

Des' Journey

Des arrived in Cape Breton in Spring 2019 from Manila Philippines as an international student with her husband and son. They love **Cape Breton Island's landscapes** and are very excited to explore as they settle into their new home.

FIRST CONTACT

Des and her family did not know anyone locally, so they reached out to **Cape Breton Island Centre for Immigration (CBICI)** for orientation and connections to keep up with newcomer-challenges (like enrolling their son in school, where to get a **health card**, and how to connect with the local **Filipino community**.)

BASIC NEEDS

Des needed to get a local identification card to open a **Canadian Bank Account** and needed to get a license to **be able to drive**. She went to **Access Nova Scotia** to get her Nova Scotia identification card and secure her driver's license. She also worked part-time at a **local restaurant** and at Cape Breton University Alumni office to earn money to support her family.

EDUCATION

Des went to Cape Breton University's International Student Centre to learn more about services specific to her needs and challenges, such as extension of study permit and guidance in securing the post graduate work permit. Des also participated in **EduNova's Study and Stay Program** and was provided with learning opportunities and mentoring to help her after graduation.

COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

As a newcomer, Des wanted to learn about her new community and be able to contribute using her skills and experience. She participated in **Northside Rising's Changemakers Program**, participated in the Cape Breton Partnership's **Connector Program**, and volunteers with the **Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership's Immigrant Advisory Table**.