



MARCH 2021

NAVIGATOR NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of the PEI Community Navigators,
an initiative of CBDC West Prince Ventures

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Individuals and families who choose to settle in rural PEI offer **incredible value to the communities that they settle**. In each of our numerous communities dotting the coastline or the inland rolling hills of our Island, you'll find a diverse group of community members who settled in PEI or were born as Islanders, **coming together to help each other and create a prosperous and fulfilling life in Rural PEI**.



Message from Maxine Rennie Executive Director CBDC West Prince Ventures

It's been an interesting last few days as PEI has risen to the challenges of the pandemic (not to mention the challenges of the last few weeks and months as we approach the one year mark of COVID's impact on our Island).

Please know that our Navigator Team remains available to new residents and partners, and is accessible by phone, email and online meetings. Whatever your needs, we are able to adapt.

While we may express disappointment that some of our in-person events have been disrupted, we know that when the time is right, these activities will return, once again connecting new & longtime Islanders in the rural communities in which they live.

~Maxine Rennie

Meet Rev. Bethe Cameron, Minister with the United Church of Canada and Western PEI Community Navigator Steering Committee Member:



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Facebook Group - search for:
Western PEI Community Navigator

Office: 455 Main Street
Alberton, PEI

Joyful! Funny! Knowledgeable! Compassionate! Caring! Kind! & A Positive-Thinker! These are all words that one may use to describe Rev. Bethe Cameron of O'Leary, PEI. Born in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia (NS) and raised in Waverly, NS, Rev. Bethe along with her partner Rick Cameron made their journey to PEI from NS 6 years ago. Before becoming a minister, she worked in financial management with the province of NS, and owned & operated a small business that made kids clothes for children with special needs (specifically for boys) - the biggest task was to design to them, which she always enjoyed and was great at! She has always been active in her faith community, working in Christian development ministry, and as a staff associate in the United Church of Canada for several years. In her 40s, she decided to go back to school and get her masters in divinity and following her ordination - her life journey took her to PEI. Rev. Bethe also has a talent for writing, having written many articles and two booklets for the United Church of Canada, often focusing on children's spirituality. Speaking with her, one can really feel her passion & joy to work with the children of this world!

We asked...

What is the key to successfully welcoming others to our community?

"It's about partnership, and we need to remember that people who come here bring gifts. We can offer assistance to those who are new, but we need to remember that people bring gifts to enhance & improve our communities - it's our role to encourage others to share these gifts and their talents, which leads to a richness for both sides of the community."

Rev. Bethe has always been active in both her faith community, as well as the local community. She has experience as a spiritual guide in trauma informed practices and is a grief recovery specialist. She is also the chaplain for the palliative care units in both O'Leary & Alberton, as well as for the O'Leary Legion. As well as being part of our project, she is the vice-chair of the West Prince Christmas Hampers Group, and volunteers regularly to pre-package groceries at the local caring cupboard. She also has a passion for social justice.



So we asked...

How was your experience with moving here to PEI?

When Rev Bethe & Rick moved to PEI, they had a great support circle through the local church. Everyone was helpful and mindful of their needs; they offered suggestions for the best place to repair the car if needed or where to get local supplies... However, what if you don't have this support system in place? For this reason, Rev. Bethe has made it a personal mission to support others who are new and do what she can to assist them. This may be as simple as offering a ride to someone walking home from picking up their groceries, but the REAL key is not just to be friendly to someone; instead, it's to welcome them into your life and inner circles. To truly welcome, a person needs to strike up a conversation with another person, which will build stronger, deeper relationships. She noted that this does take time (and be aware of cultural differences)! In the end though, one thing she will never forget is the food and peoples willingness to share it with others.

We want to thank Rev. Bethe for all she does to help make our Western PEI communities a better, stronger, more inclusive & equitable place for all!

Did you know?

This winter we've been running a **Learn to Skate** in O'Leary, PEI at the *O'Leary Community Sports Centre* in partnership with the *Western Region Sport & Recreation Council (WRSRC)*. Join the **Western PEI Community Navigator Facebook Group** to find out more about our last class for the season this March!



