



National  
Newcomers  
Association  
of Canada

# The Link Spring/Summer 2015 Edition

*Connecting Canada's Newcomers from Coast to Coast*



National Newcomers Association of Canada  
38th Annual Conference and AGM  
Vancouver, British Columbia

We look forward to seeing you in gorgeous Vancouver for the  
38th National Newcomers Conference and Annual General Meeting.

**Friday, October 2**

Evening Welcome Reception

5:30 p.m.

Creekside Community Recreation Centre in Olympic Village.  
1 Athletes Way, Room Four, Vancouver, BC V5Y 0B1 (604) 257-3050

This evening's social is compliments of Vancouver Newcomers Club  
and the Vancouver Newcomers Club Alumnae. The evening will celebrate the 30th  
anniversary of the Vancouver Newcomers Club. Transportation assistance to and from  
the event provided by Vancouver Newcomers Alumnae Club.

**Saturday, October 3**

Conference and AGM

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Blue Horizon Hotel  
1225 Robson St.

**Accommodations:**

Blue Horizon Hotel

Rooms have been set aside for NNAC, Block #2217

Phone number (604) 688-1411 Toll Free 1-(800) 663-1333

[www.bluehorizonhotel.com](http://www.bluehorizonhotel.com)

Please book rooms before September 1, 2015

Each suite has two queen size beds, \$133.00 per night including tax. Hotel parking is  
available for \$22.00/night. A third guest is allowed in the room for an additional \$15 plus  
tax. (Maximum three people per room) This special room rate is offered three days  
prior to and after the conference weekend if you'd like to extend your trip.

**Cost:** Conference and AGM fee is \$68.00; includes Friday Night Reception, breakfast,  
lunch and two snacks on Saturday. Please register by August 1, 2015. Early  
registration to be entered into a draw for a chance to win a NNAC pin is June 1, 2015

**Questions about Vancouver:**

Please contact: Charlene Brooks [charlenebrooks@telus.net](mailto:charlenebrooks@telus.net) (604) 682-2100

**Questions about AGM:**

Please contact: Margaret Patrick [president@nnac.ca](mailto:president@nnac.ca) (905) 315-7168

Ellie Siekierski [ellie.siekierski@live.com](mailto:ellie.siekierski@live.com) (603) 745-7154



National Newcomers Association of Canada  
 38th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting  
 Saturday, October 3, 2015  
 Vancouver, British Columbia

Registration Form

Name:.....

Address:.....

City: ..... Province:..... Postal Code:.....

Email: ..... Phone Number:.....

Club Name: .....

Executive Position if applicable:.....

Emergency Contact Name and Number: .....

Will you be attending the Friday Night Social: Yes:..... No:.....

Would you like to be billeted? Yes:..... No:..... Do you smoke? Yes:.... No:...

Please indicate any allergies or special dietary requirements:.....

**Please mail registration form and payment to:**

Nancy Myra  
 NNAC, Registrar/Treasurer  
 35 Hollingshead Drive  
 Aurora, Ontario L4G 5K3

Please *ensure* that your cheque is made payable to:

**National Newcomers Association**  
 Registration is \$68/person

We can hardly wait to see you!



Group Sales  
22 Aerial Place NE  
Calgary, Alberta T2E 3J1

### Meeting/convention promise

Thank you for choosing WestJet for your meeting/convention travel needs. We will do our utmost to ensure that your travel experience is fun, friendly, and affordable. Outlined below is our promise to you, our guest, regarding your travel experience.

#### Booking

- Please call the WestJet Groups Sales team at 1-888-493-7853 to make reservations.
- Flight schedule information is available at [www.westjet.com](http://www.westjet.com).
- Discount only applies to flights marketed and operated wholly by WestJet, and are not applicable when travelling with our code-share, interline or other airline partners.
- Percentage based discount is applied to base fare excluding taxes, fees and charges. Taxes, fees and surcharges are extra.

#### Payment

- Full payment is due at the time of booking.
- WestJet accepts American Express<sup>®</sup>, MasterCard<sup>®</sup>, Travel Bank, Visa<sup>®</sup> and Visa Debit<sup>®</sup>, and WestJet dollars<sup>®</sup>.

