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The Pas Immigrant Services offering supports for one year

Submitted by Denise Duncan, Make Shift Happen

September 16 will be the one-year anniversary celebrating the opening of The Pas Immigrant Services. Analyn Lotivio is the go-to person in the position of Settlement Services Coordinator. In this role Analyn helps newcomers and immigrants to adjust to our Northern Manitoba lifestyle. These services are for people coming into Canada from all over the world. She has worked with and assisted over 200 newcomers from all parts of the globe. In August, a BBQ brought together over 80 people from all nationalities, including immigrants, community and business owners.

 Immigrants are contributing people in our community who own business, work at local business and in the health care system. Entrepreneurs such as Tim Hortons and A & W are a few strong supporters of the Immigrants who come to The Pas. One of the biggest obstacles to those coming to our community is housing. This program assists with finding housing, setting up language classes and guidance in tasks such as signing up for Manitoba Health Care, setting up Social Insurance Numbers and Bank Account. This is part of Analyn’s role. Typically, immigrants do not purchase a house until they connect with the community and know that they want to stay long term. Analyn assists those who call to find employment, build a network of friends and social opportunities and offers free classes in English as a second language.

Prior to taking on this responsibility Analyn worked at the local Subway for four years and worked full time at the Walk in Clinic. She has lived in The Pas for almost 8 years and understands from her experience the difficulty in transitioning to a new culture and environment. She expressed an interest in The Pas Immigrant Services position and was called in to talk to the Director. Her passion and experience to help others shone through and she is currently working in a field that she loves. Arriving in a new country with many cultural differences and practices is challenging. This program helps guide immigrants and foreign students with accurate and complete information concerning immigration issues, Citizenship, Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program, Permanent Residency and family sponsorship. The program offers services not financial support.

She understands the need to help others transition into living in the North, in The Pas, in Manitoba and in Canada. She has first-hand experience and understands the difficult transition process for newcomers. Analyn was born in the Philippines and worked in Taiwan prior to moving to Canada. It was through an agency in Taiwan that she found an employer who was looking for a foreign worker. She was encouraged by a friend living in Quebec to make the move. Her friend had nothing but good things to say about Canadian living conditions, the friendly and polite people and the government. She made the decision to apply to immigration, was approved, landed in Manitoba and has lived in The Pas for almost eight years. Today she is a proud contributing member of our community. She remembers the difficulties arriving in a new country, looking for work and a place to live. Her English language skills were good as the Philippines study English in school.

This program is looking for professional volunteers who want to acquaint newcomers to our community, provide friendship and support. You can also support by volunteering at one of The Pas Immigrant Services events. To become involved as a volunteer or to set up an appointment with Analyn contact 204 623-3699 alotivio@thepasimmigrantservices.com