



What is the Newcomer Network?

- Its an initiative of the Cape Breton Partnership and funded by Nova Scotia Office of Immigration and was launched in 2020 and designed to support Cape Breton communities do what they do best..... Be welcoming!
- Norma Jean MacLeod was hired to coordinate the program and seek out champions in communities across Cape Breton Island.
- This network group as it stands now is made up of approximately 50 volunteers across Cape Breton Island – currently there are six distinct communities: Cheticamp, Port Hood, Judique, St. Peter’s, and CBRM
- The volunteer ‘welcomers’ are people who are well connected and very familiar with their community, their history, local activities and also the hidden gems of the area.



- The Cape Breton Partnership initiative plays a coordinating role - supporting the welcome group with tools and resources needed to thrive. They also work to make sure that every newcomer to Cape Breton knows how to reach the nearest Welcome Group.
- Each Welcome Group will be unique across Cape Breton and work to best meet the needs of newcomers in each particular community. Regular activities could include making welcome baskets, hosting community events and offering tours of the community.
- The program is valuable to newcomers and Immigration is making it a positive difference across our Province, strengthening and revitalizing rural communities and benefiting our provincial economy.



Inverness County Welcome Groups:

Port Hood Welcome Group

Co-Chairs:

Linda MacMillan

902 579-4657

Maggie MacDonald

902-615-3670

macdonald.m@hotmail.com

Judique Welcome Group

Chair:

Dena MacKinnon

902 787-2110

safety-dmk@ns.sympatico.ca

Cheticamp Welcome Group

Co-Chairs:

Heather Davis and

Velvet Mattinnia

902-224-1572

communitymatters2020@gmail.com



For anyone interested in starting a new welcome group or keen to get involved with existing welcoming groups can contact

welcomenetwork@capebretonpartnership.com

Check out their website at

visit <https://welcometocapebreton.ca/welcomenetwork>



“People are healthier, happier and feel more connected to their community when they are welcomed and can participate fully in society and in the local economy,” says Carla Arsenault, Cape Breton Partnership President & CEO. “It is of the utmost importance to ensure that newcomers to Cape Breton feel welcomed and included in our communities.”

“It’s not just about helping newcomers, it’s about enriching our communities. Learning with and about each other as we live and work together only increases the value and prosperity of Cape Breton Island,”

- Karla Arsenault, President & Chief Executive Officer, Cape Breton Partnership