#### Change and cancellation

- Changes and cancellations to reservations are accepted up to two hours prior to flight time. Depending on the fare class booked, fees, applicable taxes and surcharges may apply for each guest cancelling. Please contact the Group Sales team for specific terms and conditions.

#### Name changes

- WestJet does not charge for name changes up to 24 hours prior to the initial departure time. Each name change after that time may be subject to a fee.

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Hours of operation: Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MT  
Closed Statutory Holidays



## Message From The President



Dear Newcomer and Alumni/ae members,

Today in Burlington, we reached twenty degrees and the sun was shining. Spring is here and summer is just around the corner.

Many of you will be in the throes of forming new executives for the upcoming year. A big task and I wish you all success. We are doing this as well at the National level. At this time we know we will be looking for a Western Liaison Officer and a Central Liaison Officer for next year. If you are interested in either position, please contact us. All positions but President are always open for someone to put their name forward. Our year will not be over until October so we have some time yet to devote to this subject.

Our biggest endeavour at the moment is the AGM and Conference. Charlene Brooks and her committee from Vancouver have been hard at work. The registration forms are out and also included in this edition of The Link. We hope that Clubs are thinking about sending a delegate. It is a fabulous opportunity to mix with fellow Newcomers and Alumni/ae, to be able to share ideas and help each other out and to come away with a renewed passion for this organization and for what it does for about seven thousand members. This is a large number of people but we still need to spread this organization out across the country. Did you know that Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland/Labrador do not have any Newcomers Clubs? There are probably a lot of lonely people in these provinces that could use a Newcomers Club.

What a beautiful destination for our big event. You might also think about making this a little vacation. The Blue Horizon hotel is extending their fabulous room rates for an extra three days before and another three days after our event. I am also thrilled to say that all our Board of Directors will be attending this event but one. We are always in touch by email and telephone but it will be so wonderful to be able to meet up in person.

The website that we keep promising you is my next subject. We are almost there. The website is together at this time. We are doing some fine tuning at this point, adding some more ideas and we will very soon be delivering our promise to you. Circumstances that were beyond our control have delayed the delivery of this website but please know that it will be out there very shortly.

Our membership form is also included in this Link. We trust that we will be welcoming all of you back at the end of June. We are here to lend a hand or offer advice when you need it. We are not a governing Board but we are here whenever you need help. If you can think of any way that we could be of more help to you, we would love to hear from you. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. You just have to tell us what you would like. Another huge plus to becoming a part of the NNAC is our insurance plan. Co-Operators offer us great plans to keep us secure. As of last year, Clubs who are returning to Co-Operators will be dealing with the company directly. Clubs taking out insurance for the first time will do so with the help of NNAC.

Also, don't forget if you have any suggestions for round table discussions at the AGM do let me know. We send our best wishes to your Club and we hope to see you in Vancouver on Oct 2nd and 3rd.

In friendship,  
Margaret Patrick



## Message From The Registrar/Treasurer r.t@nnac.ca



Newcomers has changed my life in the most positive way. I've met a lot of wonderful people who have become very dear friends. I initially volunteered to be the treasurer of our club and later became the president. I have since volunteered to be the treasurer for National Newcomers and am still 'getting my feet wet'.

As with many other people around me, I was downsized and am now back at school upgrading my qualifications. It is good to have my fellow Newcomers cheering me on and supporting my efforts.

Nancy Myra

## Message From The Secretary secretary@nnac.ca

The new NNAC website is almost ready to be announced. It has been an exciting project that the board and I have worked many hours on, to assure that your input and feedback has been taken into consideration. I predict that we will be announcing and sharing our new website with the entire country before the end of the month.

The website has an updated look and feel, is easy to navigate, and holds lots of information. We will also have a blog section for members and clubs to share their unique Newcomers stories with others across the country.

We also want to make sure that all of our potential new friends out there can find the National Newcomers Association site, and that the site will help individuals find the Newcomers club for them, wherever they end up across Canada. "At Newcomers there are no strangers, only friends you haven't met."

The main goals of the new website are to bring our site up-to-date, make it user friendly, easily accessible, provide information to all of our member clubs across the country and to be expandable. Please make sure to let me know if we have accomplished these goals.

