



CPRA ACPL

REACHING EACH AND EVERY ONE

Success Story

A friendly game of volleyball during the ANC's Multicultural Family Sports Day on June 27th.

Newfoundland newcomers connect over sports and recreation

O N A BEAUTIFUL JUNE DAY IN St. John's, NL, nearly 450 newcomers – representing about 30 countries and more than 50 languages – came together for the 11th annual Multicultural Family Sports Day, hosted by the Association for New Canadians (ANC).



ASSOCIATION FOR NEW CANADIANS (ANC),
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Canada

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A soccer match underway at Wishingwell Park during the ANC's Multicultural Family Sports Day on June 27th..



A game of Tug of War during the ANC's Multicultural Family Sports Day on June 27th.

Among the cotton candy, balloon twisters and face painters, participants had the opportunity to connect as athletes. Together, they took part in soccer and volleyball matches – cheering each other on, and supporting their teammates in the game. They were able to enjoy this day of sport and recreation thanks to funding from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association's Reaching Each and Every One: A Community Sport Intervention program. This program, which was funded by Sport Canada's Community Sport for All Initiative, seeks to remove barriers and increase sport participation rates for equity deserving groups across Canada.

"It was a major success," says Peter Skirving, research coordinator for the Association for New Canadians who helped organize the event. "It was a really fun afternoon of just sports, and bringing people together."

Skirving says the funding covered the cost of the sports equipment used that day, including soccer balls and volleyball nets. Beyond Multicultural Family Sports Day, Skirving says that the funding also helped the organization purchase sports equipment for the ANC's eight satellite offices located in communities across Newfoundland and Labrador. The ANC offices in those communities, many of which are rural, deliver sports programming to newcomers all year round. Their programs support newcomers who have trouble accessing these kinds of activities because of their location and financial situation.

He says the funding helped these communities purchase equipment for their sports leagues, including for cricket, badminton, and basketball.

"The sports programs we deliver gives newcomers choice, and gives them the accessibility to participate in different programs and not have to worry about financial considerations," Skirving says. "Newcomers have a lot of other financial considerations, like raising their families and purchasing school supplies. It's really meaningful that we're able to provide sports opportunities with CPRA's support."

The Multicultural Family Sports Day gave participants the opportunity to explore soccer and volleyball in a fun and friendly environment, free of charge.

Sohaila Saeed, ANC's community connections coordinator who helped Skirving organize the Multicultural Family Sports Day, says she was "very happy" to be part of the event because she saw first-hand the impact it made on participants – many of whom were from Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Sudan.

"I saw a lot of smiles," Saeed says. "Everyone was overwhelmed with happiness with all the many kinds of activities they were involved in. I think just being able to get outside, enjoy the weather, and connect with other newcomers from different background made an impact on them."

Skirving adds that the Multicultural Family Sports Day, as well as the sports programs run through ANC's eight satellite offices, help build up communities.

"Sports is a gateway to connections, and building friendships in their new home," he says. "Engaging in sports is good for their mental health, and physical health. There's just so many benefits to encouraging folks to get involved in sporting activities."

Skirving adds that the funding was a "really major" help in delivering the Multicultural Family Sports Day – but it also created lasting impacts in the Newfoundland communities that now have sports equipment for ANC's sports leagues in those areas.

"I really want to re-iterate our gratitude to CPRA for being able to support us," he says. "With this support, we'll be able to put on events into the future and that's been a great help for our programs." 🍁