



# Restigouche Multicultural Association (RMA)

Telephone: 506-789-7747 email: [info@rma-amr.ca](mailto:info@rma-amr.ca) website: <https://www.rma-amr.ca/>

**THE BULLETIN BOARD - NUMBER 9 – MAY 12, 2021** Reference: File 530 - News Articles

## INTERVIEW



### Olive Ozoemena

Provincial Manager: Skills Launch



**Q. Place of birth?**



The very eastern part of Nigeria called **Onitsha**, Anambra State:

Note: **Onitsha** (Igbo: *Ọ̀nị̀chà Mm̀l̀l̀* or just *Ọ̀nị̀chà*) is a city located on the eastern bank of the Niger River, in Nigeria's Anambra State. A metropolitan city,



Onitsha is known for its river port and as an economic hub for commerce, industry, and education. It hosts the Onitsha Main Market, the largest market in Africa in terms of geographical size and volume of goods.

In the 2006 Nigerian census, Onitsha had an estimated city proper population of over quarter a million people. Its urban area has been projected to reach around 1,500,000 inhabitants in 2021. The indigenous people of Onitsha are Igbo and speak the Igbo language. The Onitsha people are referred to as Ndi Onicha. – source: Wikipedia

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

Well, I live in Saint John NB, but I consider myself a global citizen ☐

**Q. Your passion?**

Oh, this could be a long list! I am passionate about learning and growth in any way that interests an individual. As long there is an opportunity to learn and grow, do it! No knowledge is a waste.

I am also passionate creating spaces for people to maximize their potentials so as to make a meaningful impact in people's lives in every little way I can.

Running (I am struggling with this one at the moment because I took a hiatus in winter and need to get back to the road / tracks).

A little bit of theatre here and there.

**Q. Preferred leisure activity?**

Travel plus good spicy and flavorful food.

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

Hmmm...it depends. I love every bit of all but I might say mostly fall and summer. Winter comes with snow which I love but I don't deal with cold very well.

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

**Trust your instincts.**

**Q. Your most enjoyable voyage?**



My last trip to Puerto Vallarta in 2020 before the pandemic. It was very exhilarating. I drove an ATV across the Jurullo Bridge and tasted good tequilas ☐

**Q. Your destination yet to be discovered?**

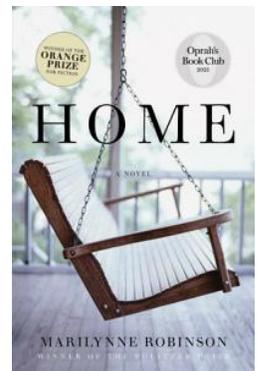
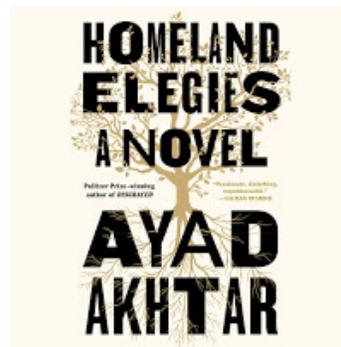
The world. I'd love to travel the world, every bit of it.

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

**Barak Obama**

**Q. Last book read?**

I read two at a time. Those last two were *Home Elegies* by Ayad Akhtar and *Home* by Marilynne Robinson.



**Q. Favorite quote / citation / expression?**

**Failure is part of the journey, learn from it and keep going**

**Q. Favorite authors?**

Hmmm...this one is hard. I have read a lot of *Vince Flynn* and *John Grisham* but I am not sure they are my favourite, I find that I don't really have any favourites. If they are good books, I am reading them. **hehe**

Financial partner:





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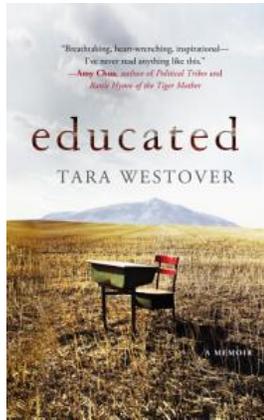
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**Q. A book you would recommend and why?**

*Educated* by Tara Westover,

I think people need to experience other people's journey to becoming and then weigh it against their journeys in order to have perspectives.



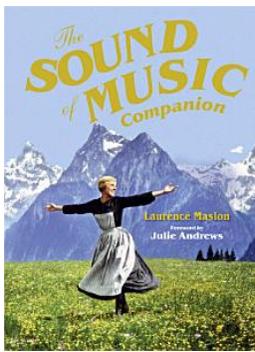
**Q. What are you most proud of?**

*My family*

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

Invest 50% of it and then use the other 50% to assist as many as I can

**Q. Favorite movie? Music?**



Hmm..I do not have favourite anything really, I have a couple of movies I love and would watch over and over again, *Sound of Music*, the *Hidden Figures* |

Music, hmm I love the artists and genres mostly- good reggae, some RnB and Pop get me going

**Q. Your advice to the newcomer to N.B., Canada?**

- **Research, and ask tons of questions when you land.**
- **Do not try to figure it out all by yourself.**
- **Others have gone through the process and chances are yours will be a lot easier if you consult them and adhere to their advice.**

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

*Stubborn ??*

**Q. You are given any three wishes. What would they be?**

Have a second chance at life with my dad and meet Oprah Winfrey,



**Q. Hero / mentor in your youth? Today?**

*My father*

**Q. As someone who has chosen to live in Canada, can you share what you believe are some of the main barriers that newcomers must overcome and some personal recommendation / advice to that newcomer to facilitate (his /her) successful integration into their new community?**

Newcomers face different challenges at different times of their immigration journey.

In order to mitigate most of these challenges, we have to start looking at systemic changes to make in order to have a lasting holistic impact for every newcomer that either decided to immigrate here or found themselves here.

- Language is a barrier for an average newcomer that does not have French or English.
- Unemployment / underemployment is the **biggest barrier that almost 90%** of all newcomers face.
- Housing is a significant barrier for newcomers that live here too.
- Community connection is another challenging factor for folks that are isolated.

Again, it depends on where you are on your immigration journey as a newcomer. A newcomer is bound to face one or two of the above in NB.

My personal recommendation is stated above: let's start looking at the systems and start to build ones that **enable better integration and settlement** of any newcomer that comes to N.B.

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

*Why are you not married?*

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

*She came, lived, and touched lives*

**Q. Please share something people may not know about you!**

*I am an African Hair Stylist and I am a closeted introvert!*



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

*Why do you love N.B. ? hehe*



**DID YOU KNOW?  
CHECK IT OUT:**

**SKILLS LAUNCH**

- Are you an immigrant adult with barriers to finding employment?
- Do you want to explore careers and gain Canadian experience?
- Are you looking for meaningful employment?

FUNDED BY: Atlantic Canada / Agence de développement économique du Canada atlantique, Canada, WORKING NB / TRAVAIL NB, Brunswick

**IMPORTANT LINK:**

<https://nbmc-cmnb.ca/skills-launch-adult-program/>

Financial partner:

