



QUIS TIMES



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 WINTER 2007

SANTA CLAUS VISITS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Quinte United Immigrant Services held its annual Children's Holiday Celebration on December 8, 2006 at the Belleville Recreation Centre.

There were over 150 parents and children in attendance. The party took a lot of planning and a lot of help from all of Santa's elves.

The celebration featured Make-Your-Own-Cupcakes, Holidays Craft Corner, a pizza dinner with ice cream dessert, and of course, Santa Claus. Santa was giving out lots of toys, candy and surprises for the children.

Orlando Ferro, QUIS Executive Director, played the

piano as the guests enjoyed their dinner provided by Pizza Hut. Ferro said that he was surprised with the number of people in attendance. "This is the largest and most diverse group we have ever had," Ferro said.

Colleen Tripp, Board of Directors President, and Diane Genereaux, Treasurer helped Santa hand out the gifts. Tripp says she is very happy that Santa was able to come. She also says that "It has been an exciting and very busy year for QUIS, but the Children's Party was successful again."

Santa Claus handed out almost 70 presents to the children thanks to his elves.



And, a draw was held for three Gift Baskets. The lucky winners were David Denison, Doug Daniels, and Juana Narvas.

Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed the festivities. A special thanks to all those who helped organize the celebration, Board members, staff, volunteers.

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and wish everyone all the best in 2007!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006*
- *Get the tools necessary to facilitate employment searches in Canada*
- *Fifty-nine new citizens welcomed to Canada*
- *Central Eastern Ontario Translation and Interpretation Services*
- *Canada increases its immigration target*
- *The Host Program helps newcomers adjust to Canada*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UNPRECEDENTED LEGISLATION	2
NEWCOMER ERC	2
QUIS AGM	2
LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION SERVICE OPEN	3
IMMIGRATION AT 25 YEAR HIGH	3
HOST: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS	3
OUTREACH SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS	4

OUTREACH SETTLEMENT SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE

The settlement services offered by Quinte United Immigrant Services are now closer to you than ever before.

QUIS services have always been available outside of the Belleville office, on a case-by-case basis. However,

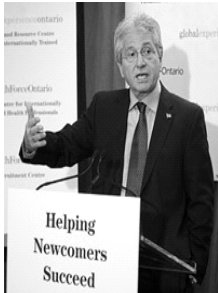
QUIS now employs a part-time settlement counsellor, Stephen Kirby, who can meet clients in their communities.

Previously, to meet a client outside of the office, many special arrangements had to be made, but not anymore.

Kirby makes weekly and biweekly visits to locations in Napanee, Wellington, Trenton, Brighton, and Colborne where he can meet clients.

Check page 4 for the complete Outreach Settlement Services schedule and locations.

UNPRECEDENTED LEGISLATION BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS FOR NEWCOMERS



Ontario Citizenship and Immigration Minister Mike Colle

QUEEN'S PARK - Legislation to break down barriers so that internationally trained professionals can work in their fields sooner was passed December 12, 2006 in the Ontario Legislature, Ontario Citizenship and Immigration Minister Mike Colle announced.

"This legislation is long overdue," said Colle. "It will go a long way to ensure that newcomers are a brain gain for Ontario, not a brain waste."

The Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006, the first legislation of its kind in Canada, would require Ontario's regulated professions to ensure their licensing process is fair, clear and open. They would also be required to assess credentials more quickly.

This bill represents one of the boldest attempts by a provincial government to address inequities that confront newcomers," said Madina

Wasuge, Executive Director of Hamilton's Centre for Civic Inclusion.

"Our government is keeping its commitment to break down the barriers that prevent newcomers from entering the workforce. We are determined to ensure that Ontario's newcomers have every opportunity to succeed and participate in our economy," said Colle.

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED AND OUT OF SCHOOL CAN GET PRE-EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE.

NEW FACE OF THE NEWCOMER EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE CENTRE

The Newcomer Employment Resource Centre is half way through its second year at QUIS and things are looking good.

Besides the new name, there is a new Employment Counsellor at the Resource Centre too, Jocelyn Boates. She has been working in the social services in the Quinte area for many years and has worked for Hastings County and-

Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Counties including Meals on Wheels.

The Newcomer Employment Resource Centre has been operating at QUIS since September 2005. At the Resource Centre immigrants and refugees who are unemployed and out of school can get pre-employment support and job search assistance. This

can include learning about education options, cover letter and resume writing, and finding out about professional accreditation.

The Resource Centre also provides the tools necessary to facilitate employment searches in Canada such as a job lead board, computers, the internet, photocopier and fax machine.



New citizens being sworn in at the Citizenship Ceremony July 1, 2006

QUIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

QUIS held its Annual General Meeting on November 29, 2006 in the Common Room at the Quinte Community Resource Centre.

At the meeting President Colleen Tripp spoke about the special events QUIS has held over the past fiscal year. She noted fundraisers, the Holiday Celebration 2005, the

United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and QUIS Multicultural Meet and Greet gatherings.

