



LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

DINE LOCALLY EAT GLOBALLY

Connecting new comers from many different cultural backgrounds with local restaurants to introduce one menu item from their home country to be prepared and served authentically.

The **NEED**

The Pembina Valley Region in South Central Manitoba is lacking diverse cultural food. The closest urban centre to get multicultural ethnic food is an hour and half away and it is harder to drive in and out during winter. Opening a restaurant will be a very expensive endeavour.

The **SOLUTION**

We are pairing restaurants in our community with newcomers from multiple cultural backgrounds, to introduce one ethnic menu item in those respective restaurants.

The newcomers will teach the restaurants on how to traditionally prepare the food.

The restaurants provide a platform for locals and newcomers to meet and integrate.

The **BENEFIT**

- Locals get to taste authentic cultural food
- Newcomers to have a place to gather and eat home-meal
- Restaurants make money
- Prejudices broken
- Conversations created
- Great potential for media attention
- Newcomer Profile

The **FOOD**

Green Curry, Rice, and Roti from Malaysia



Newcomer Profile: **Vassan Aruljothi**

Originating from Malaysia, Vassan Aruljothi is a Project Manager working with a newcomer service providing organization called Regional Connections, in Winkler. He is the Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator for the Pembina Valley region.

Malaysia is very famously known for its multi ethnic fusion and street food culture. However, it is hard to find such food scene in rural Manitoba, due to the weather and lack of investments in ethnic restaurants.

So, Vassan partnered with a local restaurant to teach them how to make Green Curry, an ethnic dish that is native to his home, and make it available in their menu.

Now, there is a place for Vassan to go and enjoy a traditional meal that is made as authentic as back home, while meeting the locals that are also enjoying the new menu item, regardless of the weather in his new home, the Pembina Valley.

