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Launched in 2020, the Cape Breton Welcome Network is designed to support Cape Breton communities to do one of the things they do best: welcome.

The Cape Breton Welcome Network is a constellation of local, volunteer-led Welcome Groups made up of established Cape Bretoners eager to share their passion for Cape Breton – Unama’ki with newcomers.

The program is administered by the Cape Breton Partnership and funded by Nova Scotia’s Office of Immigration and Population Growth.

The Cape Breton Welcome Network plays a coordinating role - supporting communities with the tools and resources they need to thrive in their welcoming work. The Welcome Network also works to make sure that every newcomer to Cape Breton knows how to reach the Welcome Group nearest them.

As of November, 2021 there are nine Welcome Groups: St. Peter’s, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Chéticamp, Judique, Port Hood, Inverness, Louisdale, Port Hawkesbury and Victoria County.

The importance and usefulness of a network of Welcome Groups is that we as an Island provide a cohesive mechanism to make newcomers feel connected and part of the community. The Network is also designed for the Welcome Group volunteers to collaborate, share ideas and learn from each other.

The Cape Breton Welcome Network is about enriching our communities. Learning with and about each other only increases the value and prosperity of Cape Breton – Unama’ki.

### **Role of the Welcomer Volunteer**

Welcomers are the vital roots of the entire Cape Breton Welcome Network. These volunteers contribute their time to the welcoming activities of their local Welcome Group. With the support and guidance of their Chair or Co-Chairs Welcomers connect with newcomers and help them to feel at home.

Welcomers are:

- Open-minded and respectful of diverse cultural backgrounds
- Passionate and knowledgeable about their communities
- Eager to welcome and include newcomers in the community

The time commitment of a Welcomer will vary with each group and each volunteer. Prior to engaging in welcoming activities with the group, each Welcomer is asked to complete training in cultural competency. This training will be provided by the Network or self-guided, with provided resources.

**Newcomers** - For the purposes of the Cape Breton Welcome Network, we define a newcomer as someone who has moved to Cape Breton within the last two years. They could be from The Gambia, British Columbia or even Wolfville, Nova Scotia. If they’re new to Cape Breton, they’re a newcomer.

[www.welcometocapebreton.ca/welcomenetwork](http://www.welcometocapebreton.ca/welcomenetwork)



### **Cape Breton Welcome Network Logo**

The Welcome Network's five multi-coloured leaves portrayed in a circle are intended to represent the varied backgrounds of people coming together to learn from and with each other. The shape of its leaves also resembles a flower, symbolizing the growth of all who are involved in the project, and indeed the growth of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia as a whole when newcomers are welcome, supported and engaged, they become integrated members of their communities.

Tagline of the Cape Breton Welcome Network: Here to Welcome You Home

### **Importance of the Cape Breton Welcome Network**

Communities are healthier, happier and more productive when newcomers are supported, welcomed and can fully participate in society and in the local economy. The Cape Breton Partnership recognizes that immigration will continue to play a key role in the economic future of Cape Breton Island - which is why the Cape Breton Welcome Network is key to enriching our communities and building a prosperous future for all.

### **Call for volunteer Welcomers:**

The Cape Breton Welcome Network is looking for enthusiastic volunteers who are well-connected to their community to join or start Welcome Groups across the Island!

Join a dedicated group of Welcomers and meet newcomers who now call the Island home. The welcoming activities of each group are different – customized to best suit each community and each newcomer.

To get involved with a Welcome Group, or to start your own, contact [welcomenetwork@capebretonpartnership.com](mailto:welcomenetwork@capebretonpartnership.com) or visit [welcometocapebreton.ca/welcomenetwork](http://welcometocapebreton.ca/welcomenetwork) for more information.

#CapeBretonWelcomeNetwork #CapeBretonFirst #WelcomeToCapeBreton #CapeBreton #ImmigrationMatters #BelongingIsForEveryone

### **Call for Newcomers to be Welcomed:**

New to Cape Breton – Unama’ki? We want to meet you. The Cape Breton Welcome Network wants to help you settle into your new home.

Members of the Welcome Network are ready to be a new friend in your new home, introduce you to others in your community and share their passion and knowledge of Cape Breton.

To be welcomed contact [welcomenetwork@capebretonpartnership.com](mailto:welcomenetwork@capebretonpartnership.com) or visit [welcometocapebreton.ca/welcomenetwork](http://welcometocapebreton.ca/welcomenetwork) for more information.

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