



Restigouche Multicultural Association (RMA)

Telephone: 506-789-7747 email: info@rma-amr.ca website: <https://www.rma-amr.ca/>

THE BULLETIN BOARD

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INTERVIEW

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<https://nbmc-cmnb.ca/>



Q. Place of birth?
San Salvador, El Salvador.

Q. You chose NB or it chose you?

I chose New Brunswick

Q. Your passion?

Making a difference; leaving my footprint everywhere I go;

I love working with youth and supporting them to help become the best that they can be.

Q. Any pet peeve?

Yes, lack of organization! This stirs the micro manager in me, I come alive and take over!

Another, is when people waste food!

Q. Preferred leisure activity?

Kickboxing



Q. Best life advice received?

From my mom, *“You first, you second, and you third. Honour yourself. Always”*

Another from her, *“Surround yourself with people who add to your life not with those who will take away from it.”*

Q. Most enjoyable voyage?

During a two-week period in 2014, I visited three countries: Qatar, Malaysia and Maldives.



Note: Maldives, officially the Republic of Maldives, is a small archipelagic state in South Asia, situated in the Arabian Sea of the Indian Ocean. It lies southwest of Sri Lanka and India, about 700 kilometres from the Asian continent's mainland. [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldives)

I have family members living in different countries: my sister in

Italy, my mom in El Salvador, and my brother was in Qatar at the time. Therefore, we focus on two things:

(1) where can we meet in this world that is feasible for everyone, and

(2) to see as much as we can together and make the most memories together in the short time that we have.

As an immigrant, I constantly feel that time is being robbed from me and my family to enjoy more experiences and memories.

And I am not referring to exotic or adventurous experiences either.

They- are simple moments; such as the enjoyment of a Sunday afternoon tea in the company of my mom.

The long distances between us reminds us of how precious and finite time is.

This voyage provided so many new experiences and first time activities with my family. We fed camels in Qatar, did snorkeling with the sea rays in Maldives and ate delicious Roti Canai in Malaysia.

It was all such quality time spent with my mom and my brother plus

the opportunity to visit three unique global destinations, together.



Q. Destination to discover?

There are so many! I want to travel the world and am anxious for us to be able to travel again post COVID-19.

Originally from Central America, I have had the privilege to discover three continents: Europe, North America, and Asia and look forward to making it to the remaining ones.

Q. You have the opportunity to dine with anyone from history, you choose?

The Obamas: Michelle, Barack, Sacha and Malia Obama.

Michelle because her book *“Becoming”* inspired me in so many ways and for her resiliency to challenge the status quo of what a President’s wife is and how she rose above it all ...it provided me with many lessons.

Barack Obama from whom I have learned that no matter your upbringing, you can become the leader of the country. Most importantly, he remained true to his values even though he had to make difficult decisions and still remained focused on making life better for everyone.

Finally, Sacha and Malia to learn from their perspective what it means to have been raised by two powerhouses.

Q. Favorite quote?

“I stand
On the sacrifices
Of a million women before me
Thinking
What can I do
To make this mountain taller
So the women after me
Can see farther”

• *Rupi Kaur*

Q. A book / reading that you would recommend? Why?

« Ces différences qui nous rassemblent » bt Danièle Henkel.

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The author shares her opinion on a wide range of topics (immigration, entrepreneurship, family, gender equality) with her life experiences.

As an immigrant woman myself, I have been able to identify with many of the arguments she makes, but this book is a starting point for considering how these themes are experienced in non-traditional situations.

Her experience allows immigrant women who come from strong family backgrounds to find a similar space and identify with themselves.

Q. You win the lottery! What do you do?

Invest this money to help find a cure for Alzheimers and destroy the disease that stole my father from me.



Q. You are most proud of?

The strong and independent woman I have become.

I have faced a lot of adversity growing up and in the years becoming a young adult woman, but when I look back through everything I have gone through, I feel proud of my strength, my attitude, my hard work and determination that have gotten me to where I am today.

My immediate family members are my super heroes! My parents made so many sacrifices to provide for us to be able to enjoy the life that we had even though we were not immune from money, health, or relationship struggles.

It was not easy to find the courage and inspiration to fight for my dreams and fight to build my career but I found the courage, the faith, and prioritized my studies.

My immigration to Canada was a family effort but my survival and growth here was a venture on my own.

Like many before, I have experienced a lot of hardship but I have also blossomed, looked within myself to find the answers and was fortunate to encounter beautiful souls along the way who gave me a hand up.

Q. Favorite movie? Theatre play? Music?

“Green Book” – a 2018 American film that talks about how a working-class Italian became the chauffeur of an African-American pianist during his tour of the American South in the 1960s.

It depicts the various injustices they both face, especially the African-American pianist and how they work together (despite their differences and disagreements) to face these injustices together.

Q. Your advice to the newcomer who chooses to settle in NB?

Have an open mind and an open heart, and always remember to prioritize yourself.