Thank you to the Board for their support. Be on the lookout for an announcement about the unveiling of the new website.

Kristen Cordes





## **Message From Eastern Liaison l.east@nnac.ca**

Greetings from the Atlantic Provinces. As you will have seen on TV news reports, we got 'blasted' by winter this year and are hoping that summer will be gentle with us.

Please send in interesting stories and photos from your club to The Link so others can read about what has been happening with your members.

In friendship.  
Beryl Keilty



## **Message From Western Liaison l.west@nnac.ca**

It has been quiet here, with several clubs winding up their activities for the summer hiatus, while others prepare for their annual AGM. As a volunteer organization, it is important that we keep ourselves involved and supportive of our club, by participation...as well as attending critical meetings like an AGM.

Many clubs have term limits for executives in their constitutions/bylaws, which is both a blessing and a challenge. On the upside, this helps ensure renewal of the executive and keeps club members involved in the operation of the club. On the down side, at the end of those terms it becomes a challenge to find interested and willing candidates to fill those positions. One way we can help our clubs continue to be successful is to accept a nomination when asked by the club. I know it is a trite saying, however, in this case 'many hands do make light work'...as each of us brings our skills to our club and help keep it vibrant.

I wish all of our clubs a safe, happy and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing many of you at our fall National Conference in Vancouver. My registration and cheque are in the mail...hope yours is, too!

Glenn White





## Message From Our Member-at-Large memberatlarge@nnac.ca



Greetings from Ottawa, where we are settling in to spring and anticipating the annual Tulip Festival (May 8 - 18), in celebration of our close friendship with The Netherlands (Holland).

Moving along with the preparations for the fall National Conference in Vancouver, please submit your registration form as soon as possible. The number of attendees is very important for the planning committee. Those registering before June 1st, will have their name entered into a draw for a chance to win a Newcomers/Alumnae(i) pin.

May I encourage everyone attending, to show their support of National, by wearing a Newcomers, Alumnae or Alumni pin to the Conference. The friendship pins were a millennium project for the National Association of Canada and are the only fundraiser for NNAC. The pins are made of bronze and plated with 25 kt brushed gold, and will not tarnish. To order, please complete an order form from: [www.nationalnewcomersassociation.ca](http://www.nationalnewcomersassociation.ca). For those in Ottawa, please contact me personally.

Cheers and hope to see you in Vancouver!

Bonnie Barber



## Message from Alumni/Alumnae Liaison alumnirep@nnac.ca

Happy Spring! We waited patiently through the long cold winter and finally spring weather is here. Alumnae activities here in Ottawa that begin anew this time of year - or at least gearing up for them - are fun things like golf and Gatineau Park hiking. Seems like forever since the weather has allowed us to be out enjoying exercise.

As your Alumnae Liaison, I am here for your questions, information, whatever you need.

I wish you all great weather and new fun with your club. If you have some pictures to show off your recent activities, please send them along for publication in "The Link".

Ellie Siekierski



## Message From The Newsletter Editor newsletter@nnac.ca



Once again, I have enjoyed receiving newsletters from across the country. The imagination that goes into forming club groups or inventing club group names is often inspiring or just down right funny. The generosity of our club members is also a highlight of why we are such a wonderful organization. Below is a sneak peak at some of what I gleaned from various newsletters:

**Comox Valley** has a book club with a twist, called the Random Readers Book Club. Each person reads a book that appeals to them, talks about it and then either recommends it to other members, or not, as the case may be. They also have a Genealogy Group that helps members trace their family history. Or how about the Impromptu Diversions Group which provides an email distribution list for last minute activities to be arranged.

**Thornhill Newcomers** will be hosting a speaker from a local shelter (s) for abused women and their children at their Annual May Dinner. Members have been encouraged to bring donations, either monetary or necessities.

The **Cornwall Newcomers Alumnae Club** publishes a bubbly newsletter full of recipes and jokes...along with information about club activities. This month, their Co-President also published an interesting and informative article that appeared in the Seaway Senior Citizen's Club newsletter, about protecting yourself from thieves. You will find this article on the following page.

