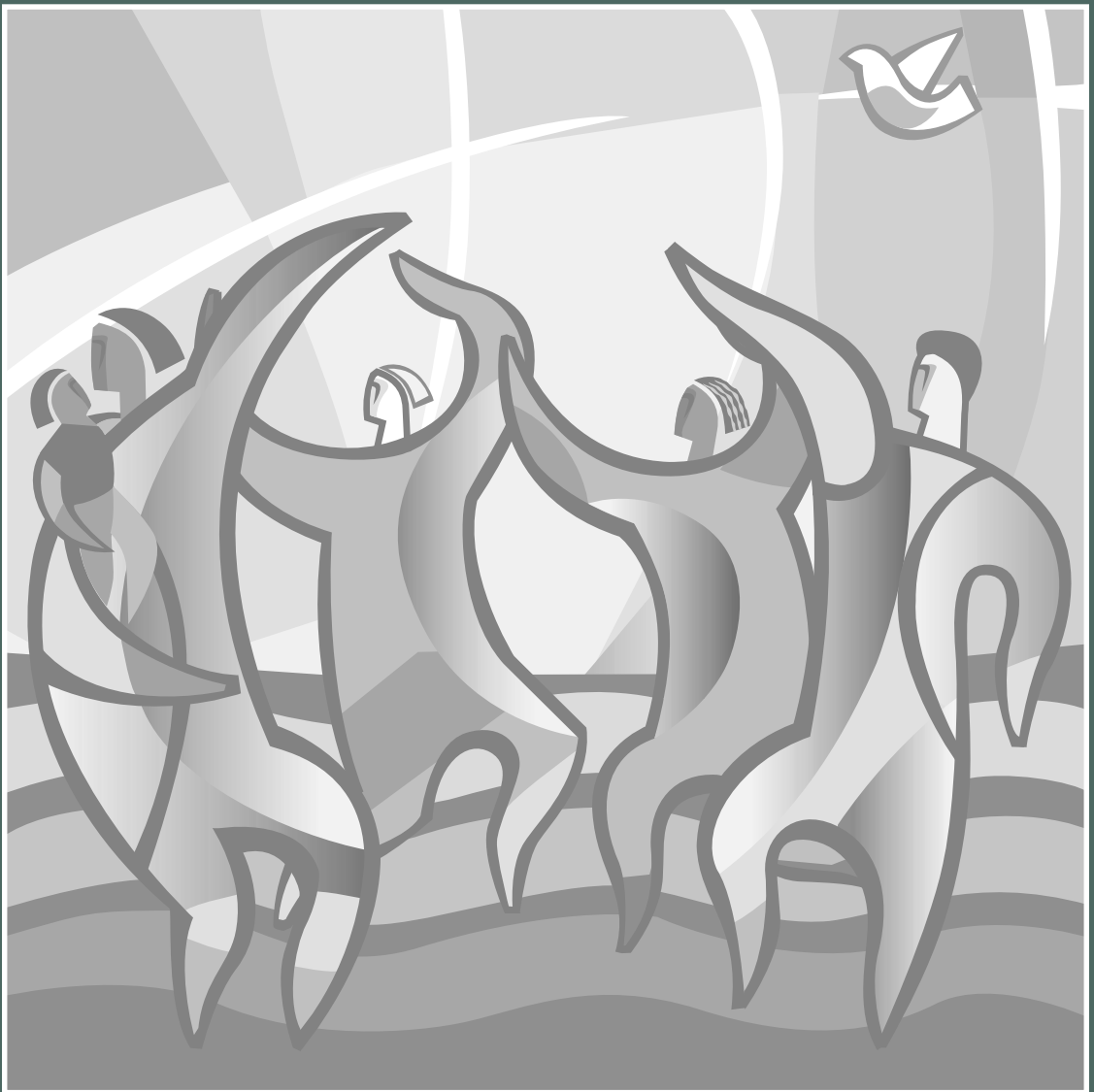


amssa



AFFILIATION OF MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND SERVICE AGENCIES OF BC



annual report
2001



What is AMSSA

The Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of British Columbia (AMSSA) is a coalition of over 80 organizations providing multicultural programs and immigrant settlement services throughout BC.

