

Lebanese-Canadian Translator and Student Maud Houchane Seeks Outs LERC

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

A native of Southern Lebanon, graduate of the Lebanese University in Sidon, where she went on to tutor elementary students in the city, Maud Francis Houchane, emigrated to Prince Edward Island on the eastern coast of Canada under the evacuation process during the Israeli Lebanese War in the summer of 2006.

Her experiences as a Lebanese emigrant under harrowing circumstances ignited a spark deep within her to search out fellow Lebanese and other immigrants who had struggled when departing their homelands, whether through forced migration or voluntary, and to observe their paths of survival and their ultimate integration into their new homes.

This desire motivated her to enroll in the Master of Arts course in Island Studies, for which she is working on her thesis research about Lebanese and Dutch immigrants at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PE.



Mrs. M. Houchane pictured at the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU (June 2011).

Mrs. Houchane decided to adopt a new approach and seek updated information on the history of the Lebanese community and their settlement on Prince Edward Island and to study the comparison between the Lebanese and the Dutch who arrived in the island at different periods with different experiences.

Mrs. Houchane sought out the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU, Louaizé, to gain access to its electronic archives and to profit from advice on Lebanese authors writing in Arabic concerning Lebanese emigration in order to start her research.

Mrs. Houchane was given a presentation of all the materials collected by LERC in its electronic archives that were of interest to her and taken on a tour of the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU.