

MOOSE JAW MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

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Teachers and Youth

Web Corner

Citizenship and Immigration Canada has launched "A Fun Path to Learning", on-line educational resource for teachers and youth. This tool explores subjects such as civics, history, and citizenship— all in keeping with curriculum requirements.

To check out games and lesson plans.

Visit : www.cic.gc.ca/learn

Damascus, Syria Site Visit March 2010



Canadian Orientation Abroad Site Visit March 18-25, 2010 Damascus, Syria.

Tara Blanchard was selected to participate in Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) site visit along with four other individuals from across Canada. The goal of this initiative was to provide settlement staff from Service Providing Organizations the experience of the refugee movement in Syria. The participants were fortunate to be able to meet with agencies that assisted in refugee resettlement such as: *The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*: Their mandate is to offer protection to refugees as well as identify refugees that meet the criteria for resettlement in other countries such as Canada and to submit their case to the Canadian Embassy. UNHCR also provides food rations and other necessities in cooperation with the World Food Organization and

counseling and case management for refugees.

The Canadian Embassy (Citizenship & Immigration Canada): provides interviews and screening of refugee clients that have been referred by UNHCR for resettlement in Canada. They also provide the necessary documentation to refugees for travel to Canada.

International Organization for Migration (IOM): provides pre-departure information, assistance in boarding flights and making flight connections, assistance with medical and criminality checks, information on luggage and carry-on restrictions for flights.

The Canadian Orientation Abroad: is provided to all classes of immigrants and refugees. The orientation varies from 1-5 days depending on what program the client is entering Canada. The orientation includes information on currency, culture, weather, laws and the programs in Canada that are offered to refugees and immigrants.

It was a great learning experience to sit with officials from these agencies and exchange information,

successes and failures and to learn from each other.

At the end of each busy day we were fortunate to have a driver and people who were familiar with Damascus to take us to the souks (markets) and to experience the food of Damascus in various restaurants. The people of Damascus were very friendly and hospitable. Everyone was very easygoing and the common response to everything was mafi mushkila (no problem!). What a great way to live life.

Many thanks to Citizenship & Immigration Canada for funding the trip as well as MJMC for allowing me to partake in this invaluable experience. I look forward to sharing the information I gained with staff for training purposes and with the community to nurture an understanding of the worldwide refugee resettlement programs.

Submitted by: Tara Blanchard



**MOTIF MOOSE JAW
MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL**

July 9, 10, and 11,
2010
Happy Valley Park



Gates open daily at 3:00 p.m.

Motif 2010 celebrates our cultural roots. It strengthens understanding and tolerance of our differences and creates pride in our youth about their heritage. The Children's Cultural Program will once again be held throughout the three-day festival. This program is a free attraction for children ages 6-12 years. Bring your family! Bring your friend! We know you will have a wonderful weekend!

For more information on our services contact us at:
306-693-4677 or
Fax: 306-693-0477
E-mail: reception@mjmcinc.ca
www.mjmcinc.ca

**We are on the web
www.mjmcinc.ca**

**NEW SPACES OPENING
FOR DAYCARE:**
**Moose Jaw
Multicultural Council
DAYCARE has openings
March 1/2010 for
children ages 18
months to kindergarten.
Come and enjoy
culturally enriched
daycare that provides a
quality, child directed
atmosphere. We strive
to meet the needs of the
"whole child".**

New Arrivals Tour of Moose Jaw

In March, the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council rented a bus to take students who have arrived in Canada within the last year, or those with limited transportation, on a tour of the city of Moose Jaw. A map of locations was devised that would be beneficial for newcomers in learning their new city. Some of the places visited included the YMCA, the Kinsmen Sportsplex, the Tourist Information building, the Western Development Museum, Central Collegiate, Prince Arthur Elementary School, and the bus depot. The

students were given brochures of the Kinsmen Sportsplex, Tourist Information building and YMCA to give them an opportunity to see what these establishments offer. For instance, the Kinsmen Sportsplex holds a women and children swim time once a month in which they do not allow men. This is very valuable information and a valuable opportunity for our Muslim women who, due to religious beliefs, would never have had the opportunity to swim in a public swimming pool with their children. This is an experience that can

enrich the lives of the mothers and the children at Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. All of the stops made and every establishment that we drove past is important to the newcomers in Moose Jaw because each business provides a service that would be helpful for the integration and socialization of each newcomer. It is very encouraging to know your surroundings and be aware of the services available to you, especially when you are new to a community. This tour was a definite success in providing awareness for our newcomers to Canada.

Immigrant Gateway Under Construction

Work is under way at the future home of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council Immigrant Gateway, which is set to open in June 2010 at 432 Main Street N. The Immigrant Gateway will be

a one-stop resource centre for newcomers to Canada who require information or referrals to assist in their successful settlement in the Moose Jaw and region.



SCENES CONVENTION

Doug Cassidy, Laura Butt, and Carol Moran (LINC) attended the annual SCENES Conference April 16-17, 2010. The conference theme was "Nurturing Our Students, Nurturing Ourselves." It was held at Bethlehem Catholic High School in Saskatoon. Friday's keynote speaker was Hetty Roessingh, PhD, University of Calgary, Faculty of Education, who spoke about 'Language Learning and Literacy.'