VISION

AMSSA believes in a just and equitable society which values Canada's cultural diversity.

MISSION

AMSSA provides leadership in advocacy and education in British Columbia for anti-racism, human rights, and social justice. AMSSA supports its members in serving immigrants, refugees and culturally diverse communities.

GOALS

1. Advocate and educate for social justice and equity in multiculturalism, anti-racism, human rights and immigration
2. Provide leadership in developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with member organizations
3. Support member organizations by providing information, consultation and education

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in a just and equitable
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Message

FROM THE PRESIDENT : GABRIELLE MARTIN

For AMSSA the past year has been marked by significant challenge and change, driven by both a turbulent economy and a changing political scene. Consequently, over the past twelve months we have worked to strengthen our connections with members, to increase our profile at both community and provincial levels and to bring people together to collaborate and plan ways to build the capacity of the multicultural and immigrant serving sectors.

AMSSA's expertise and credibility is the result of the solid involvement of our member organizations. Representing diverse perspectives and coming from all over the province, our members and volunteers provide AMSSA with strong community links. This connection is critical to the process of bringing about positive, meaningful change and enabling long term benefit.

This year AMSSA welcomed a new Executive Director, Lynn Moran. She and her staff contributed a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the organization that has resulted in renewal, action, growth and success in carrying out our mission and vision. Like other agencies in the sector, we were seriously affected over the year by cuts and priority changes in government funding. This resulted in staff shortages and program cuts. Through Lynn's calm guidance we are able to look forward to next year with our core operations intact and an energetic and focused program to be implemented.

We are very aware of the opportunities and challenges that face us next year. After reviewing recommendations that have come to us from our stakeholders as a result of the Members' Forum, Committee reviews, and feedback from funders, AMSSA will be strengthening its services to foster linkages between members. By expanding AMSSA's communications abilities, focusing our programs, and increasing our efforts to become more effective advocates, we will continue to support our members with the essential work they do throughout British Columbia.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their dedication to AMSSA and their valuable contributions over this busy and challenging year, as well as to our hard-working and committed staff for the support they have so willingly provided. Thank you on behalf of the Board.



AMSSA President
Gabrielle Martin and
Executive Director
Lynn Moran

Message

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR : LYNN MORAN

Since beginning work with AMSSA a year ago, I have been listening to members' voices about the services that are important to them, and their views on AMSSA's future direction.

In January, we conducted a communication needs assessment aimed at improving AMSSA's capacity to connect with its members, funders and the public, and to facilitate dialogue between and among members. A situational analysis of external factors influencing AMSSA's work was completed in March. These assessments have helped focus AMSSA's work as a supporter of its members and as an advocate for the immigration settlement and multicultural sectors. At the Membership Forum held in May, members identified four key initiatives for the planning period:

- improve two way communication with AMSSA members;
- improve the structure, membership & function of the AMSSA Board;
- demonstrate return on investment to membership; and
- enhance AMSSA's relationship with and influence on the new provincial government.

AMSSA's funding has been impacted by decisions made by our traditional Federal and Provincial funders. The result: a decrease in funding for programs that have been supported over the past few years such as the Youth Program and staff support for the AMSSA Multicultural Health and Anti-Racism Committees. Decreasing levels of funding has necessitated a review of the programs and services AMSSA provides. Over the next year we will develop and implement marketing strategies and plans for AMSSA that will better position the organization to carry out settlement and multicultural advocacy in British Columbia. We are also taking proactive steps to broaden AMSSA's funding base and lessen the organization's dependence on public-sector, project oriented funding.

