

# QUIS TIMES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 SPRING 2008

## RACISM IN CANADA? ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP

In celebration of the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Quinte United Immigrant Services offered a workshop to the community to raise awareness of racism past and present and what can be done to combat it.

The workshop was held on Thursday, March 27 instead of March 21st, which is the actual United Nations day, at the Bridge Street United Church in Belleville.

There were approximately 45 students and 15 adults attending the workshop. They watched documentaries on the Chinese Head Tax and the "Colour of Poverty," as well as discussed the myths about racism and



Photo by Michelle Newlands

newcomers to Canada.

The workshop was facilitated by Connie Gallupe, a QUIS Board Member and Mieke Thorne, a long-time QUIS volunteer and community activist.

"I was really pleased with

the turnout and very impressed with the contribution and active participation of local youth and community members," said Gallupe.

To find out how you can join the fight, please visit [www.quis-immigration.org](http://www.quis-immigration.org).

## YVONNE FERGUSON: NEW OUTREACH WORKER

Yvonne Ferguson is the new Outreach Worker at QUIS. She will be working in the immigrant settlement services and as a part of the Host Program.

Recently, QUIS said goodbye to Stephen Kirby, former Outreach Worker,

who moved to Immigrant Services Kingston and Area.

Yvonne's background is in municipal social services and she graduated from the Social Service Worker Program at Sir Sanford Fleming in Peterborough.

"I'm very excited to work

with newcomers to Canada and the Quinte area," says Yvonne. "I have lived most of my life in Belleville and am very happy to see it becoming a more diverse and welcoming community."

Yvonne can be reached at 613-968-7723 ext. 27.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Summer Job Finding Tips
- Income Tax Season is Here
- English Conversation Circles
- Winter Activity Day at the Frink Centre
- Spring in the Quinte Area
- Proposed Immigration Act Changes
- The numbers are in for the last year QUIS

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## Start Looking Early for Your Summer Job!

### SUMMER JOB FINDING TIPS

The time to start looking for a summer job is upon us again. There are many things that need to be considered when looking for a summer job.

First, know what kind of a job you would like, what you are capable of doing, and what types of jobs are available in the area.

As well, you will need to know where to look for job postings and advertisements. But there is also an "underground" to looking for

a job, sometimes called the hidden job market, that can be a great source of information about available jobs in the community.

Another important step is having a cover letter and resume that sells you to employers. It is your resume that will convince employers to call you for an interview. You want it to tell them about you and what you can do for them.

When an employer does call

you for an interview, you want to be ready, so make sure you prepare. A good way to do this is to guess what questions they will ask you in the interview and prepare some responses. You can practice then by yourself or better yet with a friend.

There is free job search help available to immigrants at QUIS. Please call and make an appointment to speak with Karen, our Employment Counsellor at 613-968-7723.

### THE DEADLINE FOR PREPARING INCOME TAXES IN CANADA IS APRIL 30TH.

### INCOME TAX SEASON IS HERE

On Thursday, March 6, QUIS held a workshop for Community Volunteer Income Tax Preparers. It was held at the CRCQ office and attended by 10 volunteers.

Alex Bradley from Canada Revenue Agency was the guest speaker giving the workshop.

Esperanza McIntyre and Yvonne Ferguson are the Vol-

unteer Income Tax Preparers at QUIS have already begun assisting QUIS clients with their income tax returns. They are completing simple individual or family income tax returns.

Completing income taxes may be a very new experience for newcomers. When your tax situation is more complicated however, with foreign

and Canadian income to claim, or if you were self-employed, it is recommended to seek the help of a professional income tax preparer

The deadline for preparing income taxes in Canada is April 30th. So make sure you get them done as soon as possible.

For more information, call 613-968-7723 ext. 27.



### English Conversation Circles

**Mondays & Thursdays  
3 p.m. at QUIS**

### ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLES

Both the Monday and Thursday English Conversation Circles are being held at the QUIS office at 3:00 in the afternoon.

The Thursday ECC was moved to the QUIS office in February and was facilitated by Jenna Empey. She was only with QUIS for a short

time though because she moved to Halifax.

Luckily for QUIS another volunteer, Cathie Kemp has stepped in and is now facilitating the Thursday ECC. Cathie is living in the Belleville area now but lived in France where she found out first-hand what it was like to

live in an unfamiliar culture with an unfamiliar language.

Miho Koyanagi attends both the Monday and Thursday ECCs. "It's fun. The Conversation Circles are very useful and give us a good place to learn real English that we don't study in school, says Koyanagi.

