

Carrefour d'Intercultures helped newcomers celebrate Christmas

Guests included NDP MPs Nunez-Melo, Pilon and Giguère and PQ's Suzanne Proulx



Laval MPs and an MNA attended the Carrefour d'Intercultures' Christmas party last month.

PHOTO: Martin C. Barry - Newfirst

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For persons and families who are newly-arrived from distant countries to Canada, the harsh winter weather isn't the only problem they sometimes encounter. The Christmas and New Year's season can also be a time of great loneliness.

Thus it was with great joy on Dec. 22 that the Carrefour d'Intercultures de Laval hosted more than 250 newcomers and government-assisted refugees, including 150 children, at the St. Joseph Community Center, to enable them to discover the celebration of a first Christmas in Quebec.

Words of encouragement

In his remarks, the general director of the Carrefour d'Intercultures de Laval, Mr. Denis Arvanitakis, welcomed guests and encouraged them to fully participate in the life of their adopted country. "Quebec is a society of law, a free, democratic, open, tolerant and welcoming society," he said.

"We strongly recommend you use the services and resources available to you, which should be accessible to all residents without exception or discrimination. We also invite you to fully participate in the collective life of Laval. All residents must contribute to the socio-economic development of our region while respecting differences and the common values of Quebec and Canada."

Elected officials attended

Arvanitakis offered his best wishes to all, thanked staff and volunteers for organizing the event, and noted the presence of many dignitaries, including José Nunez-Melo, François Pilon and Alain Giguère, MPs for Laval, Laval-Les Îles and Marc-Aurèle-Fortin, Suzanne Proulx, MNA for St. Rose, and Hrair Ketchadjian, general director of the Caisse Desjardins de Chomedey.

The festivities began to the sound of a group of young musicians, les Amis de musique. Employees and volunteers served the many guests. A magician then performed many amazing tricks before traditional dances from Guatemala were presented.

Santa Claus arrives

Finally, Santa Claus filled the hearts of all the children with joy by making his appearance, in addition to distributing gifts to all. This activity was carried out with contributions from the Caisse Desjardins de Chomedey, Allagma Technologies, the Centre de bénévolat de Laval, Ville de Laval and Palace Reception Halls.


Founded in 1990, the CIL is a non-profit organisation whose mission consists in greeting, assisting in the settlement and accompanying newly arrived immigrants, including government-assisted refugees, as well as members of visible minorities and cultural communities, in their integration into Quebec society.

It also aims to sensitize Quebec society to cultural diversity. The CIL plays a pioneering role in the management of diversity, intercultural dialogue and reconciliation, while respecting differences and promoting the common values of Quebec.



Laval MPs and an MNA attended the Carrefour d'Intercultures' Christmas party last month.

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Association amicale des jeunes et parents AGAPE Inc.

The Youth and Parents AGAPE Association Inc.

Laval, December 21, 2012

Dear Friends and generous donors,

Re Christmas 2012! We thank God for you!
This year, more than 5,000 people received our support.

Thank you!

A special mention to:

<p>Our Religious Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Name of Jesus Parish • Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church • Northlea United Church • St. George's Armenian Apostolic Church • The Armenian Evangelical Brotherhood • St. Simon's and St. Bartholomew Anglican Church • Laval Christian Assembly • Church of the Harvest (All year round) <p>Our English Elementary Schools :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crestview Elementary School • Genesis School • Hillcrest Academy • John F. Kennedy Elementary School • Jules Verne School • Our Lady of Peace Elementary School • Souvenir Elementary School • St. Paul's Elementary • St. Paul Annex • St. Vincent Elementary School • St. Vincent Annex • Terry Fox School • Twin Oaks School <p>Our English High Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laval Junior High School • Laval Liberty High School 	<p>• Laurier Senior High (Laval Catholic)</p> <p>• Mother Theresa Jr. High</p> <p>• Phoenix Alternative School</p> <p>• Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (Linda Di Domenico)</p> <p>Private Sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Star Academy • St. Paul Charitable Foundation <p>Daycares:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agape daycare, • Children's Wonderland • Garderie Educative Chomedey, Sylvia Benik • La Belle Académie Daycare • Pta Ço Jeu • Trésors de Demosthène <p>Banks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TD Canada Trust, Chomedey Branch • TD Canada Trust, Centropolis <p>Hospitals and Centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital in Chomedey <p>Chomedey Community Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laval Women's Group 	<p>Centres and Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.A.D. Services, Alan De Souza • Centre du Sablon - Daycare and Centre • C.L. Copeland Foundation <p>Legion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Canadian Legion Branch 251, Chomedey <p>Stores / Supermarkets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colfax • Euro-marché Vimont • Mouretatos • Wal Mart • Istanbul Marché • La Maison du Chien <p>Businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Legage • B.M.W. Laval • Baracci Solutions • Concordia Physio Sports • Editions Phidal • Hartyn Transport • Jaguar Landrover • Kinatex • Menasha Distribution (achat-don) year round weekly support • Suzuki Laval (Ste-Rose) • Volvo Laval
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The English private sector of Laval, their families and relatives (all anonymous donors) who so generously contributed to the cause by way of cheques, food, meat, grocery orders, deliveries, volunteer help, etc.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE LAVAL NEWS

The only English language newspaper of Laval, so deserving of our gratitude for the all time dedicated support of our cause.

On behalf of our families in need thank you all.

*Elicabell McLeod, Administration and Staff of Inape
December 2012*

*P.S. If we forgot you
Thank you!*

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