AMSSA's flagship publication, *Cultures West*, is more focused and thematic. The Spring issue explored 'Diversity' and the Fall issue will highlight 'Immigration/Settlement'. We will be working to raise the profile of the settlement and multiculturalism sector in the media and with both provincial and federal governments. We will be taking our networking and members' support to the next level with the introduction of a range of Internet-based advisory and professional development services.

AMSSA's new, centrally located office on Commercial Drive offers a more productive work environment for staff and more convenient access for members. We are seeing increases in both library use and bookings for the AMSSA Boardroom since our move in March.

The past year has been filled with challenges, but it also has provided opportunities for AMSSA to become more responsive to its members and their needs and to better position itself for the future. There are exciting initiatives to take forward and positive steps to take. I would like to thank the Board, staff and membership for their support and encouragement as we travel this path together.

Highlights

advocate and educate

for social justice and equity in multiculturalism,
anti-racism, human rights, and immigration

2000-2001 proved to be a dynamic year, with AMSSA Member Agencies and their communities experiencing major shifts in Provincial and Federal governments, changes to legislation, and increased levels of immigration. AMSSA has continued to play an advocacy role by issuing sectoral responses to Bill C11 and its predecessor Bill C31, developing positions on Health Canada's HIV screening practices and Canadian Heritage's current programming guidelines, and distributing questionnaires on social justice issues to both Federal and Provincial election parties.

Networking, collaboration, and partnerships were also a sustained theme, as AMSSA Member Agencies and their community partners came together for several forums. Jointly hosted by the IICC and the CCM, "Understanding the Impacts of Migration in BC" explored strategies for facilitating effective planning in local communities. The "Sponsorship Agreement Holders and Immigrant Serving Organizations Dialogue Forum" brought together both sponsorship agreement holders and immigrant serving organization representatives to ensure better coordination of services for sponsored refugees.



provide leadership in developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with member organizations

Collaboration with our Member Agencies and their community partners has sustained and renewed AMSSA throughout the year, culminating in our first Membership Forum, thanks to a generous contribution from VanCity. The direction and vision articulated by AMSSA member agencies was used as the basis for developing AMSSA strategic priorities for the next three years.

Internal organizational structures were also revisited with a review of all of AMSSA's committees, including an external review of the Immigrant Integration Coordinating Committee. New nominations guidelines were established for the AMSSA board to increase Member Agency participation and involvement, and the AMSSA board manual and policies were reviewed for cultural competency.

Collaborative research included assisting the Feminist Research Education Development Centre with "The Rights of the Girl Child Project," examining the impact of government immigration and refugee policies on girls' and young women's experiences in Canada. AMSSA also collaborated with the BC Human Rights Commission, Canadian Jewish Congress, and Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of BC to host Human Rights Workshops in Kamloops, Trail, and Terrace. Other research projects include "How to Respond to Bias in the Media: An AMSSA Manual," and the development of a "best practices" guide in Long-Term Anti-Racism Strategies, to be used as a primary information resource in guiding the development of locally-specific anti-racism plans in three communities.

support member organizations by providing information, consultation, and education

In response to the directions articulated by our Member Agencies, AMSSA conducted and distributed a needs assessment on AMSSA's communications capacities, as well as a situational analysis on the communications options and directions for AMSSA and the sector as a whole. This research will provide AMSSA with a solid base to assist our members in developing their communication networks at the community and provincial levels.

On an operational level, the AMSSA office has increased the number of "AMSSA Updates," faxes, and broadcast emails distributed to our members. As well, AMSSA assists Member Agencies to post job openings and other information on the AMSSA Website. "Cultures West," AMSSA's newsletter, has been streamlined and updated, making it more appealing and readable. Moving to our new location at 205-2929 Commercial Drive in Vancouver, three blocks from the skytrain, has made the AMSSA offices more accessible.