# MAY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	1 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	2	3
4	5 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	6 Home-work Club at 6:30 pm	7	8 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	9	10
11	12 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	13 Home-work Club at 6:30 pm	14 Parks & Rec Session at 6 pm	15 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	16	17
18	19 Victoria Day	20	21	22 Open House at 4:30 pm & ECC	23	24
25	26 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	27 Last Homework Club at 6:30	28	29 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	30	31

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Learn about Summer Programs enrollment for children and youth on Wednesday, May 14 at 6 pm in the Common Room
- Find out about volunteer opportunities with QUIS on Wednesday, May 14 at noon at the Belleville Library Brown Bag Lunch
- Victoria Day is Monday, May 19 and the QUIS office will be closed
- Come enjoy the QUIS Open House on Thursday, May 22 at 4:30 pm in the Common Room
- The last Homework Club evening for this year is Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30 pm at Albert College

## A Great Canadian Experience

### WINTER ACTIVITY DAY AT THE FRINK CENTRE

On Sunday, February 10, QUIS joined a fun day at the Frink Centre with winter activities including a nature hike, snow shoeing, a snow snake competition and a winter cookout. It was fun for the whole family.

Despite the  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  weather, more than 50 newcomers to Canada took part in the day's events.

The snowshoe trail featured Native Canadian home building exhibits and some of the lucky snowshoers were able

to see a porcupine climbing up a tree. On the nature hike, hikers were taught about birds of prey that live in the Quinte area.

There was also a hawk demonstration back in one of the Frink Centre portables. In another portable children prepared their snow snakes for the competition. A snow snake is a stick painted like a snake and children throw it down a snow alley and whoever can throw their snake the farthest is the winner.

Outside the portables all the while was a burning campfire where others were roasting marshmallows. It was the first time for many children (and adults) to roast a marshmallow.

"These group activities are my favourite," said Mark Bull, Host Program Coordinator. "Seeing people enjoying the Canadian outdoors makes me feel very proud to be a Canadian."

Don't miss out on the group activities this summer!



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Get some more Summer Job finding tips on Wednesday, June 4 in the Common Room
- Find out about the Host Program and its activities for the summer on Wednesday, June 4 in the Common Room right after the Summer Jobs presentation
- The first day of summer is Saturday, June 21
- The last day of classes for elementary and secondary school as well as ESL students is June 30
- Have a wonderful summer!

JUNE 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	3	4 Jobs & Host Program Session at 3	5 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	6	7
8	9 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	10	11	12 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	13	14
15	16 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	17	18	19 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	20	21 First Day of Summer
22	23 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	24	25	26 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm	27	28
29	30 English Conversation Circle at 3 pm					



## SPRING IN THE QUINTE AREA

After a long winter, spring is finally here. But with the arrival of spring is the exit of the snow and there has been flooding north of Belleville along the Moira River.

But spring in the Quinte area is a beautiful time as well. You will start to see people working in their gardens, planting vegetables and flowers, children playing in parks and riding their bikes down the street.

Gardening can be an excellent hobby in Canada. Lots of

Canadians grow their own tomatoes, lettuce and cucumber. This is not only a great way to spend some time, but a great way to save money on your grocery bill.

If you would prefer to do something more active like cycling, the Waterfront Trail is an excellent place to go. Birds, ducks and geese are returning to Canada and you might even be able to see a swan or two floating on the water.

There are lots of conserva-

tion areas and parks that you can enjoy by yourself or with your family and friends for a picnic.

Perhaps you or your children are more interested in getting involved with an organized sport or activity. Each municipality in the Quinte area offers sports and recreational activities. There are also lots of events happening in the area, so make sure you check the newspapers and the local municipalities websites for other community events.



Photo by Hidemi Kaneshiro

IMMIGRATION INSTRUCTIONS TO BE GOVERNED BY FAIRNESS, CONSULTATION

Ottawa—The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, released the principles that would guide implementation of proposed changes to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

The aim of the changes is to modernize Canada's immigration system and significantly reduce the time it takes to bring newcomers and their families to Canada. Under proposed changes to the Act, the Minister would have the authority to issue instructions to immigration officers related to the processing of applications, including in relation to the jobs available in Canada, so that people with those skills and experience can be brought to Canada more quickly.

