



Rahima Hasan

Educational Assistant

My name is Rahima Hasan and I am from Syria. I arrived in Fredericton in February, 2022 with my three children. In Syria, my children were studying; some of them finished university and some were enrolled in professional courses. However, the war began in Syria and everything changed. We faced difficult challenges especially when my husband died due to his health condition. I had to move to the village where perhaps the war would end, but the situation got worse as there were no educational or job opportunities. Then, we decided to move to Turkey because it was close to our country, but moving to another country was not easy especially due to the language barrier. I managed to secure my children's access to language classes while I studied to develop my Turkish language skills.

Being an Arabic teacher, I gave private language lessons to Syrian students and I volunteered for organizations that supported Syrian refugees and offered Arabic and Turkish language lessons to Syrian children. I was always looking to move to a safe country for my children's future, where they can have dreams and a prosperity.

When we were chosen by the Government of Canada, happiness flooded our faces. I will never forget the moment when we entered the Toronto airport and there were immigration officers waiting for us to complete the documentation. There were employees of all nationalities at the airport. I looked at my children and said to them "you will find the education and work that you dream of. We just have to study and work hard."

And then we came to Fredericton and the staff from the Multicultural Association of Fredericton (MCAF) were waiting for us and they were the first helpers. They helped us in settlement. As education was the key to what we were looking for, MCAF registered my son in high school and my other son in the English classes at MCAF. Now they can go to school safely and continue their education.

MCAF has been a big contributor to our success because they have guided us in the right way. Through the MCAF Skill Launch Rural Program, I was able to improve my English and learn the Canadian Labour Market culture. I participated in some training through this program and I got a work placement in the field that I wanted. I am happy to say that now I am working with the MCAF Rainbow of Culture Daycare and I will get some courses to become an Early Childhood Educator.

Thanks to the employment team at MCAF for helping and a special thanks to Alyson and Monica who have given us heartfelt support. I am so happy that in this short time period we achieved a lot and we will continue working to realize our dreams.

I would encourage other newcomers to work hard toward their dreams, because the path to success requires determination and effort. Thank you, MCAF, for welcoming us and making us feel at home.