On Saturday, the speakers were Mei-Chi Chan and Sasha Simcisin who spoke on 'The Effects of Trauma on Refugees' Adjustment to Life in Their New Country.' During the remainder of the conference time there were forty-two sessions from which to choose. Moose Jaw Multicultural Council teachers attended as many different sessions as possible and felt that the time was well spent. During the annual general meeting, the

SCENES name was changed to TESL Saskatchewan (Teaching English as a Second Language) and a new slate of officers was elected. Carol Moran was returned to the board as the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council representative. There was discussion regarding the mission statement and teacher accreditation. The board had worked diligently on a survey to assess members' needs.

First Aid "Lifesaver A" Training

On Saturday, March 27th, the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council held a Lifesavers Course administered by St. John's Ambulance. The course went from 9:00 am to 3 pm and there were 12 students in attendance. We began the course with scene observation and artificial respiration. These tasks showed the students what steps to take if they are on the scene of an accident. We followed with CPR in the case of a heart attack or stroke. The students viewed videos of staged scenarios and were able to perform the steps themselves with partners. The students could

perform Artificial Respiration and were able to see the chest move up and down as long as they were performing the AR properly. The visuals were an immense help in the key to understanding the concepts, especially for those with a language barrier. They also learned about the recovery position in case the casualty was unconscious. The afternoon consisted of First Aid training where students learned about different ways to make a tourniquet and the importance of restricting blood flow to a deep cut or amputation. All of the students were eager to learn

and did very well performing the task themselves. After they had completed the course, they were given certificates for their participation, stating that they had completed the Lifesaver Course. Every student was very pleased with themselves and their achievement, many stated that they went home and spoke with their families of what they had learned. Each student feels that they benefited from this course and stated that it gave them a sense of accomplishment and pride in that they are now trained to save a life.



Citizenship Classes

Do you need help studying the new citizenship book?
Let us help you prepare for your Canadian Citizenship Test

WHEN

Monday:	May 31st	7:00 –8:30 PM
Monday:	June 7th	7:00 –8:30 PM
Monday:	June 14th	7:00 –8:30 PM
Monday:	June 21st	7:00 –8:30 PM
Monday:	June 28th	7:00 –8:30 PM

WHERE

Moose Jaw Multicultural Council

INSTRUCTOR

Carol Moran

COST

\$10.00 per person (Class will only run with a minimum of 5 people)

RESISTRATION

Please call 693-4677 to register by Thursday May 27th, 2010.

You do not require confirmation of citizenship testing to participate in the class.



Thank you to the SaskTel Pioneers for their generous donation of a power point projector. The projector will be used in one of our English language classrooms to assist the teachers in the delivery of their curriculum for English instruction for newcomers to Canada.

Interesting Facts

India— the number system was invented, along with algebra and calculus.

China— ice cream was invented in China around 2000 BC when the Chinese packed a soft milk and rice mixture in the snow. Red is considered a lucky color in China. At one time wedding dresses were red. New Year's banners, clothing, and lucky money envelopes are still red.

Indonesia— is the home to some of the rarest creatures in the world, including miniature deer, fish that can climb trees to catch insects and spiders that catch and devour small birds in giant webs.

Moose Jaw Multicultural Council
 60 Athabasca Street West
 Moose Jaw, Sk.
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For more information on our services contact us at:

306-693-4677 or

Fax: 306-693-0477

E-mail: reception@mjmcinc.ca

Upcoming Events

June 16- MJMC Annual General Meeting/Motif Meeting
 Food and Refreshments at 6:00 PM. MJMC Meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 PM.

July 1- Office Closed

July 9-11– Motif Moose Jaw Multicultural Festival

August-2- Office Closed

Damascus, Syria Presentation

Tara Blanchard travelled to Damascus, Syria in March 2010 for a site visit to learn more about the refugee resettlement process and how agencies work together to assist refugees with protection and resettlement in a safe country. A presentation will take place:

Date: Thursday, June 17, 2010

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Immigrant Gateway

432 Main Street, North

For more information contact:

Phone: 693-4677

Fax: 694-0477

Email: reception@mjmcinc.ca

Women Connecting Through Art in the Community (WCAC)

The Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery, in partnership with the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment & Labour through the Community Connections Program, have put together a unique opportunity for recent immigrants to Canada to learn about our community through Art. The program, which started on February 3 and will run until June 9, 2010, brought together 3 artists from the community, Anna Hergert, Wendy Parsons, and Gabriela Garcia-Luna, to work with immigrant women who were referred to the program by the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council. Each of these artists are either immigrants or come from

immigrant families. Each new immigrant participant in this program is being partnered with a Moose Jaw volunteer who works with them as they experience three artistic mediums: fabric, clay and photography. In addition, the participants practice English and establish relationships with other women from the community. All the projects made during this program will be exhibited in the Norma Lang Art Gallery at the Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery on June 4 from 3 – 4 p.m. There will be a brief program with refreshments and cake to follow. This is a public event and everyone is welcome to attend. The work will continue to be on display

from noon to 5 p.m. on June 5 and 6. We have many people to thank for making this project possible: the artists who were so passionate about the program from the beginning, the participants who were willing to try something new, and the Moose Jaw volunteers for taking time from their busy lives to work with the participants. A special thank you is also due to several employees of the Moose Jaw Multicultural Council Inc.:

Tara Blanchard, Executive Director; Settlement Workers: Ken MacTavish and Elyse Lalonde; and Diana Brennan, Daycare Director.



Left: From Wendy Parsons' project

Right: From Wendy Parsons' project



Left: From Ana Hergert's Project

