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NEWS

Immigrant trying to attract other newcomers with stories of New Brunswick



Flora Gassier-Cintrat, who moved to New Brunswick from France in 2019, is pictured here with her three-year-old daughter, Tya. She's created a website to help sing the praises of her new home, and to answer any questions newcomers may have about moving to the province.

Photo: Submitted

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A woman who recently immigrated to New Brunswick has created a website to sing the praises of her adopted homeland, and to offer guidance to others who are thinking of making the move.

Flora Gassier-Cintrat and her husband were military police officers in France and in Martinique. But in 2019 they decided to make a change, pull up stakes and start a new life in New Brunswick.

"My sister lives here, and she's been here for 15 years," she said.



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"We visited five times before we moved here and we really fell in love with New Brunswick. It's an amazing province. I love it. There's so many things you can do, and I really feel it's a safe area, and you can raise your kids here, and it's bilingual."

Now, as a way of honouring her new province, she's launched #RevelationNB, found at revelationnb.com. It's a website that documents her family's adventures in New Brunswick, and which also offers helpful advice about the things you'll need to do to buy a house, find a daycare, and look for a job in the days after your arrival.

"I just wanted to share my vision of this place," she said.

"I feel it's so important to prepare our immigrants. It can be so hard.



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You have to connect with banks here. You have to be prepared to know a little bit of English, I guess. You have to contact real estate agents if you want to buy a house – daycare, schools. I just wanted to share my positive experience concerning the immigration process."

Gassier-Cintrat said it's a way to pay back some of the kindness New Brunswickers have shown to her family.

"We're so thankful to be here, and we had such an amazing, warm welcome," she said.

"I just want to talk about New Brunswick, try to attract more immigrants and find ways to retain them ... It's because I feel at home here, that I wanted to share something positive about New Brunswick on the international



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scene."

So far, she said, she's hearing from lots of people, from countries all over the world. They have questions, she said, and she's doing her best to share information from her own experience.

"There's a lot of people reaching out to me," she said.

"They're concerned about how we did it, the immigration part, and it's really helpful for them. They contact me because they're at various stages of their immigration process."

Even though she's a civil servant with the provincial government, Gassier-Cintrat said she does this on her own time, and out of her own pocket. It's purely a passion-project, she said.



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She hopes her information, and her travel-style posts about fat-biking in Mactaquac Provincial Park or camping in Herring Cove, will inspire others to make the move to New Brunswick.

"We have to attract more immigrants," she said.

"We have a lot of issues because we have an aging population, and students, when they graduate, want to move to bigger provinces. We want people to come here."

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