

Date: _____, 2009

From: Joe Seaman and Julie Houde, PEI – Association for Newcomers to Canada

To: Newcomers to Canada who arrived in Prince Edward Island in 2006

Phase One INFORMATION LETTER: Launching a Research Project to study the role and significance of the **Canadian Friend Program** (or **Host Program**, or **Padrino/Madrina**) amongst Immigrants who arrived in PEI in 2006.

Dear Newcomer to Canada,

We hope that you are well and in good health.

The PEI-ANC is cooperating with the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) to carry out research on the social experience of immigrants who arrived in PEI in 2006. We hope that you accept this invitation to participate freely in this study.

The study is being conducted by Dr Godfrey Baldacchino and Dr Lisa Chilton, both professors at UPEI, as part of a study facilitated by the PEI ANC and supported by a research grant of \$5,000 kindly provided by the Atlantic Metropolis Centre. Please contact either Dr Baldacchino [tel: (902) 566 0909; e-mail: gbaldacchino@upei.ca] Dr Chilton [tel: (902) 566 0692; e-mail: lchilton@upei.ca] or Lynn MacPhee at the Office of Research and Development [tel: (902) 566 0637; e-mail: lmacphee@upei.ca] all at UPEI, should you have any questions or concerns about this study.

The **purpose** of this study is better understand the importance of the Host Program as one that is intended to enrich the friendship and social networks in the immigrant experience; and whether such friendships and social networks help immigrants to stay, or stay longer, on Prince Edward Island after they arrive here.

The **resources** for conducting the study are being provided to the researchers by Atlantic Metropolis Centre. 'In Kind' contributions are provided by UPEI and the PEI-ANC.

The **benefits** of participating in this study include: (a) articulating your immigrant experience; (b) sharing your immigrant experience with that of other immigrants who moved to PEI at the same time as you; (c) contributing towards a better, and more informed understanding of how friendship and social network support initiatives can help newcomers settle on PEI. You will also be invited to attend a meeting (free of

charge) to be held in Charlottetown that will announce the results of the study in which you have participated.

The **costs** of participating in Phase 1 of the study consist in the time (around 15 minutes) and inconvenience it may take to reply to a brief survey, which has 8 questions (see below). The **costs** of participating in Phase 2 of the study consist in the time and inconvenience it may take to participate in a 30-minute interview: the exact time will depend on your willingness to go into detail. We are expecting some 100 participants to take part in Phase 1 of this study.

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. You are free to refuse to participate, or to withdraw at any point during the study, or to refuse to answer any question, all without any negative consequences on yourself or anyone else. Should you choose to withdraw from the study, we will ask you whether you wish for any data that relates to you and which you may have already provided for the purposes of this study to be destroyed and deleted from any memory banks or computer files.

This study is anonymous: this means that your identity will be protected, since we do not require to report as to who said or experienced what. Moreover, the data gathered from respondents will be treated with the utmost confidentiality: it will be collated in a database from which only generic statistics will be derived, and tabulated by such variables as: age, gender, religion, country of birth, educational and occupational background. The UPEI researchers in charge of this study guarantee that they will **ONLY** use the data that you provide in this study in the context of a report to Atlantic Metropolis Centre; this report will contain the research findings from this study.

Any interview scripts will be held by Dr Baldacchino in a locked filing cabinet, held in a secure location. They will only be checked in relation to this research exercise and any necessary follow-ups. All interview scripts and any other related survey data will be destroyed after 5 years (that is, by September 2014).

It is planned to make the results of this study public in February 2010. This would be announced through suitable media at the appropriate time. An electronic copy of the final report would be made available, free of charge, to anyone interested.

We at PEI ANC believe that this is an important study, since it will allow us to evaluate the Host Program and its contribution to helping newcomers settle down on Prince Edward Island.

Thank You. If you require any further details about this study, do not hesitate to contact us at the PEI-ANC: (902) 628 6009.

Joe Seaman

Julie Houde

CONSENT FORM

I have been invited to participate in a Research Project entitled: The Role and Significance of the **Canadian Friend Program** (or **Host Program**, or **Padrino/Madrina**) amongst Immigrants who arrived in PEI in 2006.

- I have been provided with a copy of the Information Letter about this study.
- I have read and understood the contents of this letter, or have had the contents of this letter explained to me.
- I know that I have the freedom to withdraw from this study at any time.
- I know that I have the freedom to refuse to answer any question.
- I understand that the information I will provide in the context of this study will be used strictly and exclusively for the purposes for which it is being collected.
- I understand that I can contact the Research Ethics Board at the University of Prince Edward Island – by contacting Lynn MacPhee at the Office of Research and Development [tel: (902) 566 0637; e-mail: lmacphee@upei.ca] – if I have any concerns about the conduct of this study.
- I understand that I can keep a copy of this signed and dated consent form

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____ (day) / _____ (month) / _____ (year).