Board Members

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Gabrielle Martin
Past-President	Tissa Fernando
1st Vice-President	Jean McRae
2nd Vice-President	Iris Yong
Treasurer	Carmela Canino
Members-at-Large	Jane Dickson
	Mary Beth Small

PROVINCIAL BOARD

Narinder Bansal
Sherman Chan
Ambo Dhaliwal
Sandy Dore
William Hamson-Wong
Lee-Anne Ragan
Mark Wexler
Lilian To



L-R: Phil L'Hirondelle (MMI), Lynn Moran, Milton Wong, Gabrielle Martin and Jean Maloney (PIRS) at the AMSSA/PIRS Open House.

...we have worked
to strengthen our connections
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at both community and provincial levels and to
bring people together...

AMSSA Staff

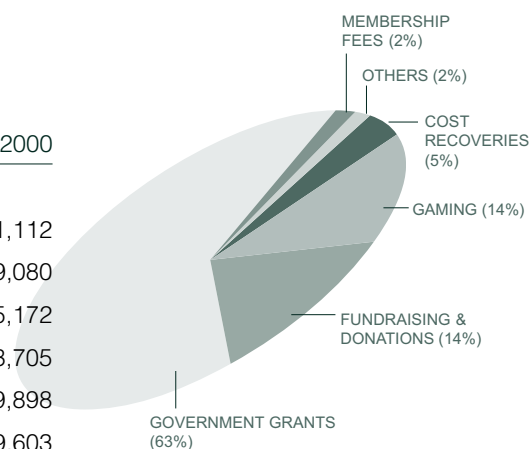
Executive Director	Lynn Moran
Program Director	Tim Welsh
Administrative Assistant	Heather Millar

Contractors

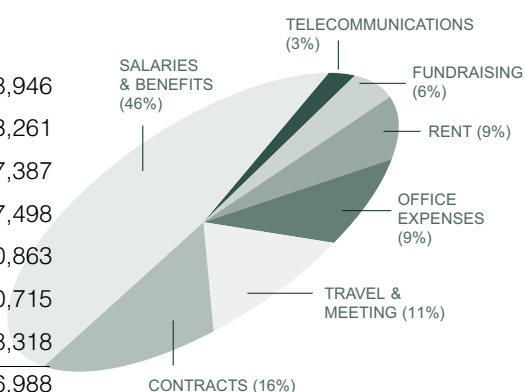
Multifaith Calendar Coordinator	Bernard Bouska
Cultures West Editor	Leslyn Johnson
Human Rights Workshop Coordinator	Jeet Chand
Librarian	Beth Davies
Accountant	Brita Fransvaag

Financials

	2001	2000
REVENUES		
Government grants	\$275,194	\$291,112
Membership fees	10,335	9,080
Fundraising and donations	63,622	65,172
Gaming	60,523	73,705
Cost recoveries	20,421	19,898
Other	8,885	9,603
	<u>\$438,980</u>	<u>\$468,570</u>



EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and benefits	\$208,224	\$198,946
Office expenses	40,675	43,261
Travel & meeting	50,005	77,387
Fundraising	28,147	27,498
Telecommunications	11,689	10,863
Rent	38,842	40,715
Contracts	70,964	58,318
	<u>\$448,546</u>	<u>\$456,988</u>



SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	-\$9,566	\$11,582
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Funders

