

Paul Zed, MP
90 King Street
Saint John, NB
E2L 1G4

November 23, 2004

Subject: Immigration Project

Dear Mr. Zed;

It was with great interest that I recently read details of the immigration pilot project being discussed for the Saint John area. We would be interested in discussing a role for our organization in this exciting and worthwhile initiative.

As you may know, Scouts Canada is part of the World Scouting Movement that offers Scout programs to more than 25 million youth around the globe. Our programs are co-educational and are open to all regardless of race, religion, language or ability to pay.

Our organization offers hands-on learning programs with an emphasis on the outdoors for youth aged 5-25. Scout programs at all levels promote good citizenship, respect for the environment, tolerance and service to the community.

Our national organization has been making a concerted effort for the past decade to increase our diversity as an organization. We have identified and worked to eliminate barriers to membership for members of ethnic communities in Canada. Here in New Brunswick, we have started very early work on developing outreach programs targeted to the foreign student community at our provincial universities.

We hope that Scout programs could help encourage new immigrants to stay in Saint John and in New Brunswick. Our programs can help integrate immigrants into our community and provide orientation to life in Canada. By linking our Canadian programs to Scout programs that they may have been exposed to in their homelands, we can help immigrant families bridge their old lives to their new lives here in Canada.

Please feel free to contact me or our Executive Director, Tom Heath, to discuss our possible role in helping to make this initiative a success.

Thank you;

Sincerely

C. Kevin Duff
Commissioner, NB Council

c.c. Tom Heath, NB Executive Director
Rob Stewart, CEO Scouts Canada