Tripp also recognized the partnership between QUIS and the Buy Locally Owned Group. "A special event to my heart was the Citizenship Ceremony held on Canada

Day in 2006. This was the first time the event was held in Belleville in 6 years." Fifty-nine new citizens were welcomed to Canada at the event.

No new Board Members were elected at the AGM. Guests in attendance were Ewa Czeckalewska, Garnet Thompson, and Nathan Francois.

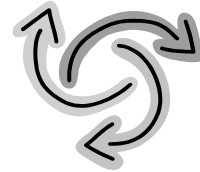
LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION SERVICE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Ontario Women's Directorate of the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has provided funds to QUIIS to give free interpretation to agencies when serving limited-English speaking victims under Violence Against Women Prevention, the Domestic Violence Court Project and Hospital based Domestic Violence Programs. The announcement was made on November 24, 2006 by local MPP Ernie Parsons.

With the new provincial contract QUIIS has started Central Eastern Ontario Translation and Interpretation Services (CEOTIS). The Program Coordinator, Elza Freitas, says that she is very pleased to be providing this service. Freitas says, "When your English skills are limited and someone you trusted breaks that trust, it can be very difficult to communicate this emotional situation with native English speakers."

CEOTIS interpreters maintain professionalism in challenging situations, are impartial and respect confidentiality. Interpreters can be obtained for in-person, teleconference interpretation, as well as message relays and sight translation. Services are available in Belleville, Brockville, Cobourg, Kingston, Lindsay, Napanee, Peterborough, Picton and other local areas 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Breaking the barriers to communication



613-968-1065 or
Outside of the
Quinte Area & After
Hours Call 1-888-
968-1065

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA TO BE THE HIGHEST IN 25 YEARS

Citizenship and Immigration Canada has increased its immigration target to 240,000 - 265,000 for 2007.

Also, Citizenship and Immigration Canada has a new Minister, Diane Finley, replacing Monte Solberg who said last November that they were going to introduce changes to address the backlog of 800,000 Permanent

Resident applicants.

The federal government has also pledged more funding for language training and other settlement services. These increases in targets and funding are designed to help solve Canada's labour shortages.

According to the Globe and Mail, immigration analysts report that waiting times are too long and the selection

process favoring professionals over skilled trades people still need to be addressed.

While QUIIS is pleased with the government's pledge, it believes that more needs to be done to address the barriers that newcomers face after they arrive in Canada such as foreign credentials, health insurance coverage and child care.

THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT
HAS ALSO
PLEGGED MORE
FUNDING FOR
LANGUAGE
TRAINING AND
OTHER
SETTLEMENT
SERVICES.

HOST PROGRAM: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Host Program helps newcomers and their children adjust to life in Canada and learn about Canadian values and traditions.

Newcomers can receive the assistance and understanding of a Host Program volunteer to feel more at home in Canada. Host volunteers help newcomers with shopping for

groceries, registering children at school, using public transit, practicing English/French, or finding out about activities available in the Quinte area.

However, we need more volunteers. There is an increasing number of new immigrants coming to Belleville who will need Host volunteers this year.

The Host Program is the perfect chance for you to make a new friend and to participate in an exchange of cultural information. And, you can help your friend become an active part of your community. A commitment of a few hours a week is all it takes. For more information, call Cindy Benben at 613-968-7723 ext. 22.



To volunteer and join the HOST Program, come meet with our volunteer coordinator



QUINTE UNITED IMMIGRANT SERVICES

41 Octavia St.
PO Box 22141
Belleville, ON K8N 5V7

Phone: 613-968-7723

Fax: 613-968-2597

E-mail: info@quis-immigration.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.QUIS-IMMIGRATION.ORG

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 counselling, general information, employment-related services to meet the needs of newly arrived immigrants any time after their arrival in Canada.

OUTREACH SETTLEMENT SERVICES SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS

If you are a current QUIS client or have just arrived in the area, you can access our services in the town where you live.

Our outreach settlement counsellor will be there to refer you to economic, social, health, cultural, educational and recreational services; give you assistance obtaining Social & Health Insurance, Child Tax Benefits, driver's licences, housing, and schooling; help you to get through the immigration process, to sponsor family members and obtain citizenship; provide non-therapeutic counselling; and help you register for either

full- or part-time language classes to suit your needs and skills.

Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program services are available across the Quinte area at several locations.

Napanee: Tuesdays from 2:30 until 5:00 pm at the Lennox & Addington County Public Library located at 25 River Road.

Wellington: Wednesdays from 10:00 until 1:00 pm at the Wellington Public Library located at 261 Main Street.

Quinte West: Thursdays

from 9:30 until 3:30 pm at the Quinte West Public Library Trenton Main Branch located at 7 Creswell Drive.

Brighton: Alternate Fridays from 9:30 until 3:30 pm at Trinity-St. Andrews United Church located at 13 Chapel Street.

Colborne: Alternate Fridays from 11:00 until 4:30 pm at the Colborne Public Library located at 6 King Street.

If you are unable to come to meet with the outreach settlement counselor at one of these locations, we can still accommodate you. Appointments can be made by calling 613-968-7723.



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