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

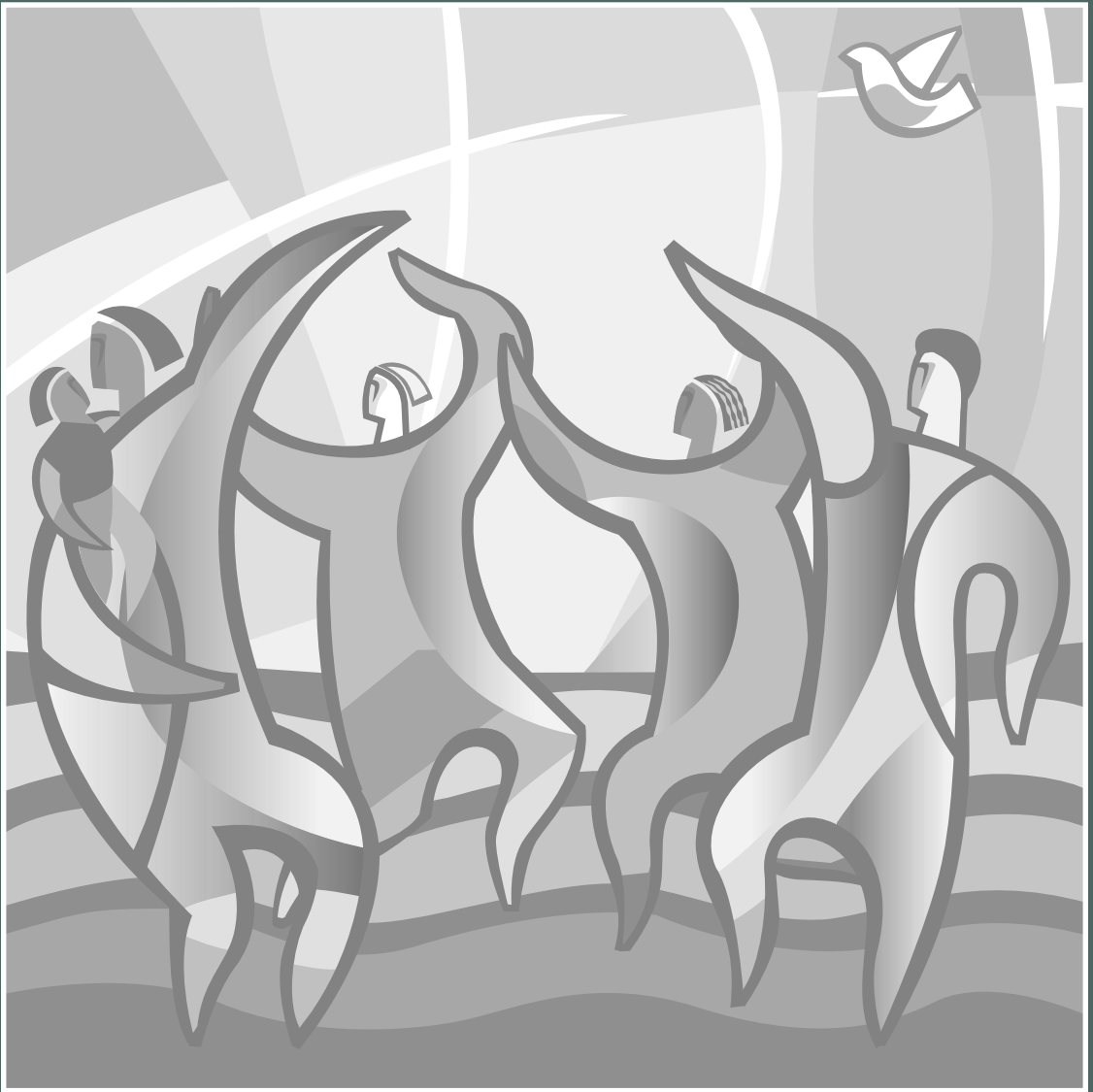
- BC Gaming Commission
- BC Equal Opportunity Secretariat
- BC Human Rights Commission
- BC Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services
- BC Ministry of Multiculturalism & Immigration
- BC Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives, & Volunteers
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada Refugee Sponsorship Training Program
- Department of Canadian Heritage
- VanCity

Member Agencies

AFFILIATION OF MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND SERVICE AGENCIES

