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## INTERVIEW



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Rural Settlement Network

#### Q. Place of birth?

**Chios Island, Chios Town, in Hellas.**



Chios is a Hellenic Island in the Hellenic Aegean Sea. My father is from the Island of Krete, Hellas, and my mother comes from a small town near Delphi, Hellas.

I am an aboriginal, indigenous native of Hellas (Greece) with ancestral links going back to at least the 1200s in my genealogical tree.

I consider myself “bi-cultural” – a sort of hybrid between being fully Canadian and retaining my Hellenic roots.

#### Q. You chose New Brunswick or it chose you?

Mount Allison University chose me for my undergraduate degree soon after I graduated from high school in Manitoba.

I chose the east coast because I could be closer to the ocean – I can’t enjoy life as much without being close to the water. NB offers a great many opportunities for ocean, lake and river experiences.

#### Q. Your passion?

I have too many! Some come and go from period to period.

Long lasting passions perhaps include reading Philosophy and studying Logic, as in the science of Logic, making realistic and hyper realistic Fine Art in drawing and painting or sculpture.

Reading and translating or analyzing ancient Hellenic texts, doing research on CSR, sociological, organizational structures and management topics.

Playing chess, and generally taking on anything that will challenge my cognition and roster of abilities, knowledge and skills, or anything to do with Hellenic religion and mythology.

I am also writing a children’s (and adult’s) story in rhyme titled, “Five blind men” for which I need to finish the illustrations.

#### Q. Preferred leisure activity?

None in the traditional sense.

Perhaps playing chess or kayaking would come the closest to what is colloquially understood as “leisure” but I don’t know if there is such a thing as true leisure.

Everything we do is work, even what is called leisure. If I’m feeling as though I am relaxing while doing something, then I make sure to gain something out of it.

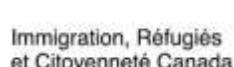
#### Q. Which of our four seasons do you prefer & why?

Spring, summer and fall. There are fun things to do in winter, but I would like it more if it were just a little shorter.

I think winter can include a magnificent experience with the right people. There is nothing like a crisp night around a fire by a cottage with good friends after a ski trek in the moonlight. I have a good friend who offered me such an experience and it makes winter memorable. I think skating is also really fun, as is snowshoeing. Come to think of it, I also really like winter, but would be happier if it were just a little shorter. The warmth of the house in the winter is a cozy feeling you can’t quite describe, especially when my wife makes cookies and bakes cakes and pies.

#### Q. Best advice you ever received?

The Delphic Maxim: *Go with surety and ruin is near* «ΕΓΓΥΑ ΠΑΡΑ Δ’ ΑΤΗ». (pronounced “eggua para d’ateh”), and *I have escaped the bad and found the better*





**Q. Your most enjoyable travel experience?**

I've been to too many countries and places to be able to choose the *most enjoyable*. If I had to choose, perhaps what stood out from the experience – for different reasons – was Saigon in Vietnam, Vienna in Austria, and camping on Samothrake Island in Hellas, an island where the ancient Hellenic Kawir Mysteries used to take place, at the lush Saos ravine under the stars by the waterfalls not too far from the ruins of Hellenic temples.

In Canada, I am partial to the east coast and connect immensely with the natives, their culture, their myths, their dances and their sacred experiences and places.

Also, I enjoy the Acadian culture. It feels very familiar.

Specifically, in NB, I enjoy Bennet Lake at the Fundy Park, and Alma. I go kayaking at the lakes there. I also really like Campbellton and the wider vicinity. I've been there many times and it's always been exceptional.

**Memramcook is home and very special.** Peaceful. Truly peaceful. Tranquil.

New Brunswick is like it came out of a fairy tale in some parts. For me, the Sackville-Dorchester-Memramcook area is such a place. It conjures images of older times, when people were more human.

**Q. Destination(s) yet to be discovered?**

**Mars.** If I live to when I'm eighty or ninety, and I've done what needs to be done on Earth, I might consider going to Mars, and establish my own colony there.

I'm not joking. Elon Musk is doing it. Why not hike a ride on one of his starships and help terraform the place? Now, should they invent a time machine, I'm leaving immediately for the Hellenistic period, and going to Alexandria or Pergammon to live in the library.

In NB I have visited nearly every major town, except some areas in the very south, which were on our to-do just before March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 when the lockdowns started. My wife and I like to take long drives on Sundays and see places while listening to the classical music selections of Paolo Petropoulos and stop for pie or ice-cream in local NB cafés or eateries, and if there aren't any, just sit and enjoy a sandwich while enjoying the view.

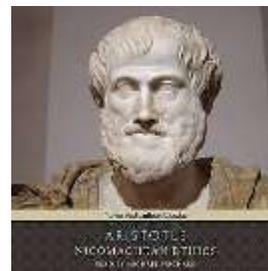
There is incomparable beauty in so many places in NB. We have just discovered one with mesmerizing sunsets right before the border with PEI.