NEWS from Central PEI Communities



BORDEN-CARLETON

The Town Council is making **three town owned vacant properties available for year-round residential development.** "We have Seniors looking to down size, we have businesses looking for housing, we have an excellent school and underutilized recreation facilities." says Mayor Charles Mackenzie. "We invite newcomers to share in the beauty of Borden-Carleton. We are the Coastal Heart of PEI."

TOWN OF KENSINGTON

There is a Work and Study Hub at the Kensington Credit Union Centre. These hubs were created to recognize the importance of internet connectivity specifically where COVID-19 has changed the way many Islanders work and learn. The hub is found at 25 Garden Drive, Kensington and is open Mon-Fri from 9am - 5 pm.

MILTONVALE PARK

Be a pen pal to a local senior. Open to people of all ages. Council will connect people and provide stamps and post cards or stationery. **Pick up a postcard in the entryway of the Milton Community Hall and write a note about yourself to a senior.** Include your return address and Council will distribute notes to seniors in the area -along with stamps and notes to send back to you!

RESORT MUNICIPALITY (STANLEY BRIDGE, HOPE RIVER, BAYVIEW, CAVENDISH, NORTH RUSTICO)

The municipality is currently developing its 2021-2022 Operating Budget and **wants to know the opinions and spending priorities of residents.** Written comments will be accepted until March 5, 2021 by mail, e-mail or fax.

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH SHORE

Calling all parents! **The municipality is exploring the possibility of opening a childcare centre in Grand Tracadie.** Contact the Municipal Administrator for more details: administrator@northshorepei.ca

VICTORIA BY THE SEA

The UPEI Climate Lab has created a video series of PEI Climate Stories - one of these features Eric Gilbert of Island Chocolates, who discusses the environmental challenges and adaptation approaches to **climate change in the small, rural municipality of Victoria by the Sea.** Find the story at: <https://www.climatesense.ca/pei-climate-stories>



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Facebook Group - search for:
Central PEI Community Navigator

Office: Kensington Town Hall (upstairs)
55 Victoria Street East



The Town of North Rustico is the first municipality to collaborate with the Central PEI Community Navigator for its 'Virtual Fam Tour' Project.

A committee made up of the Town's municipal leaders/volunteers as well as Community Navigator Steering Committee members, will be found in the community in the coming weeks to film short videos of important community assets, organizations and people.

These videos will be shared with new and longtime residents to help to navigate them toward important services in the community they live.





JOB SEEKERS -

Did you know that the Community Navigators are available to assist new residents with employment related services and counseling?

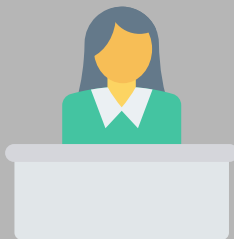
The Navigators are available to:

- Deliver basic, one-on-one counselling to clients on pathways to employment.
- Provide information on job search techniques, resume writing and interview preparation.
- Provide referrals to human resource connections and service agencies.

If you are a new resident of rural, central PEI, the Central PEI Community Navigator can guide you in finding employment.

Are you a new resident who is a business owner, tourism operator, or seeking to start a business? We can help you too.

**Please contact Peggy at
902-598-7560
Peggy.Miles@CBDC.ca**



MAGANDANG UMAGA!

EMPLOYERS:

Do you have workers who hail from the Philippines?

Our flyer (outlining services available through the PEI Community Navigators) is now available in Tagalog.

Please reach out to your Community Navigator so that they can get this information into the hands of your Filipino employees.



Employers - what other languages would you like to have PEI Community Navigator information translated to?

Meet Nancy Clement of PEIANC



**You know the Johnny Cash song
“I’ve been Everywhere”?**

PEIANC’s Community Engagement Team Manager, Nancy Clement, is the embodiment of that song if you swap out American locations for worldwide ones. Born in Canberra, Australia to Canadian parents, Nancy’s childhood travels were directed by her father’s career as a geophysicist. For the first years of Nancy’s life, they lived in Australia while her father worked on his PhD, and later, his specialized field took the family all over the world for work and study.

For Nancy, it is easy to empathize with new residents who don’t speak the language, as well as those who do but are new. As a child, Nancy lived in Australia, multiple Canadian provinces, Denmark, and eventually moved to PEI.

