



United Nations Association in Canada

A Sense of Belonging

2007 Newsletter, Volume 4

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2007 Regional Visits:

St. John's, August 12-16
 Moncton, TBC (September)
 Montreal, TBC
 Kingston, September 9-11
 Winnipeg, August 26-29
 Saskatoon, TBC (October)
 Calgary, August 15-18
 Kamloops, July 30-Aug. 2
 Yellowknife, August 20-23

New Addition to National Project Team

A Sense of Belonging welcomes Mara Brotman as a valued member of the National Team. Mara joined the team in April as a second Project Officer and has helped to increase the working capacity of the team.

Mara previously worked on another UNA-Canada project, *It's Time to Act: Mobilizing Young Canadians Around HIV/AIDS*, which wrapped up in March 2007.

National Web Conference a Success

The National Project team hosted a web conference on Monday, June 18. The conference was an opportunity to bring Regional Coordinators together in a virtual setting, share success stories, lessons learned, discuss what has been accomplished during the past year, what still needs to be done and brainstorm ideas for the continuation of the project.

Six Regional Coordinators participated in the conference, as well as a representative from St. John's partner organization, The Association for New Canadians.

The three-hour conference incorporated various sessions by Regional Coordinators and the National Project team, including project evaluation, a research component and an introduction to the Media Guide - which is now available for distribution.

Findings and knowledge gained from the web conference will be compiled into an internal report and distributed to all Regional Coordinators and partner organizations.



Mara Brotman joins the *A Sense of Belonging* National Team as co-Project Officer

Media Guide Ready for Distribution

Understanding and Engaging the Media for NGOs is a step-by-step guide to media relations and has been created to assist NGOs in working more effectively with the media and developing more routine collaboration with media representatives.

Its development, planning and creation came out of a community needs analysis conducted as part of the A Sense of Belonging project, as well as other UNA-Canada initiatives.

The goal of this guide is to underline the importance and the advantages of public outreach and education through the media and act as a concise and user-friendly resource to support NGOs in their efforts.

To receive a copy of the guide, please contact Rebecca at (613) 232-5751 x245 or rebecca.cohn@unac.org

What does it mean to be Canadian and have 'a sense of belonging' in your community?

Check out our July 1st Special Edition Newsletter and find out!



Spring Training for New Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators who joined the A Sense of Belonging team after August 2006 and missed the original training session in May 2006, participated in an extensive two-day workshop in Ottawa from April 14-15. The workshop was intended to ensure RCs were on-track and up-to-speed with project protocol and expectations.

Participants included Ana Carolina Perdomo (Yellowknife), Kevin Cole (Kamloops), Maya Medjesi (Saskatoon), Elena Anciro (Winnipeg), Julia Lebedeva (Kingston) and Arlene Hache, Executive Director of Yellowknife partner organization, Centre for Northern Families.

The workshop incorporated reporting procedures, media training, developing community action plans, project evaluation and financial/administrative procedures, among other interactive and engaging sessions.

UNA-Canada's Executive Director, Kathryn White, also participated and encouraged Regional Coordinators to foster social cohesion in their communities through the SB project.

Goals of the Training Workshop

1. To give the RCs tools to successfully implement the overall goals of the SB project.
2. To build a stronger project team and foster relationships between RCs, National Project Team and UNA-Canada.
3. Provide a platform for RCs to explore their best-practices, challenges and things to come.



Did you know?

According to a recent Ipsos Reid poll...

Almost two thirds of Canadians feel recent immigrants should have just as much say in Canada's future as Canadian-born citizens.

90% of Canadians disagree with the view that newcomers should go back "to where they came from."

58% of Canadians believe minorities should try to fit the traditionally Canadian mold.

82% of Canadians agree with the statement that: "Canada's multicultural makeup is one of the best things about this country."

Two-thirds of respondents disagreed when asked whether "the fabric of Canadian society is being threatened by the influx of visible-minority immigrants."