**Q. To dine with anyone in history, you choose?**

**Aristotle** and **Alexander** together. I would like to speak with Aristotle on the "Organon Organou" (The Instrument of Instruments), and with Alexander on its effective application.

**Q. Last book read?**

I just finished rereading it, again - perhaps, for the hundredth time.



**Q. Favorite quote?**

*Make haste: Open the windows of your soul to the sun, or the sun will soon set, and you with it.*

- **Marcus Aurelius**

**Q. A book you would recommend and why?**

**Nicomachean Ethics** by Aristotle.

It will change your life.

If everyone read this book, there would be more goodness in the world.

**Q. What are you most proud of?**

**Having perspicacity.  
Then my wife.**

She has immense resilience and puts up with me too, with my studying, my reading and my writing for far too many hours, and yet **she loves me**.

**Q. You win the lottery and do what?**

Assuming it is a few tens of millions, then on the first day, I would go for a walk, find a homeless person and have a coffee with him.

I would ask what he would do with a few thousand dollars and ask him to use it wisely to generate enough, that he can give a few hundred dollars to another homeless person one day, and teach him to do the same to another.

There should be no homeless person in Canada. None. I would try to eradicate homelessness entirely within a few months.

Afterwards, I would retreat to write, read, and create, and to try to do good when possible to those who need it most.

**Q. Favorite movie?**

**The Color of Paradise**

An Iranian movie about a blind child who would talk to the monotheistic God using braille while touching plants, the wind, and everything in nature around him.



**Q. Music preference?**

Ancient Hellenic music, classical music, and any ethnic music from every culture.



**Q. Your advice to the newcomer to New Brunswick?**

Build a life by investing in others who trust in you. Anywhere you go, it is necessary to give in order to receive.

You ought to invest in yourself and the new places you now call home to be able to extract value into your life.

Be open to change yet retain a little bit of the old, too. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

Always remember that kindness begets kindness, evermore.

**Q. What one word best describes you?**

**Excellence**

**Q. Your hero or mentor in youth? Today?**

Youth hero: **Themistocles**

and

**Marcus Aurelius** my

mentor.



**Today: Aristotle hero & mentor.**

- Within his writings resides a secret of secrets, hidden in plain sight that is both heroic and edifying.

**Q. The main barriers that newcomers face and must overcome to ensure a successful integration into their new Canadian community?**

**Become a builder of your life.** This starts by envisioning your future and taking steps with particular propensities into actionable steps that will then become realizations, one at a time.

Be open to change. Accept new forms of identity. This is really about comprehending at what stage of **culture shock** you are, and to find the means to get to the end of that process, successfully.

Integration need not be assimilation. Being bi-cultural is perhaps keeping the best of two worlds.

Overcome the bad and the petty - DO NOT allow small things to dishearten you. Focus on the good in people and good shall come.

Petty exists in any context in all periods and in all societies. Focus on all the kindness, hope and the goodness around you.

There is room for you to build a life here, and to give back to those who matter to you most, and help others in your turn when you will be fit to do so.

Invest in people, and network with new friendships. Improve all of your skills including your language skills. They will generate and sustain value. Never neglect these and shun complacency.

Use each work opportunity as a stepping stone, ephemeral and / or permanent, to construct the totality of your career arc toward your pursuit of happiness.

**Q. Pet peeves?**

Lack of logic, double standards, hypocrisy and lying. In short, any distancing from justice and the truth.

**Q. What would you like inscribed on your tombstone?**

*Here rests Aristaios Lykeiarches:*

*Son, do not nourish yourself, of course, through my eternally-imperishable fame, but beget your fame through living a superior life.*

ΕΝΘΑΔΕ ΚΕΙΤΑΙ ΑΡΙΣΤΑΙΟΣ ΛΥΚΕΙΑΡΧΗΣ: ΥΙΕ· ΟΥ ΓΑΡ ΕΚ ΤΟΥ Δ'ΕΜΟΥ ΔΕΙ ΑΦΘΙΤΟΥ ΚΛΕΟΥΣ ΘΡΕΦΕΙΝ ΣΑΥΤΟΝ ΑΛΛ'ΕΕ ΥΠΕΙΡΟΧΟΥ ΒΙΟΥ ΤΟ ΣΟΝ ΚΛΕΟΣ ΚΤΗΣΑΙ

**Q. Something people may not know about you?**

I read and write “ancient” Hellenic better than most professors.

That said, I cannot teach it at the level I want because a PhD - which is essentially nothing more than a long essay and costs a few thousand dollars - is a barrier to do so.

Plus, the pandemic measures stifled my efforts to attain that goal.

**Q. A question you would have liked to been asked?**

**What is value or valuable for you?**

**Truth, justice and beauty.**



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