“The whole experience gave me a real appreciation for being the new kid, or the new family. Both in the context of not speaking the language, but also when you do but you still don’t know the ropes, you don’t have friends or the social networks. I went to Indonesia for four months directly after high school with Canada World Youth, and we billeted with families up in the mountains with no running water and electricity. I just got really interested in cultures and how people communicated across cultures, without common language. I think that’s what ultimately lead me to this role, after taking a circuitous route in my education.”

The PEIANC, where Nancy has worked since 2006, is the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada. They are a sister organization to the PEI Community Navigators, and often partner on events together and work together to connect newcomers to services. They have four teams of staff members, the Newcomer Settlement Services, Youth Settlement Services, Employment Assistance, and Community Engagement. Nancy has been with the PEIANC for about 15 years, where she began as the Francophone Settlement worker before the the Coopérative d’Intégration Francophone opened. The support that her team provides is to help new residents feel welcome and integrated into their community by providing opportunities to connect with existing residents and other new residents. **The annual PEIANC DiverseCity Festival in Montague, Charlottetown, and Alberton, began with Nancy’s team of joyful and engaged staff members.**

Meet Nancy...Continued

For Nancy, it has been exciting to see the growth in support for newcomers, in projects like the PEI Community Navigators, focused on the rural regions of Eastern, Central, and Western PEI, as well as CIF, who are focused on French speaking newcomer support. **It means that across the Island, newcomers are finding support and being integrated into the community.** Plus, it gives her team more opportunities to partner on events in rural PEI with the PEI Community Navigators and CIF- something she said before the pandemic was hard.

“We used to do a few events by bus in the rural areas each year, but because of the pandemic, [not being able to gather indoors] we thought, let’s just try it. People showed up, and they loved it! We do Fresh Air Fun Days and try out a different activity or part of PEI once a week, when restrictions allow.”

In Eastern PEI, they’ve tried out Mooney’s Pond, in Central PEI they partnered on a walk in Rustico, and in Western PEI, they went for a snowshoe hike in Trout River.

“If you can connect with people in your passion, then you feel like you’re there, you’ve arrived.” Says Nancy, while speaking of a new artist’s initiative launching soon. “As a musician, the World Music Circle was my pet project, but we had to stop it because of the pandemic. There are silver linings though, with all of the things that we’ve had to adjust, we’ve found ways to connect to even more people.”

As a new resident of Eastern PEI, having recently relocated from downtown Charlottetown a few months ago, **what do you enjoy about rural PEI?**

“I like that I can ski right out my back door. That, and that the communities are very person based. If something happens, the community shows up. Everyone is looking out for each other and the communities are vibrant.”



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Eastern PEI Community Navigator
Office: 544 Main Street, Montague
15 Green Street, Souris
(one day per week)



Above: Diversity Festival

Below: Global Music Circle





MARCH CALENDAR

Important Information for business owners!

REGIONAL RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUND - EXPANSION

CBDCs are pleased to offer additional Regional Relief and Recovery Fund financing available through the expansion of this program by the Government of Canada.

If you already have a loan under the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund you may be eligible for a \$20,000 top-up to your existing financing.

If you don't have a current Regional Relief and Recovery Fund loan, additional funding has been made available and you can now apply to access the RRRF.

Applications are being accepted until March 31st, 2021.

Learn more or apply at: www.cbdc.ca (click the Prince Edward Island button).

Funds are limited and on a first come first served basis, so please submit your application as soon as possible.



Monday, March 8 | International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated around the world and is a time to celebrate women's achievement, raise awareness against bias and to take action for equality.

www.internationalwomensday.com



Sunday, March 14 | Daylight Saving Time

Daylight saving time is the practice of advancing clocks during warmer months so that darkness falls at a later clock time. Turn your clock ahead by one hour on March 14. "Spring Ahead".



March 15 - 19 | March Break

No school for grades K - 12. Time can be spent with family, resting or catching up on school work.



Wednesday, March 17 | St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish culture. It particularly remembers St. Patrick, one of Ireland's patron saints. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in countries with people of Irish descent. Many people wear green on this day or visit a pub with friends.



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Like the PEI Community Navigators Facebook Page at

www.facebook.com/PEICommunityNavigators

