

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is a newcomer?

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 Wolfville. If they're new to Cape Breton, they're a newcomer!

I haven't spent very much time with people from diverse cultural backgrounds. How can I make sure that I'm well-prepared for this role?

The Cape Breton Partnership will provide cultural competency training for all Welcomers, along with follow-up materials. The best approach when meeting people from diverse backgrounds is to be open-minded, kind, patient and willing to learn.

What if I encounter a language barrier with a newcomer?

A language barrier is a challenge, but not a roadblock to getting to know someone. There are various online translating apps available. Also, in communicating, try to focus on commonalities: food, music, family or the weather. Make it fun – perhaps draw what you're trying to describe. Most importantly, be patient with yourself and the newcomer.



What should I do if a newcomer asks me a question and I don't know the answer?

It is always best to acknowledge that you don't know the answer. Many helpful links are included at the end of this document, where you might find the answer for the newcomer. If, after reading through the provided material, you are still stumped, email welcomenetwork@capebretonpartnership.com and a staff member can assist.

How do newcomers get connected to a Welcome Group?

Welcome Group Chairs act as the first point of contact for newcomers reaching out to Welcome Groups. The names, phone numbers, and email addresses of all Welcome Group Chairs are available at www.welcometocapebreton.ca/welcomenetwork.

Friends of mine live in an area where there isn't a Welcome Group. How can they form one?

A staff member can assist getting your friends started. Please email welcomenetwork@capebretonpartnership.com.

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