- Abbotsford Community Services (ACS)
- Adult Learning Development Association (ALDA)
- Association of BC TEAL (Teachers of English as an Additional Language)
- Association of Neighbourhood Houses of Greater Vancouver (ANH)
- Big Sisters of BC – Lower Mainland
- BC Association of Social Workers (BSASW) – Multiculturalism & Anti-Racism Committee
- BC Heritage Language Association (BCHLA)
- BC Human Rights Coalition (BCHRC)
- BC Settlement and Integration Workers Association (BCSIWA)
- BC Teachers Federation – Social Justice Program (BCTF – SJP)
- Boundary Multicultural Society (BMS)
- Burnaby Multicultural Society (BMS)
- Campbell River & Area Multicultural & Immigrant Services Association (CRMISA)
- Canadian Hispanic Congress (CHC) – BC Chapter
- Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) – Pacific Region
- Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – BC Div.
- Canadian Red Cross – Lower Mainland Region – Abuse Prevention Services (APS)
- Central Okanagan Society of Immigrant & Visible Minority Women (COSIVMW)
- Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (CVIMS)
- Chilliwack Community Services
- Chimo Crisis Services – Richmond
- City of Richmond – Advisory Committee on Intercultural Relations
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH)
- Comox Valley Family Services Association (CVFSA)
- Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS)
- Cowichan Valley Intercultural & Immigrant Aid Society (CVIIAS)
- Crisis Centre – Vancouver
- Families as Support Teams (FAST)
- Family Services of Greater Vancouver (FSGV)
- Fraserside Community Services Society (FCSS)
- Gay & Lesbian Educators of BC (GALE BC)
- Immigrant & Multicultural Services Society (IMSS)
- Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
- Immigrant & Visible Minority Women of BC (IVMW)
- Inland Refugee Society of BC (IRS)
- Institute for Media, Policy & Civil Society (IMPACS)
- Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA)
- Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA)
- Kamloops Cariboo Regional Immigrant Society (KIS)
- Kamloops Multicultural Society (KMS)
- Kiawassa Neighbourhood Services Association
- Langley Family Services Association (LFS)
- Law Courts Education Society (LCES)
- Legal Services Society of BC (LSS)
- Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Society (LMNHS)
- Mennonite Central Committee of BC – Refugee Assistance Program (MCC- RAP)
- Mission Community Services Society (MCSS)
- Multicultural Heritage Society (MHS) – Prince George
- Multicultural Society of Kelowna (MSK) – Immigrant & Community Serving Agency
- Multifaith Action Society (MAS)
- Nisha Family and Children's Services Society
- North Shore Multicultural Society (NSMS)
- OPTIONS: Services to Communities Society – Surrey
- Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS)
- Penticton & District Multicultural Society (PDMS)
- Progressive Inter-Cultural Community Services Society (PICS)
- Public Legal Education Society (People's Law School)
- Quesnel Multicultural Society
- Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society (RMCS)
- Scouts Canada – Provincial
- SUCCESS (United Chinese Community Enrichment Services)
- Social Planning Council – North Okanagan
- Social Planning & Research Council of BC (SPARC)
- Society for Community Development
- Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society (SDISS)
- Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society (TCCS)
- Terrace & District Multicultural Association (TDMA)
- Trail & District Multicultural Society (TDMS)
- Vancouver Association for the Survivors of Torture (VAST)
- Vancouver Citizenship Council (VCC)
- Vancouver Cross-Cultural Seniors Network Society
- Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services (VLMMFSS)
- Vancouver Multicultural Society (VMS)
- Vancouver Society of Immigrant & Visible Minority Women (VSIVMW)
- Vernon & District Immigrant Services Society (VDISS)
- Volunteer Vancouver
- West Coast Domestic Workers' Association (WCDWA)
- Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre – Multicultural & Diversity Services (WMDS)
- Westcoast Coalition for Human Dignity (WCHD)
- YMCA Vancouver International
- YWCA Vancouver International





AFFILIATION OF MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND SERVICE AGENCIES OF BC

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