builds newcomer youth sporting skills and facilitates participation,
- partners with UNB Varsity Reds Youth Indoor Winter Soccer to allow 44 newcomer youth to participate in weekly UNB winter soccer training,
- facilitates the participation of representatives from diverse ethno-cultural communities in coaching,
- coordinates a mentorship program matches newcomer youth with youth more experienced in the sport to provide encouragement and support,
- creates a learning environment and fosters a sense of participation, inclusion and belonging in the community and enhances communication between newcomer youth and their Canadian peers.



## ***Sports equipments and musical instruments are needed***

Sports equipment and musical instruments loaning programs

The NYPS program is establishing a sports equipment loaning library for **hockey, skating, skiing, soccer, tennis and badminton**. If you have equipment to donate, please contact Carlos at [carlosc@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:carlosc@mcaf.nb.ca).

The Youth Group is looking for musical instruments including **keyboards, recorders, guitars and percussion**. Donated musical instruments will be used for Music Lessons. If you can donate any of these musical instruments, please contact Cesar at [ccmorale@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:ccmorale@nb.sympatico.ca). **Your contribution would be appreciated.**

## ***Training Opportunities and Special Events***

### **Saint John Ambulance Training**

Six newcomer youth participate in weekly Saint John Ambulance Training each Tuesday throughout the year. Participants are being trained as Saint John Ambulance Youth Trainers. They will eligible to apply for various prizes and a Saint John Ambulance scholarship to study nursing.

Other training opportunities include **babysitting, first aid, cultural competency training, employment preparation and career exploration**.

Special event sand activities have included:

- \* **“Run for the Cure”**
- \* **Tatamagouche Social Justice Camp**
- \* **Family Fun Day in partnership with CISV**
- \* **“Gulu Walk” in support of the current situation in Uganda**
- \* **Global Issues Youth Symposium “Move the World”**
- \* **12 hours for the Homeless on October 18**

**For more info about Children and Youth Group Programs, please contact Carlos 452-0658 or [carlosc@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:carlosc@mcaf.nb.ca).**

### **Special thanks to our funders and partners for Children and Youth Programs**

The MCAF Children and Youth Programs are made possible through funding from:

- \* **Citizenship and Immigration Canada**
- \* **NB Population Growth Secretariat**
- \* **UPS Foundation**
- \* **Fredericton Community Foundation**
- \* **True Sport**

The Children and Youth Programs work with local organizations to ensure the participation of youth in community activities.

- \* **Children's International Summer Villages (CISV)**
- \* **Equitas**
- \* **Fredericton Boys and Girls Club**
- \* **Fredericton Playhouse**
- \* **Frontier College**
- \* **Renaissance College**
- \* **Making Waves**
- \* **Saint John Ambulance**
- \* **Tatamagouche Centre**
- \* **UNB Varsity Reds**
- \* **YouCan**

## 2009 MCAF Award of Excellence

MCAF is now accepting nominations for the 2009 MCAF Award of Excellence. This award will be presented to an individual, group or business who has made a great contribution to promote our vision, mission and objectives.

### OUR MISSION

“To celebrate strength in diversity by enabling meaningful exchange and full community participation among people of all backgrounds and circumstances”

### OUR VISION

“To sustain a supportive and proactive climate in which people of all backgrounds can come together for social interaction, economic self-sufficiency, and cultural enrichment; make a creative contribution to the community; and take a stand on issues of common concern”

## NBELT Graduation Employer Appreciation Night

The MCAF Employment team will host an **NBELT Graduation and Employer Appreciation Night on March 25, 6-9pm at New Maryland Center**. The Night will include presentations of Employer appreciation Awards and NBELT graduation certificates, guest speakers, cultural performances and international food provided by the MCAF Immigrant Women’s Catering Group.

## Volunteer Appreciation Event

In recognition of Volunteer Appreciation Week, the MCAF invites all MCAF volunteers to our Volunteer Appreciation Event on **April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm at the Killarney Lake Lodge**. The event will include cultural entertainment, international food prepared by the MCAF Immigrant Women’s Catering Group as well as a Silent Auction to raise funds for MCAF *Rainbow of Cultures Summer Camp*.

There are many volunteer opportunities at MCAF, please visit [www.mcaf.nb.ca](http://www.mcaf.nb.ca) for a volunteer application or contact Aneas at [aneas@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:aneas@mcaf.nb.ca).

## Parking Policy

Due to limited parking spaces in the parking lot adjacent to the MCAF building, the owner of the building enforces a strict parking policy. If you visit the MCAF office, please be sure to request a parking permit for a designated MCAF parking space. If not, your car may be “clamped” if you park illegally and it will cost \$75 plus HST to get out of the clamp.

## Income Tax Clinic

The MCAF Income Tax Clinic for newcomers is now open. Appointments can be booked from Monday to Thursday from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm and Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. The MCAF staff can help newcomers complete their income tax and benefit returns during March and April. For more information, please contact Jorge at 454-8292 or [jdietrich@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:jdietrich@mcaf.nb.ca).

## Rainbow of Cultures Summer Camp

The MCAF Rainbow of Cultures Summer Camp is a unique summer enrichment program for newcomer and Canadian-born children aged 6-12. The program provides a fun and educational summer experience through various outings, games, and craft activities with both cultural and social themes. This is an excellent opportunity for children of diverse cultural backgrounds to meet and create lasting friendships.

For more information about the program, contact Jeremias at 452-0658.

## Welcome Sandi Katimavik placement at MCAF Front Desk

MCAF partners with Katimavik, providing placements and valuable experiences for participants. We recently welcomed Sandi Chan from Burnaby, British Columbia.

“MCAF is such a great place to volunteer at because there’s so much to experience!” she gushes, “From helping out with upcoming events and activities, it’s really such a diverse place to work. My heart is really into event planning and I’m glad to be in Fredericton. There’s so much opportunity and support for events here! It’s going to be a fun three months.”

Sandi will be volunteering with the MCAF until April.



## Why become an MCAF Member?

- Discount on Summer Camp registration fee
- Nominate or run for the MCAF Executive/Board
- Vote at the MCAF elections
- Be on the MCAF mailing list for Newsletters and events
- Be part of a common voice for diversity and anti-racism
- Last but not least, it is a great value!

Student: \$5 Individual: \$10 Family: \$15 Association: \$25  
If you are interested in becoming a MCAF member, contact Haruka at 452-0654 or [haruka@mcaf.nb.ca](mailto:haruka@mcaf.nb.ca).