



**INTERVIEW**



**Basel Labadede**



**Q. Place of birth?**



**Aleppo, Syria**

**Q. Profession (area of study) / current position and name of organization?**

Formerly, I studied Kinesiology at Tishreen University in- Latakia Syria and now I am a first-year Business student at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) Saint John campus.

Presently, I am employed with the New Brunswick Multicultural Council in a summer Student-Rural Settlement Network position.

**Q. Did you choose New Brunswick or it chose you?**

*I was offered the opportunity to come NB.*

**Q. Your passion?**

To learn more about all other cultures around the world.

**Q. Preferred leisure activity?**

Swimming

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

Summer!

- Provides even more opportunities to discover New Brunswick

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

*Just because you failed, doesn't mean you're a failure.*

**Q. Your most enjoyable voyage?**

My first cruise ship travel experience - Istanbul, Turkey

**Q. Destination yet to be discovered?**

Thailand

**Q. Last book read?**

*Self Compassion*

- Kristin Neff



**Favorite authors?**

**Mahmoud Darwish**



**Note: Mahmoud Darwish** (Arabic: محمود درويش, romanized: *Mahmūd Darwīsh*, 13 March 1941 – 9 August 2008) was a Palestinian poet and author who was regarded as the Palestinian national poet.

He won numerous awards for his works. Darwish used Palestine as a metaphor for the loss of Eden, birth and resurrection, and the anguish of dispossession and exile.

He has been described as incarnating and reflecting "the tradition of the political poet in Islam, the man of action whose action is poetry." He also served as an editor for several literary magazines in Palestine.

- Source: Wikipedia

**Q. A book you recommend?**

**The Ideal Team Player.**



To develop an understanding of teamwork, professionalism for someone preparing to enter the work force.



**Q. You have the opportunity to dine with anyone in human history, who would you choose and why?**

**Mahatma Gandhi** - I admire his courage for standing up for human rights regardless of race, color or religion, and the wisdom he had.

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

**Patient**

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

**AMA  
(My Mother)**

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

For having the opportunity to share my culture with so many different cultures here in Canada.

**Q. You win the lottery grand prize. What would you do with your new found fortune?**

Support the *United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)* to help refugees around the world



**Q. Favorite movie?**



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

- **You are not alone.**
- **New Brunswick is home.**
- **New Brunswickers are friendly**
- **Connect and interact with people.**
- **Enjoy these opportunities to engage (network) and make new acquaintances it.**

**Q. Favorite quote / expression?**



**Q. What do you believe are some of the main barriers that newcomers face and must overcome to ensure a successful integration into their new Canadian community?**

- **Language**
- **Employment opportunities**

**Q. The question you detest answering?**

**Why did you come to Canada?**

**Q. Share something people may not know about you!**

I escaped from a war zone – in Syria.

People are not aware of the many obstacles I faced and that I had to overcome to finally make it to safety.

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

**What do you like the most about New Brunswick?**

**Answer:**

**New Brunswickers!**

They are so welcoming.  
They make me feel at home.

