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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Provincial Organization Experiences Year of Change and Growth

Enhanced New Brunswick Multicultural Council better able to meet the growing demands of culturally diverse communities

Fredericton, New Brunswick, October 5, 2009- It has been a year of both challenge and opportunity for the New Brunswick Multicultural Council (NBMC). As the umbrella organization for multicultural, ethnocultural associations and immigrant serving agencies across the province, NBMC is once again positioned to provide leadership on cultural inclusion, focusing on how diversity contributes to creativity, prosperity, and the harmony of the province. Together, NBMC and its member associations provide a provincial voice on issues of multiculturalism, immigration, newcomer settlement, retention and labour market integration from the newcomer's perspective.

Past President George Maicher acknowledges that "through a process of review, evaluation, and formalization of its governance policies, NBMC has undergone strategic changes to increase its sustainability. 2008/09 witnessed an enhanced NBMC infrastructure better able to meet the growing demands being placed on the organization by our expanding newcomer population.

In conjunction with the NBMC 2009 Annual General Meeting, held September 25th & 26th, 2009 in Saint John, the Council delivered a two-day *Organizational Development* Session, funded by Population Growth Secretariat. The session included their newly designed Financial Management seminar series and Governance workshops as well as the New Brunswick Employment Language Training (NBELT) Program "Best Practices" Update.

With a renewed sense of purpose and a new slate of officers, NBMC is well placed to respond to the needs of their member organizations in providing programs and services that enhance their capacity to address evolving newcomer needs. Members nominated Dexter Noel as the new Council President (Multicultural Association of Fredericton), 1st Vice President Jack Haller (Multicultural Association of Greater Moncton Area), 2nd Vice President Elizabeth Coburn (New Brunswick Native Friendship Centre), Secretary Frank Lipsett (Multicultural Association Carleton County), and Treasurer Donath Mrawira (New Brunswick African Association).

The New Brunswick Multicultural Council is funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Population Growth Secretariat and NB Department of Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour.

For further information contact the New Brunswick Multicultural Council's Managing Director Deborah Wybou via phone (506 453 1091) or fax (506 474 8095) or via email at deborah.wybou@nb-mc.ca **Visit our website at <http://www.nb-mc.ca>**