Ministerial instructions on prioritizing and processing immigration applications received after February 27, 2008, will:

- Identify priority occupations based on input from provinces and territories, the Bank of Canada, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, employers and organized labour.
- Complement commitments made in Advantage Canada, the Government of Canada's economic plan, to align the immigration system with labour market needs.
- Be published in the *Canada Gazette* and Citizenship and Immigration Canada's annual report, which is tabled in Parliament.
- Ensure fairness by making decisions on cases faster, while meeting immediate labour market needs.
- Respect the goals of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, which are to support Canada's economy and competitiveness, support family reunification and uphold Canada's humanitarian commitments.
- Comply with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which prevents discrimination based on factors such as race, country of origin and religion.
- Respect commitments to provinces and territories regarding the Provincial Nominee Program and the Canada-Quebec Accord.

All instructions issued by the Minister to immigration officers must adhere to these principles. They must also be approved by Cabinet before they are published. Immigration officers would select from among new applications based on the instructions. They will continue to make decisions about individual applications. The Minister can not reverse the decisions of immigration officers or influence them in any way other than what is clearly outlined in the instructions.

**What are the proposed legislative changes to Canada's immigration system?**

Anyone will still be able to apply, but Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) will no longer be required to process all new applications.

The new provisions will allow the Department to select among the new applications and choose those that best meet Canada's labour market needs. Under the current system, which is much less flexible, CIC processes applications from skilled workers in the order in which they are received.

**QUIS YEAR-END STATISTICS: 242 NEW CLIENTS**

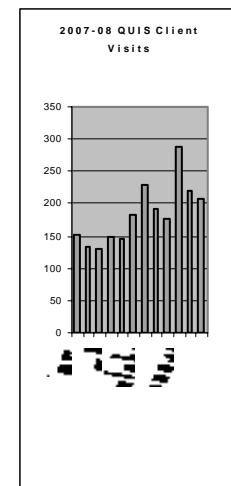
The numbers are in for the past year of QUIS services. This past year from April 1st, 2007 to March 31st, 2008, QUIS welcomed 242 new immigrants through its doors. The total number of client visits over the last 12 months was 2,207, that is almost 10 client visits per day. The busiest month was January 2008 with 288 client visits and 943

services rendered. The total services rendered for the year-end was 6,853 across all QUIS Programs.

The Newcomer Employment Resource Centre developed 84 Action Plans to get people on track to finding employment and 81 jobs were found. That means 96% of the action plans developed result in a job being found.

Under the Host Program, where volunteers help newcomers practice English and learn about Canadian traditions and values, there were 33 matches were made. Also, there were 86 group activities for newcomers and volunteers to socialize and get to know each other.

We hope that this year will be as successful.



  
Celebrating Cultural  
Diversity Since 1986

## QUINTE UNITED IMMIGRANT SERVICES

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E-mail: [info@quis-immigration.org](mailto:info@quis-immigration.org)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.QUIS-IMMIGRATION.ORG](http://WWW.QUIS-IMMIGRATION.ORG)

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SERVING THE QUINTE AREA  
FOR OVER 20 YEARS!

## OUR MISSION

Quinte United Immigrant Services will guide those newcomers isolated by culture and language in the Quinte area through the process of settlement and adjustment, encourage the community to respect the diversity of immigrants by promoting recognition of the value of racial and cultural differences, and facilitate the integration and participation of newcomers into the social, economic and cultural life of the community.

## OBJECTIVES

- ♦ To operate as a charitable organization to prevent and relieve the distress experienced by immigrants settling in Canada
- ♦ To assist immigrants in locating affordable housing, furnishing and other related items
- ♦ To locate agencies and services to meet the needs of immigrants
- ♦ To cooperate and collaborate with and assist other organizations concerned with the general welfare of immigrants to Canada

## SERVICE DESCRIPTION

Quinte United Immigrant Services currently offers direct, essential services to newcomers to Canada including reception, orientation, translation/interpretation, referral to community resources, solution focused counseling, general information, employment-related services to meet the needs of newly arrived immigrants any time after their arrival in Canada.



Quinte United Immigrant Services  
Invites you to our  
**POT LUCK  
OPEN HOUSE**



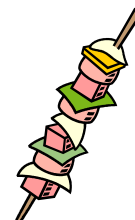
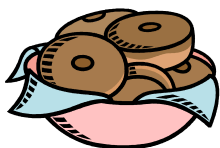
*Bring your favorite food from your country  
Games & Face Painting for the children  
And be prepared to explore different cultures*

When: Thursday, May 22, 2008

Time: 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Place: QUINTE UNITED IMMIGRANT SERVICES

41 Octavia Street, Belleville  
Common Room, Main Floor



Canada

Ontario



Quinte United Immigrant Services is funded by the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the United Way of Quinte