



Family Reunion

Zufan Muluneh and her family leave Ethiopia to join father in Canada

Refugee and Immigrant families are often separated for prolonged periods.

Sponsorship policies and procedures and financial requirements are just some of the factors that can delay family reunification.

Zufan Muluneh and her family know this story too well.

In November 2012,

after two years of waiting, 17 year old Zufan, along with her mother and two younger brothers, left Ethiopia and made the 7,552-mile trip to Canada to reunite with her father, who had been in Canada for five years.

Since the early 1900s, provisions for admitting immigrants with relatives has been a fixture in

Canada's Immigration Act and a national dedication to reuniting families continues.

Canada's Family Class pathway provides an opportunity for citizens or permanent residents of Canada over the age of 18, to sponsor certain relatives to join them in Canada.

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Zufan Muluneh

2014 Simcoe County Newcomer Recognition Awards



Newcomer Recognition Awards

Celebrating Simcoe County residents, businesses,
and organizations working to connect with
immigrants in Simcoe County.



Nominate someone today!
immigration.simcoe.ca

- Application form
- Rules and regulations
- Award criteria

Submission Deadline
September 25, 2014

Applications now open

Nominate someone today

National Citizenship Week falls in October, and the Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership will celebrate the week by hosting the second-annual Newcomer Recognition Awards.

The awards celebrate Simcoe County residents, businesses, and organizations working to connect with immigrants.

Nine categories recognize the efforts of individuals, businesses/ community organizations and schools.

This year's categories include:

- Immigrant Youth
- Immigrant Mentor
- Immigrant Artist
- Immigrant Entrepreneur
- Culturally Diverse/
Welcoming Work Environment
- Marketing and Outreach
- Multiculturalism through
Education – School & Educator
- Community Champion

Application forms can be found at immigration.simcoe.ca and are available in both English and French.

The deadline to submit a nomination is September 25, 2014.

Community Forum

The Simcoe County Immigration Partnership will host a community forum in September 2014. An overview on the progress made by stakeholders in the implementation of community settlement strategy will be provided, and participants will have an opportunity to engage in dialogue about further steps needed to becoming welcoming and inclusive to immigrants. The LIP will also distribute a renewed expression of interest for future participation on the Partnership Council.

For more, visit www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ss/ccs/lip/

**When you don't know
where to turn.TM**



**Quand tu ne sais pas
vers qui te tourner.^{MC}**

**211 is a free, confidential, province-wide helpline that simplifies
finding support and community services for residents**

Family Reunion . . . continued

Zufan was happy and excited to start a new life in Canada, but most importantly, she was thrilled to reunite with her father, whom she calls her role model.

Zufan's father did his best to educate his family about life in Canada, and was prepared with winter wear for their introduction to the harsh realities of a Canadian winter. He also encouraged his family to start learning English by reading books.

Language quickly became a barrier for Zufan, making it difficult to create new friendships and increasing the isolation she was already feeling.

"If you don't know the language it is very hard to make friends. I was lonely," said Zufan.

With the support of her guidance counsellor and teachers, Zufan enrolled in English as a second language class (ESL) provided through her high school, Barrie North Collegiate.

She began to make friends and fit in.

"I didn't feel alone anymore."

ESL and FSL (French as a Second Language) helps support a student, whose first language is not English

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or French, by increasing language proficiency to attain academic standards and assists newcomers with integrating into the Canadian school system. The ESL class was an important factor in learning English for Zufan, but also helped to build confidence, make friends, and attain academic success.

Nine months after arriving in Barrie, Zufan wanted something her new Canadian friends had – a part-time job. Having no luck searching on her own, Zufan through her school, attended a presentation by Georgian College - Centre for Career and Employment Services on How to Write a Résumé and found information about the new Employment Connections Program for Newcomer Youth Students. Zufan at-

tended several more workshops – How to find Work in Canada, Interview Tips, How to Prepare for a Job Fair and was supported in creating a résumé.

In January, Zufan received the call she had been waiting for, an opportunity to interview at Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen restaurant.

Zufan said she "is grateful for the help she got from Employment Connections staff," and it was the happiest day when they called to tell her about the interview.

Success in a new community and programs and services that support economic integration are very important.

Hard work and dedication have paid off for Zufan, who is now receiving full-time hours. Her employer remains flexible, allowing her to attend school in the

evening.