Explore New Brunswick and discover its amazing nature and get lost in the peacefulness that the trees will give you - in all seasons!

Q. Can you share some of your own immigration experience?

I arrived to Canada on August 27, 2011 as an International Student. I was 18 years old and had a one-way ticket to Fredericton from San Salvador,



El Salvador.

I have now lived in Canada for over nine years. Ever since my journey here began, I have had the privilege to visit my country during the holidays. Upon my return to Canada, I search for El Salvador everywhere – foreign films, music and at the international food aisle of Superstore and in the right-side last refrigerator at the international store Scoop N Save.

The life of an immigrant in a foreign land is a constant battle of (re)discovery and acceptance.

When in El Salvador, I no longer feel 100% Salvadorian, and while I am in Canada, I do not feel 100% Canadian.

I feel like I belong and I don't belong. I am in this space where I do not consider myself Salvadorian nor Canadian, so what am I? **I am a citizen of the world.**

Canada is one of the most diverse countries in the world. And being here has exposed me to a multitude of different cultures and religions that I probably would not have had the opportunity to experience had I remained in El Salvador.

That said, Canada's history is not all positive. It includes the struggles of our various minority groups, their individual experiences and respective contributions, that have made the Canada, and the New Brunswick that you and I know and enjoy today.

For me immigration to both Canada and New Brunswick is about foundation that begins with the independent and thriving indigenous societies that were here before the arrival of the Europeans.

Those “newcomers” carried out the forceful disruption to the Indigenous Peoples then way of life and use of their land.

As an immigrant woman, I am grateful to feel welcome in this land however I am fully conscious of the negative impact that the long history of different waves of immigration has had on the indigenous peoples.



Thankfully, immigration to Canada and to New Brunswick also has a positive history with noted contemporary contributions from newcomers of all categories (refugees, economic migrants, international students, and others).

I have witnessed many programs, initiatives, and success stories positively impacting the communities of New Brunswick and Canada thanks to the leadership and contributions of immigrants.

New Brunswick and Canada need immigrants for many reasons but primarily because immigration will help to grow the economy through the increase of people who pay taxes, use services, create jobs, etc.

New Brunswick is 48% rural and needs immigration to grow and to thrive.

2018 was the hardest year I've ever gone through personally (yes; even worse than 2020) but in the midst of all, I received an email saying that I had been featured in the article of **Top 10 New Brunswickers to Watch.**

More than being recognized and appreciated in this way, the most meaningful was being called a **New Brunswicker.**

Among all the difficult things I experienced that year, my legal status in Canada was literally hanging by a thread and was very complicated for a number of personal reasons.

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Labelled a “*New Brunswicker*” gave me hope. No longer was I just an “international student.” It made me appreciate my active participation and contribution to my community.

My work has value. I can make a positive impact in people’s lives and thus am contributing to making NB and Canada a better place. It gives me validation.

Q. One word describes you?

Ambitious

Q. Hero in youth? Today?

In my youth, it was my brother and today the young people I work with.

Q. The question you detest answering?

Where do you see yourself in five or ten years?

Q. What would you like to see written on your tombstone?

“Arianne Melara Orellana – Citizen of the World”

Q. Please share something people may not know about you!

I’m 29 years old and I have never exercised my right to vote (due to not being in El Salvador and not a Canadian citizen).

Q. What question would you have liked to have been asked?

What is something you are looking forward to this year?

I am looking forward to get a puppy! I was born and raised in a family who loves dogs and ever since I remember, we would have a dog as part of our family. Since 2011 when I arrived to Canada, I have been looking forward to the day when I can finally get a puppy and 2021 is the year I get to do that!



Tell us about your project: *Imagine NB* and share any other on-going projects

The program of Imagine NB was made to help youth become the best versions of themselves here in New Brunswick.

New Brunswick needs bold, new and diverse ideas. We see youth leading the change and youth voices being at the forefront of this growth and prosperity.

If youth are well supported and heard and given the tools they need, then they will be better positioned to take on decision making and be influencers in the future of this province.

The program is built on three central pillars:

Empowerment through Prioritizing Mental Health & Wellbeing

We tap into the leadership potential of youth, helping to build their confidence and their capacity to make a difference.

Inclusion

We provide a space where the voices and perspectives of underrepresented youth can be truly heard. We aim to drive those voices on a path to leadership and change for New Brunswick.

Retention

Through fostering a sense of belonging and connection to New Brunswick, we inspire the participants to stay here and excel in their communities.

I highly recommend people read the impact report about this program:

English: [nbmc.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ImagineNB-Report-ENG.pdf](https://www.rma-amr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ImagineNB-Report-ENG.pdf)

French: [nbmc.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ImagineNB-Rapport.pdf](https://www.rma-amr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ImagineNB-Rapport.pdf)

ABOUT:



Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors in International Relations, a major in Economics, and a minor in French.

A self-driven and ambitious person who is dedicated to assist those who express a need for help.

A dynamic multilingual professional, Arianne remains passionate about culture, languages, and international affairs.

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