



# E-Mail Newsletter

JANUARY 2011

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 15

## Office hours:

### **Springhill Farms:**

*Mondays*

*And*

*Wednesdays*

*11:00 – 5:00*

*In the cafeteria*

### **Neepawa:**

*Resource Centre*

*290 Davidson*

*Monday to Friday*

*11:00 – 6:00*

### **Minnedosa:**

*Yellowhead Employment Centre*

*133 Main St*

*Monday  
January 10th  
6:00 – 8:00*

### **Gladstone:**

*Please call for an appointment*

## Neepawa & Area Immigrant Settlement Services

Services for people from around the world

### **What we do:**

We provide assistance to people who are learning to live in a new country. Settlement services help people develop skills and knowledge to participate in a new society.

### **Settlement Assistance:**

- Information and orientation about life in Canada and your community
- Help filling out forms such as: Manitoba Health, SIN, Manitoba Provincial Nominee, Permanent Resident, Criminal Record Check, etc.
- Support, information and assistance concerning immigration issues
- Advocacy
- Referrals for education, employment and housing
- Cultural Diversity Training
- Commissioner of Oaths and Notary Public services

### **Rental Housing:**

**Neepawa** – suites available at Churchill Block – utilities not included. \$571.00 per month; contact Debbie at 841-1298.

**Minnedosa** – 3 bedroom fully furnished house available now. \$595.00 (negotiable) per month plus utilities. Contact Darcy at 867-3131 or 867-4658.

**Minnedosa** – 2 bedroom fully furnished house available now. \$495.00 (negotiable) per month plus utilities. Contact Darcy at 867-3131 or 867-4658.

**Neepawa** – sublet in Churchill Block. Large 2 bedroom suite (can accommodate 4 people) \$811.00 per month. Contact Alain at 212-2422.

**Neepawa** – bedroom in shared house \$250.00 per month, everything included. Call 212-0689 for more information.

**Gladstone** – 4 bedroom house; fridge, stove, washer and dryer included. Contact James at 204-612-1451.

**Neepawa** – 4 bedroom house, 2 bathrooms; 12 miles north of Neepawa. \$300.00 per month plus utilities. Call 476-3088 or 841-0442.

### **Winter Safety Information:**

Winter can be a wonderful time for outdoor play. Participating in winter sports will help keep the whole family healthy, but injuries can spoil the fun. Here's how to keep kids safe during winter play.

<http://www.safekidscanada.ca/Parents/Safety-Information/Winter-Safety/Index.aspx>

### **Free household items and clothing available:**

Ladies clothing: please contact Steve at 476-5876.

Household items: contact George at 476-3388

**Services available in:  
English  
French  
Korean**

**All services are free of charge**

**Program paid for by the Province of Manitoba**

### **Sharing Experiences:**

**Susan: Tell me about how you came to live and work in Neepawa.**

**Ronald:** I arrived in Neepawa on February 22, 2009, by myself. My wife, Laarni and my son, Ranzel, were back home in the Philippines. Later, my wife and son both joined me in Neepawa. I came here because I had a great opportunity from Springhill Farms, to work as an Industrial Butcher. I am a qualified and certified butcher back home so I wanted to provide a better life for my family by doing the same work in Canada as in the Philippines. I had an interview with Peter Ma at a hotel in Manila, Philippines. One hundred people were chosen out of 1500 applicants. I was lucky enough to be one of the chosen people! I received my work permit 5 months later and here I am!

**Laarni:** I arrived in Neepawa on July 19, 2010, with my son, Ranzel, who is almost 4 years old. I previously worked in Taiwan doing various jobs. When I arrived here, I needed to look for a job. So I started looking in the local newspaper (Neepawa Banner) for jobs. There was a position available as a Human Resources Assistant at Springhill Farms. I applied, and was finally hired on November 2, 2010.

**Susan: Describe the transition from the Philippines to Canada. What are your expectations here? How do you feel now?**

**Laarni:** We feel so lucky and privileged to live in a place where there is free Health Care, a solid government, and a warm community with friendly people. Settlement Services has really helped our family to settle into Neepawa, and answer any questions or deal with any concerns that we may have. Overall, we feel that we have made the right decision for our family. Everything is ten out of ten!!!

**Susan: How have you dealt with or adapted to the culture change, if any?**

**Laarni:** We (the family) are so used to working abroad with foreign people so we expected cultural differences. We were afraid that people might be very cold toward newcomers, but everyone is very nice and willing to help each other out. In terms of food, we eat mainly the same things as we did back home. All of the ingredients can be found at the local grocery stores here. Sometimes we go to the Asian/Filipino grocery store. Our diet mainly consists of rice and a side dish.

**Ronald:** It helps a lot that there is a Filipino community here, as well as the Filtoba Society. We have many events of our own such as, basketball teams. Most weekends, there is always something to do in the community- sometimes parties!

**Susan: What are your short term and long term plans?**

**Ronald:** Well, we have already bought a house and car! The house is 3 bedrooms with a basement! What was not possible back home is possible here so we are very happy!

**Laarni:** Our long term plan is to stay in Neepawa for a number of reasons: it's a small, friendly community; there is peace and order here so it is safe for my son, the education system is good, and we both have jobs!

**Susan: What do you do in your spare time?**

**Ronald:** As you know, the Filtoba Society has a basketball league, so I enjoy being the Vice-Chairman of the league! The tournaments usually happen at NACI (local school) in the gym.

**Laarni:** The Filipino women enjoy ballroom dancing....but we have no venue! We are looking into finding a place to dance! On the weekends, we usually go to Brandon, do household chores, and on Sundays, after mass at St.Dominic's, sometimes we go to Winnipeg to see relatives and friends.

**Susan: What changes, if any, would you like to see in our community?**

**Laarni:** Housing seems to be a concern for some Filipinos that will be arriving. But housing is very affordable here! Other than this, we like that the laws are strictly enforced, there is a daycare for my son, and we feel very fortunate that we both have jobs!

**Useful Information Links:**

[www.cmhc.ca/newcomers/english/renting.html](http://www.cmhc.ca/newcomers/english/renting.html)

This website has information on renting an apartment, buying a house and looking after your house. The information is available in many languages.

[www.consumermanitoba.ca/guide/guide.html](http://www.consumermanitoba.ca/guide/guide.html)

This website has information on banking, credit, shopping, cars, utilities, housing, and identity theft.

[www.myenglishonline.ca](http://www.myenglishonline.ca)

Improve your English at home by studying online – check it out!

[www.immigrantsandcareers.mb.ca](http://www.immigrantsandcareers.mb.ca)

Get advice from other immigrants who know what it takes to succeed in Manitoba. This website has personal stories from immigrants who have settled successfully in Manitoba.

**Message from the Editor:**

Thanks to Laarni and Ronald Santos for sharing their experiences with us. I hope you enjoyed their story. This is a great way to get to know our fellow community members. Please come and talk to Susan if you would be willing to share your story with us!

*Happy New Year to you All!!*



**Contact information:**

**Marian Hijkoop – 476-2055 or Cell: 841-0229**  
**Neepawa and Area Immigrant Settlement Services**  
[nadcoimmigrant@mymts.net](mailto:nadcoimmigrant@mymts.net)



**Susan Lee – 476-2055**  
**Neepawa and Area Immigrant Settlement Services**  
**Neepawa Resource Centre, 290 Davidson Street**  
[nadco@mymts.net](mailto:nadco@mymts.net)