



April 6, 2021

## INTERVIEW



### Pascale Bellavance

**Integration Service  
Coordinator for Restigouche-  
West – New Brunswick  
Multicultural Council  
More precisely in the region  
of Saint-Quentin and  
Kedgwick.**

#### Q. Place of birth?

Saint-Martin de Restigouche, DSL de Saint-Quentin, NB. It is a small parish of around 300 souls. We all know each other and we are connected on one side or the other.

I grew up in this small community and also lived until recently, my parents still live there, now I live just a few

miles away and go there regularly to reconnect with nature – it is so lovely to listen to and to watch.

#### Q. Why this career choice?

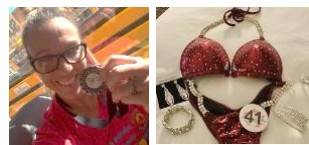
A new challenge arose in the fall of 2020. I decided to take the plunge and I have no regrets about my decision.

#### Q. Your passion?

Sports, workout, dance, and to stay in shape. I have always enjoyed training, which allows me to set goals.



I took part in a Fitness competition in 2018, which was a very nice and enriching experience.



#### Q. Favorite hobby?

I love sheet metal painting and craftsmanship. When I paint, I forget about time and I create for fun.



It's crazy how you can have hidden talents.

Also, to cook.



I love it, I can sit there and cook all day. I got that from my mother.

We had a catering service for several years. We had cold, hot buffets.

At one event, we served more than 400 people.

#### Q. What advice have you appreciated the most in your life?

*You are capable, you are such a strong woman.*

We all go through challenging periods in our lives.

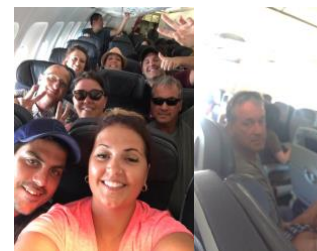
We have to make choices or make decisions that make us question whether the right decision was made.

I went through such times and never thought I was going to find a way through it all.

Yet I did. I found incredible strength in myself to cope with these times.

Today, I am so much more confident and proud of it, too

#### Q. Most enjoyable voyage?



It was with a group of co-workers in 2017. Since then, I have lost a friend, a very precious colleague in my life who was also part of that voyage.

When I was employed at Marie-Gaétane School in Kedgwick, I had a work colleague (Normand) who was a great friend, confidant and a mentor to me.

I could go see him to talk about everything and nothing. He was trusted by all of us at school, even the students.

We had a wonderful trip with a number of the school staff whose memories will stay with us all.

Unfortunately, a few years ago., we lost Normand due to cancer even though he had been a very fit and healthy person. One morning he woke up with that bloody cancer that got the better of him.

There's not a day that I don't think of him, or an occasion, remember how he loved to make us laugh and teach us about life.

**RIP NORM.**

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

Canada, especially the prairies with its majestic landscapes and then towards the Rocky Mountains - as far as the eye can see – breathtaking!



We have a beautiful country that we can freely explore. Why not take advantage of it.

#### Q. Dinner with an historical figure?

**Oprah Winfrey,**

She is a person with a lot of experience and who can teach us a lot about life.

She's a model of resilience for women. I adore her.



Financial partner:





## Restigouche Multicultural Association (RMA)

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Reference: File 530 - News Articles

#### Q. Favorite quote?

*Knowledge is a treasure, but practice is the key to it.*

- Ibn Khaldoun

It can enrich you if you know how to put it to good use, it all depends on your intelligence.

So, seek knowledge, educate yourself and learn.

#### Q. Winning the jackpot in the lottery, what do you do?

Spoil my family including my parents. Then, invest in my region with new infrastructure, recreation services or other similar investments to grow my community and welcome more newcomers.

I would give back and make people around me happy.

#### Q. Favorite music?

I love all types of music!

I can sit and listen to Country, Jazz, violins!

Music can rock us, teach us, send us a message or even make us scream.

#### Q. Vous êtes la plus fière ?

### My Children!



I have three beautiful children who are healthy and secure in life.



Also, I include my grandson who never ceases to amaze me.

And, I cannot forget my wonderful spouse in my life.



Life is always beautiful when we are surrounded with good people.

#### Q. Your advice to newcomers who want to settle in Restigouche West, NB?

To take your time to discover the welcoming community of Restigouche Ouest - and its natural beauty.

#### Q. A word that describes you?

### Big Heart

I love helping others.

I have always been involved in the community and have been part of several committees in my region including: *Santé Partage Foundation; Daughters of Isabelle; Conservative Party; The Western Festival; Les Folies du Palais; and La Chambre de Commerce de Saint-Quentin* –

where I served as president for four years.



#### Q. The question you detest to answer?

Everything that touches my personal life because I am a rather reserved person when it comes to my private life.

#### Q. Regarding immigration to NB and newcomers, what are the challenges?

Challenges include a lack of:

- suitable housing;
- day care centers;
- language course training; and
- retention to keep our newcomers in the region.

#### Q. Share something that people don't know about you!

My curiosity for other people.

I am a person who learns a lot by observing others - a very observant person.

#### Q. The question you wish you had been asked?

### What do you see for your future?

I see myself running my own business, traveling, going to see other cultures and to learn from them.



Also, to continue to grow in life to learn and acquire more knowledge and continue to improve as a person.

Financial partner:

