



The AMSSA Insider

Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC

JULY 2004

HOT TOPICS

BC Settlement Service RFPs

Through late June & July, AMSSA's immigrant serving Member Agencies have continued to prepare their service proposals for the provincial government's competitive "Request for Proposals" settlement service contracting process. Coming to the final stages of the application process, the extended RFP deadlines have been as follows:

Settlement – July 23rd Host/Buddy – July 16th
ELSA (ESL) – July 29th "Blended" – July 16th

AMSSA has continued to ensure that agencies are informed and kept up to date regarding MCAWS' proposal evaluation process, and will monitor the government's proposal evaluation process and outcomes through the rest of the year.

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

AMSSA's RFP Support System

AMSSA has focussed much of its' capacity in supporting ICC members throughout the RFP process. AMSSA has been organizing information, posting all RFP documents and "addenda" on over 40 messages on the ICC web-site, submitting questions to the BC Government for clarification and additional information, and responding to direct information requests from our members by telephone & e-mail. In addition, AMSSA has taken a lead on behalf of ICC members in maintaining communications with senior MCAWS staff, as well as senior staff with Citizenship and Immigration Canada Pacific Region and National Headquarters, regarding the RFP process and possible outcomes.

Free 2004 Multifaith Calendars

In August of 2003, AMSSA received 5000 of its' Multifaith calendars missing the text for the days of the week. These mis-printed calendars could not be sold to our customers, but AMSSA did not want to waste these beautiful calendars. AMSSA decided to instead offer them to their Member Agencies to be given away to ESL students, volunteers and individuals who would not usually be able to purchase a calendar. They served as a learning tool, and were considered a great gift. Almost all 5000 were given away!

WHAT'S UP AT AMSSA?

Working with The Metropolis Project – RIIM

The Metropolis Project is an international forum for interdisciplinary research and public policy development on migration, cultural diversity and challenges of immigrant integration in cities in Canada and internationally. AMSSA has been working in connection with the Metropolis' Centre of Excellence in Vancouver, *Research on Immigration and Integration in the Metropolis* (RIIM). RIIM is one of four

Canadian research centres dedicated to the study of the impact of Canadian immigrants on local economies, the family, educational systems and the physical infrastructure of cities, with a particular focus on Investigating the impact of immigrants in Vancouver. AMSSA has been building a collaborative relationship with RIIM, exchanging academic and community resources and information, becoming a part of their Advisory Group, which takes part in biannual research policy forums, and assisting them in the design of an upcoming Metropolis Project conference in Vancouver.

Upcoming Edition of *Cultures West*

In coordination with The Metropolis Project, AMSSA's fall edition of its semi-annual magazine will provide an in depth look at current new research in the field of migration, immigrant settlement, and multiculturalism in Canada and abroad. This edition will be available in October 2004.

Achieving Equal Access in Health Care

In collaboration with the *Provincial Health Authority's Provincial Language Service Program* and the *National Primary Health Care Transition Fund Initiative*, and with funding provided by Vancouver Foundation, AMSSA's Multicultural Health Committee will strive to improve access to health care in communities outside the Lower Mainland with its' new project, "Achieving Equal Access in Health Care." Research will be conducted through focus group meetings throughout BC that will inform the development of a community delivery model for interpreter services in four British Columbia regions.

Reaching Out to Youth in BC Communities

With the financial assistance from BC Gaming, AMSSA will be extending its' youth anti-racism campaign with its' new project *Promoting Youth Anti-Racism Education in BC Communities*. The project will directly support 10 more BC communities in expanding networks of support for youth, and enabling youth leaders to organize and deliver peer-to-peer anti-racism activities based on AMSSA's newly developed www.RacismSucks.ca youth anti-racism resource package.

The Anti-Racism Directory

AMSSA will be developing an Internet-based directory of anti-racism and multiculturalism expertise in communities throughout BC. AMSSA will be engaging SFU Geography students to carry out the province-wide research in connection with AMSSA staff.

The Multicultural Health Fair

AMSSA's Multicultural Health Committee will be hosting a

one to two-day Multicultural Health Fair during Multiculturalism Week in February 2005 with the theme "Access to Culturally Competent Health Care". It will allow health organizations, health care providers and multicultural and immigrant settlement service agencies the opportunity to exhibit their organizations, showcase their activities related to multicultural health, and participate in panel discussions and workshops on multicultural health issues. The event will also provide an opportunity for organizations and health care providers to network, to inform themselves about current multicultural health initiatives, and to explore access barriers and service gaps in BC's health care system.

DONOR THANK YOU'S ♣

AMSSA would like to give a special thank you to Hydrecs Employee Community Fund for their generous donation!

☆☆☆☆NOT TO BE MISSED!☆☆☆☆

And the AMSSA Riasat Ali Khan Diversity Award Goes To...

Ken McAteer!! Congratulations to Ken in being honored with the 2004 AMSSA Riasat Ali Khan Diversity Award. Volunteering at Scouts Canada for over 45 years, he has made outstanding contributions in the areas of multiculturalism and diversity at Scouts Canada, as well as in his community and province-wide. Ken pioneered and chaired a Task Force on Multiculturalism at Scouts Canada while serving as their Regional Commissioner to Burnaby, and in 1998 transformed it into the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee. He also initiated a Hispanic Outreach Program and acquired funding grants in order to hire Diversity Outreach Workers and a Diversity Coordinator for the BC-Yukon Region. In his community, Ken served as chair of the Advisory Council to the Provincial Minister of Multiculturalism for three years, and helped initiate the Multicultural Home-School Liaison Workers Service in the Burnaby School District. These are just a few of the many great accomplishments that Ken has achieved over the years while generously volunteering his time and energy. To learn more about Ken's community leadership attend the AMSSA Riasat Ali Khan Diversity Award Ceremony at AMSSA's AGM on Friday September 10, 2004 at The Vancouver Museum.

An honorable mention also goes out to Charlayne Thorton-Joe for the great diversity work she has done in her community of Greater Victoria and with the Inter-Cultural Association.

AMSSA's Membership Forum

A reminder to all AMSSA Member Agencies that AMSSA's Membership Forum will be held Friday September 10, 2004 from 12pm to 3:30pm at the Local History Lab of The Vancouver Museum. This will be an opportune occasion to discuss how AMSSA and it's Members can best respond to current funding issues and resulting member needs, as well as guide AMSSA's future direction in the event of funding restructuring.

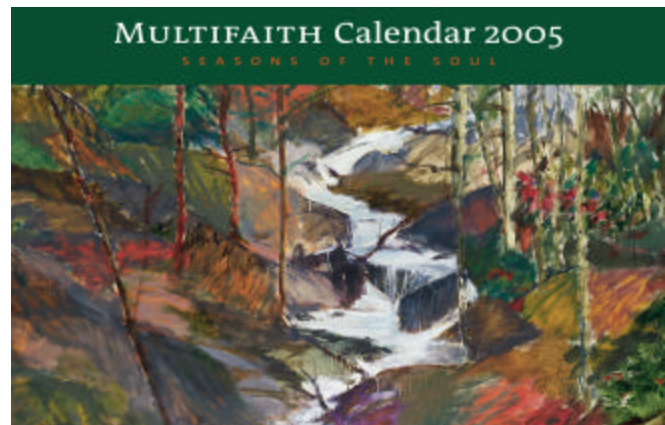
Canadian Ethno-Council Focus Group

Following the June 2004 Federal Election, Elections Canada is sponsoring Canada-wide focus groups in order to collect feedback on the multilingual election information materials that that they disseminated during the election campaign period. The Canadian Ethno-Council will hold such a focus group on Thursday August 12, 2004 with a particular focus on materials that were distributed in BC's East and South Asian communities. AMSSA will be coordinating and hosting this focus group meeting in Vancouver.

Board Election Nominations 2004

Nomination forms have been sent out to full AMSSA Member Agencies to submit nominations for the AMSSA Board of Directors. Forms must be in at the AMSSA Office by Friday July 30th at 4pm. Two Board Members have recently resigned. Regional Rep Stan Smith leaves a vacancy in Region 4/5, and Hazura Sangha leaves a spot open for another Director at Large.

The 2005 Multifaitth Calendar Cover



AMSSA's 2005 Multifaitth Calendar will be available for purchase beginning in August 2004.

IICC Regional Meetings' Schedule

- ⌘ Tuesday **Sept. 14th** - 9am to 1pm - Vancouver Region @ AMSSA
- ⌘ Thursday **Sept. 16th** - 10am to 3pm – Interior Region @ Kelowna Community Resources Society
- ⌘ Tuesday **Sept. 21st** -10am to 3pm - Vancouver Island Region @ Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society
- ⌘ Thursday **Sept. 23rd** - 10am to 3pm -Fraser Valley Region @ Abbotsford Community Services
- ⌘ Tuesday **Nov. 30th** - 9am to 1pm - Vancouver Region @ AMSSA
- ⌘ Thursday **Dec. 2nd** - 10am to 1pm - Interior Region @ Kelowna Community Resources Society
- ⌘ Tuesday **Dec. 7th** -10am to 3pm - Vancouver Is. Region @ Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society
- ⌘ Thursday **Dec. 9th** - 10am to 3pm - Fraser Valley Region @ Abbotsford Community Services

AMSSA's AGM - September 10, 2004

