



Christmas Open House

Get ready for some festive cheer and good times! The PEI ANC is hosting its Annual Open House for Christmas on **Thursday, December 14th from 2:00-4:00** at our new office. Enjoy some refreshments, music, and relaxation with friends. Be good, because Santa will be making a guest appearance.

CCR (Canadian Council for Refugees) Conference in Montreal

PEI ANC Executive Director, Kevin Arsenault and Board Member Jimena Sanchez recently attended the Canadian Council for Refugees Conference in Montreal, Québec. Jimena and two other former-refugee youth delivered a two-hour workshop titled "Youth and Settlement Challenges and Opportunities." You can listen to an interview (one of several) Jimena did with the media at:



Jimena Sanchez & Kevin Arsenault

<http://www.rcinet.ca/rci/es/>.

Welcome to New ISL Worker, Joe O'Malley

My name is Joe O'Malley and I arrived in Canada in March of 2006. I am originally from New Zealand but have spent the past 5 years living in Korea. While living in Korea I met my wife who is from PEI and she convinced me to move to the island with tales of beautiful beaches and lovely summers. I am very happy to have started working at the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada and am looking forward to meeting other newcomers.



A Rainy, Yet Fruitful Afternoon

Our Fall Host Event was scheduled for Saturday October 14th, rain or shine. And it rained. Forty of the most enthusiastic and adventurous newcomers and volunteers piled into the bus for an afternoon of apple-picking. Of course the weather was less than favourable, so only the brave got the delicious and sought-after apples from Arlington Orchard. I think most will agree it was worth the sacrifice!



Congratulations Volunteer ESL Tutors

It is our pleasure to report that eleven (11) volunteer English tutors have completed 16 hours of training towards helping newcomers to Canada improve their language skills. More training and more tutors are on the horizon for January 2007.

If you would like to become an ESL volunteer tutor, contact Erica (erica@peianc.com). If you would like to be matched to a tutor, contact Kathleen Eaton at the Confederation Centre Public Library (ph.#: 368-4654).

This initiative has been made possible due to a partnership between the Confederation Centre Public Library, the PEI ANC Host Program, and dedicated volunteers Sr. Marie Arsenault and Judy Hughes. Special thanks to the Population Secretariat for funding this program.

Tutors are Lou Richard, Rymma Kalchenko, Kathy Burt, Jude Driscoll, Frank Driscoll, Linda Gaudet, Kim Reck, Kathy Buote, Laurie Snow, Paula Kenny and Li Feng.



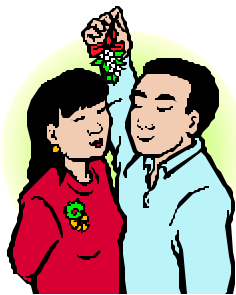
Welcome New & Returning Board Members of the PEI ANC New board members include Doreley Coll, Wendy Comeau, Hema Tennekone, Jimena Sanchez, Louise Robichaud and Abduljabar Temor. Our returning board members are Don Wagner, Zlatibor Momcilovic, Graham Pike, and Jim Hornby. Rymma Kalchenko continues as Vice-President, and Zeke Eaton remains President. A warm welcome to all of you!

Congratulations to Board Member (on maternity leave) **Jane Ledwell** and Stephen MacInnis on the arrival of their baby girl, **Anna Sophia**. We are so happy for you all!



Many thanks to Jodi Misener, 4th year nursing student, who has completed her three-month term at the Association working on a Refugee Health Protocol. We will miss you and we wish you all the best in your nursing career.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: Women who were sexually abused as children are invited to take part in a new project called *Breaking the Silence*. We will tell our stories to teach the community how to prevent child sexual abuse. In a 10-session workshop, participants will work with a professional writer to tell their stories. You will decide what to write and how you write it. You do not have to put your name on your story. It is okay if you have difficulty reading or writing in English. We will help you! The stories will be published in a book. Some stories will be put in a play. The book and the play will help teach the community how to make sure children are safe from sexual abuse. We will provide subsidies for childcare, eldercare, and travel. Workshops will take place in Charlottetown and Summerside. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, **please call Kelly Robinson at 367-4480 or email her at: kerobinson@eastlink.ca**. All calls are private and confidential.



**Cultural Note:
Mistletoe is for kissing!**

Mistletoe is commonly used as a Christmas ornament in Europe and North America. According to a popular Christmas custom, any two

people who meet under a hanging mistletoe decoration have to kiss! This custom probably comes from Norse mythology. Frigga, the goddess of love, removed the mistletoe's poison from Baldur with her tears. When he came back to life, Frigga was so thankful that she kissed everyone who passed underneath the mistletoe. This was probably the beginning of our custom of kissing under the mistletoe at Christmas, a time of love and joy.

WANTED: 'Holiday Host'

Volunteers – Will you have any extra place settings at your table over the Holidays? Then why not invite someone who is new to Canada to join you? If you are not able, tell your friends about this great opportunity to have a cultural exchange over the Holidays!

JOIN A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF FRIENDSHIP



Become a Host Volunteer!



Special thank-you to Paul Hickey and the Rotary Club of Charlottetown for the generous donation of tickets to the Anderson House Concert Fundraiser

PEI ANC Office

Schedule: Our office will closed for Holidays from December 23rd, until 8:30 am on Tuesday, January 2nd. Happy New Year!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HOST MATCHES:

- Jo-Ellen & Ladhya & Lathya
- Adam & Andres
- Rachael & Madeleine
- Cecilia & Mileisy
- Bola & Ahmed
- John & Dadullah
- Cathy & Hassan Family

Some Ideas for Canadian Winter Fun...

- Hockey games ~ Christmas decorating ~
- ~ baking ~ sledding ~ family skates ~ skiing ~ snowshoeing ~ horse and sleigh rides ~ visit art ~ shows ~ caroling ~ visit seniors ~ movies ~
- ~ scrapbooking ~ theme parties ~
- ~ cards or board games ~
- ~ International Tea House ~ community school ~



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