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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Three Perspectives, One Central Theme: Supporting Diversity

Inter-agency co-operation will determine the optimum path newcomers can take towards feeling at home in New Brunswick.

Fredericton, New Brunswick, September 29, 2009--For the first time in the history of the organization, The New Brunswick Multicultural Council (NBMC) partnered with three member associations to host their 2009 Annual General Meeting and Organizational Development Conference September 25th & 26th, 2009 in Saint John. The meeting gave Saint John YM-YWCA Settlement Services, PRUDE Inc. (Pride, Race, Unity, Dignity, Education), and the newly-formed Saint John Multicultural Newcomer Resource Centre the occasion to share the benefits of interagency communication and collaboration.

Funded by Population Growth Secretariat, the two day interchange provided an exciting opportunity for multicultural, ethnocultural and immigrant-serving agencies across New Brunswick to share ideas and recognize the contributions each bring to their community. The impact of profound social and economic changes on the ability of non-profit multicultural organizations to meet their goals has challenged NBMC and member associations to identify strategies that enhance relationships and expand networks.

Richard Campbell, Director of Settlement Services at the Saint John YM-YWCA believes open communication “allows all of us to re-evaluate, put our collective heads together, and come out with something even better, not for ourselves, but for the Newcomers we serve. It is diversity in the best light.”

The New Brunswick Multicultural Council, Inc. (NBMC) is the non-profit, umbrella organization for its member immigrant-serving agencies, ethnocultural and multicultural associations in the province. NBMC represents the collective voice of its member organizations and the conduit through which government and members communicate on issues of multiculturalism, immigration, newcomer settlement, retention and labour market integration. NBMC is funded through Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Population Growth Secretariat and Department of Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour.

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