**Kitchener Waterloo Region** hosted a belly dancing display and lessons. In addition to having fun, they raised enough money in donations to pay for an Afghan teacher. This means a month of school for Afghan girls and a teacher being able to support her family. If you are interested in learning more about the Teacher's Salary Project of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, please visit [www.cw4wafghan.ca](http://www.cw4wafghan.ca).

The **St. Catherine's District** newsletter provides links to what's on in the area. On an interesting note their proposed new bylaw states that their general membership lasts for 5 years...after that members become Associates, who still pay dues, have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member, but cannot hold an Executive position.

The **London Newcomers** have lots of readers (I love the name of one of the groups, "Happy Bookers"), card players (including bridge and euchre), as well as many eating and drinking groups!

**Ottawa Newcomers** will once again host **Ottawa Newcomers Alumnae** for lunch and a fashion show at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. Mah Jong has become so popular with both ONC and ONAC members, that a new session of lessons has been organized.

Remember, keep those newsletters coming...see you at the AGM in Vancouver.

Rosemary Sorfleet



Four important tips to protect yourself from thieves:

1. Long-term parking. When leaving your car in long-term parking, always make sure not to leave personal documents in your vehicle. Many people leave documents such as their registration in the glove compartment. Thieves can use these documents to access your home address and since they know you're not there, can take advantage of the opportunity to rob your home.
2. Cell phones. A lady has now changed her habit of how she lists names on her cell phone, after her handbag and all its contents were stolen. When she called her husband from a pay phone to tell him what happened, he explained that he had received a text from her asking for their PIN number. They rushed to the bank, only to find out that all of their money had been withdrawn. The thief had texted "Hubby" and was able to do his dirty business in 20 minutes. Moral of the story: Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid words like Home, Husband, Wife, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc. When sensitive information is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back. Also, when texted to meet someone, call them to CONFIRM. If you don't reach them, be careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.
3. GPS. If you own a GPS you should never have your home address entered into it. If someone were to break into your vehicle and steal the GPS, it could guide them straight to your home. If they stole the GPS or the vehicle while you were at an event, they would know how long they have to get to your home and empty it. If your system insists on a street address instead of just the city, you could list your home address as the nearest police station.
4. Purse in the grocery cart scam. While shopping a woman left her purse in the child seat of the cart. When she was turned away, her wallet was stolen. She reported it to store personnel. After returning home she received a call from Security letting her know they had found her wallet. She immediately returned to the store only to be told that they had not called her. By the time she returned home again, her house had been broken into. The thieves knew that by calling her and saying they were Security, they could get her out of the house long enough to burgle it.



## National Newcomers' Association of Canada

### Application for Association Membership

2015 - 2016

(Please remit by June 30, 2015)

#### CLUB INFORMATION:

Club Name.....New Club... Yes.../... No...

Number of Members..... Year Founded.....

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Presidents Name.....Phone Number...(.....)

President Contact Email.....

Membership Contact Name.....Phone Number...(.....)

Membership Contact Email.....

Newsletter Contact.....Phone Number...(.....)

Newsletter Contact Email.....

Club Website Address if applicable.....

Club email address.....

#### ANNUAL DUES:

Associate Membership*	\$10	125 - 200 Members	\$85
Up to 25 Members	\$20	201 - 300 Members	\$100
25 - 50 Members	\$45	300+ Members	\$110
51 - 125 Members	\$70		

\*An Associate Membership is open to any person whose term with a Newcomers Club has expired and there is no Alumnae group or to a person who was affiliated with a Newcomers Club and moves to a place where there is no Newcomers Club available.

Please complete form and mail your cheque, payable to: **National Newcomers Association**

Nancy Myra, Registrar / Treasurer  
 35 Hollingshead Drive  
 Aurora, Ontario L4G 5K3  
 Phone (905) 841-4094  
 Email [rt@nnac.ca](mailto:rt@nnac.ca)

#### Note:

A)The Contact and Club Information that you provide above **will appear on the National Newcomers Association of Canada Website: [www.NNAC.ca](http://www.NNAC.ca)**

B) If you do not want any of the above contact information published please specify any exceptions next to the information you wish to have **excluded** from the website by placing an "X" by that information in the margin.

C) The Co-Operators offers Group Insurance for our Member Clubs. Please contact NNAC Treasurer for additional information. [rt@nnac.ca](mailto:rt@nnac.ca)