"If you work hard, do what they ask, people at work will help you too," said Zufan.

Her first job in Canada has helped her learn new skills, gain economic independence, and access valuable personal and professional networks; elements often lacking for new immigrants.

Zufan has learned early that with hard work and dedication, success can be achieved. She will be attending Georgian College in its Pre-Health Sciences Certificate Program in the fall. This is the next step to achieving her long-term goal – a nursing degree.

Zufan misses Ethiopia, particularly her childhood friends and the weather, but is glad she moved to Canada.

Family is important to Zufan and having everyone together is priceless.

The goal of settlement and integration programs is for newcomers to contribute to the economic, social, and cultural development of Canada.

The positive impact of supportive educators and Employment Connections staff have helped Zufan to begin that journey.

IN FOCUS: Home Away From Home



Cultural Diversity is part of the fabric of our country; a reason Canada is celebrated and respected world-wide.

Our nation has welcomed many through the years, giving people a safe haven, a new beginning full of opportunity and a chance for a better life.

Years ago, newcomers migrated and settled in the larger

urban centres of our county.

Bigger isn't always better.

Today, it is often rural locations, like those found in Simcoe County, that seem to be the destination of choice.

How are these new residents adapting to a new community and new country?

In Focus: Home Away From Home highlights the struggles and successes of some of our

new neighbours. You will meet:

- The Bertoldi family, who packed their hopes and dreams in a few suitcases and gave up everything in their native Colombia for a better, safer life for their daughter

- Lala Alassaad, who left the conflict in Syria and now hopes to be able to share her new-found freedom with her mother

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July/August

The World at a Glance

July 28: Eid-ul-Fitr, Islam: This marks the end of the Ramadan fast and is celebrated for three days. Date of observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American calendar is being observed.

August 2: Caribana Parade – African-American/Canadian, Canada: Held in Toronto, Caribana commemorates Canada's diverse Caribbean community with a giant street parade.

August 12: International Youth Day, UN: A day to increase awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond, which calls for action in 10 areas: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and full and effective participation of youths 15-24 years old in society.

www.multiculturalcalendar.com

In Focus . . . continued

- Alba Lisa, who turned her childhood dream of climbing a guava tree in Mexico to new heights of success in business.

In Focus: Home Away From Home celebrates the cultural diversity of newcomers and what each brings our communities and our country.

"I have the utmost respect for immigrants coming to Canada," said Rogers Producer Steve McEown. "To leave behind your family, culture, familiarity and arrive in a country not even speaking the language is a bold move . . . one that I cannot imagine."

EMPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS for newcomer youth

WHAT DOES THE EMPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS FOR NEWCOMER YOUTH PROVIDE?

Employment Connections provides job search assistance to secondary and post-secondary students who are newcomers to Canada. The program supports young people seeking part-time work experience in Canada, ultimately helping them develop a greater ability to integrate into the Canadian workplace.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Newcomer youth age 15 to 30 interested in part-time work in the Barrie area
- Full-time secondary or post-secondary students
- Permanent residents
Protected persons as defined by the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Live-in caregivers with temporary work permits (current or approved)

SUPPORTS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

Newcomer students will have access to vital job search assistance to attain part-time employment and have a greater ability to integrate into the workplace. The program will help the students to develop a deeper understanding of their rights and responsibilities as a Canadian worker. The program will help connect youth with employers to ensure a welcoming and smooth transition to the Canadian workplace. Students will be assisted in building the initial skills required to ensure employability in the labour

market through workshops such as:

- Finding your first job in Canada
- Employee rights and responsibilities in the Canadian labour market
- Balancing school and work
- Résumé development
- Job searching
- Aligning career interests and values with part-time work
- Beyond work: Your at-work social life
- WHMIS awareness

SUPPORTS AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYERS

Local employers participating in the Employment Connections program are provided with tools, skills and support as they work to foster cultural awareness in their work environment. Program staff are available to enhance employers' capacity to address the needs of young newcomers in the workplace, providing initial and ongoing coaching on how to maintain a culturally sensitive environment and build healthy working relationships with newcomer youth. Employers can access:

- Committed youth looking for part-time work
- Pre-screened candidates
- No-cost posting of opportunities
- Initial and ongoing training/support

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CENTRE FOR CAREER
AND EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES

Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada



Digital copies of these newsletters are now available on the Local Immigration Partnership website.

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