The telephone poll of 1,002 adults is considered accurate within three percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

What Does it Mean to be Canadian in Yellowknife?

Yellowknife Regional Coordinator, Ana Carolina Perdomo coordinated a youth-oriented workshop in June asking the question, *what does it mean to be Canadian?*

The session was part of a series of workshops targeting youth, including *what can I do to help my community?*

Winners of the Montreal Youth Challenge

Congratulations to Cristina Casola and Cassandra Palumbo, winners of the Montreal Youth Challenge which wrapped up this spring.

The Challenge asked Montreal Youth (ages 12-19) to write an essay describing a particular newcomer group to Montreal and their contributions to the Montreal landscape, be it social, cultural, economic, etc.

The winning piece described the contributions of Montreal's Jewish community.

An excerpt from the text:

"The Jewish community greatly contributed to the social, economical and cultural structure of Montreal and Canada. Behind today's derogatory remarks about their appearances and way of life, we owe much of our thanks to this great community for expanding our knowledge and our horizons. It is thanks to this particular community that hospitals, organizations and facilities have been built and established. They are the future of yesterday, today and tomorrow."

Winners will be awarded with a special certificate and \$50 each for their outstanding efforts. Congratulations to you both!





Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination Presented to City Council in Kingston

Regional Coordinator, Lorraine Payette presented the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (an initiative supported by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO) to Kingston City Council in June.

The coalition includes municipalities from across Canada and is part of a larger international coalition being promoted by UNESCO.

Kingston City Council is currently discussing the possibility of signing on to the coalition.



Moncton to Host Multicultural Festival

A *Sense of Belonging* partner organization, Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton Area (MAGMA) is hosting its third annual multicultural festival – *Redez-Vous*. Organizing third Multicultural Rendezvous Festival.

Electrifying events featuring rising music groups and exceptional foods from across the globe will be held between June 28th and July 1st in the Greater Moncton Area.

For more information, please contact Regional Coordinator, Angelique Reddy at angelique.reddy@nb.aibn.com

New Partner Organization in Kamloops

Welcome to White Buffalo Aboriginal Health Society and Resource Centre as a partner organization in Kamloops.

White Buffalo Aboriginal Health Society and Resource Centre is a stand-alone urban Aboriginal, not for profit, agency accountable to its own Board of Directors. It encompasses both traditional and modern practices within its programs to support the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects of an individual and is inclusive of all Aboriginal children, individuals, families and communities.

The *A Sense of Belonging* project team is thrilled to have White Buffalo Aboriginal Health Society and Resource Centre as a valued addition to the team. Welcome!



White Buffalo
Aboriginal Health
Society and
Resource Centre



Saskatoon Talks About the Benefits of a Higher Education

Regional Coordinator, Maya Medjesi conducted a youth-oriented information session at the Ruthenian Culture Association in April. The session talked about the benefits of obtaining a higher education and informed participants of scholarships that are available to them.

Participants commented on the usefulness of the session and that they were previously not aware of the information presented. It was also mentioned that a lack of knowledge of resources available made them feel excluded from the rest of the privileges and opportunities within the community.

Forty people participated in the session.



UNA–Canada is a national charitable organization celebrating its landmark 61st anniversary. As a ‘think and do’ organization, UNA–Canada supports a network of 17 volunteer branches and local contacts, with a National office in Ottawa and a Western professional office in Vancouver. Our mandate is to engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical global issues that affect us all, through innovative projects, policy research, and on–going communications with Canadians.

JOIN US NOW! Become part of our family of like–minded and committed Canadians working for a better UN and a better world.

http://www.unac.org/en/get_involved/donate/index.asp

For further details on all UNA–Canada activities we invite you to visit our website at www.unac.org



Regional Coordinator, Julia Lebedeva, at a community event in Kingston.

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For more information on *A Sense of Belonging*, check out www.unac.org/sb



Helena, Egno and Matt sharing hotdogs at a youth workshop in Yellowknife in May.

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