

Restore Hope supply drive to benefit newcomers and New Brunswickers

MADELAINE KEENLYSIDE
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

A province-wide clothing drive to benefit Syrian refugees will be held in Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John this week.

On Saturday, March 19, from 9 to 3 p.m., donations can be made in Moncton at the New Brunswick Community College at 1234 Mountain Rd. Donations will be received by volunteers with the Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton Area.



Our focus is to support them to be successful in the long term.

ALEX LEBLANC

The clothing drive is being organized by a partnership between the New Brunswick Multicultural Association and New Brunswick Community Living Association.

Multicultural associations in each of the three cities will receive funds for items collected from the partnership.

Bags of clothing, linens, toys, footwear, and other useful items will be accepted in the drive. No mattresses or furniture will be accepted.

These items are then sold to Value Village through an existing partnership with the New Brunswick Community Living Association.

These funds are then directed to each city's association based on the number of bags generated by each

community, says Alex LeBlanc, managing director of the New Brunswick Multicultural Association.

For example, if 1,000 bags are raised in Moncton and 500 raised in Saint John, Moncton will receive more funds, LeBlanc said. Each Syrian newcomer will then receive a \$150 voucher for Value Village inventory.

The funds will help refugees resettle. Some of the proceeds will help the New Brunswick Community Living Association to help close a \$65,000 gap in finances as it approaches the end of the fiscal year.

Krista Carr, executive director of the New Brunswick Community Living Association, said the campaign is inclusion at its best.

“(It will) help newcomers resettle in this great province, while also supporting New Brunswick families,” Carr said in a statement. “It’s win-win, for sure, so we’re hoping a lot of folks will get going on their spring clean-up early and donate the items they no longer need to our campaign.”

LeBlanc said New Brunswickers have been welcoming Syrian newcomers with open arms since December.

“Now our focus is to support them to be successful in the long term,” LeBlanc said in a statement. “(This) will help us continue to connect newcomers to the resources and supports that will help them get settled here and become successful and contributing members of New Brunswick communities.”

A previous drive was held on Dec. 12 last year, shortly before the first wave of Syrian refugees arrived in Metro Moncton. More refugees have arrived and are still landing in Moncton, and continue to need support.

Donations can also be made in Saint John at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 727 Rothesay Ave., and at the New Brunswick Association for Community Living offices in Fredericton at 800 Hanwell Rd.