

Miramichi Regional Multicultural Association

We acknowledge that MRMA operates on the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq People first signed with the British crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



Nowruz Celebration

MRMA's second Nowruz marked the spring equinox with food, music, and community joy. We learned how different countries celebrate, enjoyed poetry and Dotar music, and the drum circle got kids drumming too—it was a beautiful mix of culture and connection.

Multicultural Summit 2025

This was MRMA's first-ever summit focused on newcomer experiences in Miramichi. We discussed real challenges—like housing, employment, and transportation—and shared ideas to move forward together. Presentations from Stephanie Toundou (GMRSC) and Francesco Viglione (PETL) brought helpful insight and opened the door to new collaborations.



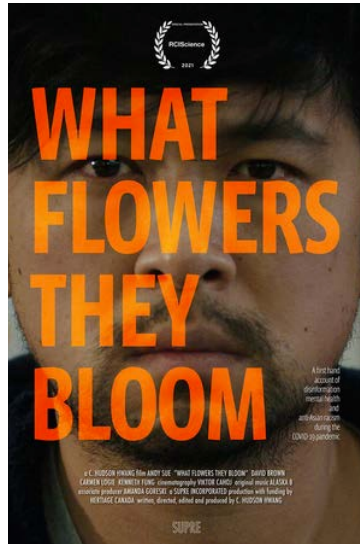
Legal Rights & Responsibilities information session

This information session was held by a guest speaker Nushka Blais, B.Sc., J.D. The session offered valuable guidance to newcomers on legal obligations and protections in Canada. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and gain clarity on topics such as tenant rights, employment standards, and family law.



Combating Online Hate

In partnership with the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick, MRMA hosted a powerful community event at NBCC Miramichi focused on tackling online hate. Participants watched *What Flowers They Bloom*, an award-winning documentary exploring racism, mental health, and the impacts of online disinformation. The screening was followed by a thoughtful panel discussion featuring the film's director, a representative from Canadian Mental Health (and member of Miramichi Afro Connection), and a Settlement Worker. Attendees appreciated the chance to ask questions, hear real stories, and leave with tools for building resilience and taking positive action online.



Learn to Fish

The session began at the MRMA office with a presentation by local fishing expert Kevin Gallant, who shared tips on tides, top fishing spots in Miramichi, local rules, and fishing etiquette. Participants had a chance to borrow waders and go to the river with Kevin to put their new knowledge into practice. It was a hands-on, relaxing experience that helped newcomers connect with nature and local traditions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PALS Summer Camp - July & August

Multiculturalism Day - June 28

Mayor's Welcome BBQ - August 17

Multicultural Night Market - All Summer

Dates to be determined. Check our facebook page regularly for updates! Please contact info@mrma.ca or 773-5272 for more information or to register.

I&O SESSION

Getting to Know Service NB

This information session helped newcomers better understand key government services. Service NB staff answered questions about Medicare, driver's licenses, and more. It was a practical, helpful session that made accessing services in New Brunswick easier for many.



**OPENING
NIGHT!**

June



**Embrace diversity!
Become a member today!**



MIRAMICHI
Regional Multicultural Association
Association Régionale Multiculturelle

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

After three incredible years with MRMA, I'm getting ready to start a new chapter — studying Environmental Engineering at UNB. I came to Canada from Kazakhstan in 2021, and for a long time, I didn't know anyone else from Central Asia in Miramichi. That made it even more important for me to find connection and community. I'm so grateful for how welcoming everyone was — I truly felt like I belonged here. As this is my last issue of the newsletter, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my journey, the people I've met, and what this work has meant to me



1. How did my journey with MRMA begin?

I started working at MRMA three years ago as a part-time Youth Action Coordinator while I was still a student at NBCC and part of the student council. As a newcomer myself, I felt connected to the challenges young immigrants face. Through that role, I joined the Mayor's Youth in Action Committee and helped lead projects like international dance classes, a language exchange club, and a women's group.

2. What other roles have I had with MRMA?

After that, I became an Administrative Assistant, which is when I started the MRMA newsletter. It was a way to share past events, highlight what we do behind the scenes, promote upcoming activities, and tell the stories of newcomers in our community.

Right now, I work as a Settlement Worker in Schools, supporting newcomer students and families. I help them adjust to school life and Canadian systems, and run programs like homework club, culture club, and conversation circles. I also help parents connect to services and navigate daily life here.

3. What moments will I never forget?

Hosting the Mayor's BBQ and the Newcomers Holiday Party as MC were big moments for me! I also had the chance to give presentations on important topics and advocate for people in need. One of the most meaningful things I did was interpreting for Ukrainian refugees — I'm glad I could help during such a difficult time.

4. What did I love most about my work?

Helping people and seeing their progress. Watching newcomer kids grow in confidence, learn English, make friends — it's amazing. I feel proud to have played a small part in their journey.

5. What's next for me?

This fall, I'm starting a new chapter at UNB, studying Environmental Engineering. I came to Canada at 17, alone, and now I've completed college in Environmental Technology and gained so much from working at MRMA — even though it wasn't directly in my field, it was incredibly meaningful.

My message for newcomers?

Yes! Get out there, be open, and get involved.

Volunteering helped me grow so much. Over the past four years, I've volunteered with the Miramichi Literacy Council (Read NB), Saint John Ambulance, Civil Air Search and Rescue, MREAC, and more. I even became a lifeguard and do that on the side. There are so many ways to build skills, make friends, and give back.

