



The AMSSA Insider

Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC

August 2005

HOT TOPICS

RIASAT ALI KHAN DIVERSITY AWARD

The 2005 Riasat Ali Khan Diversity award will be presented to Mary Hill in recognition of her long standing, extraordinary contribution to diversity and multiculturalism in BC. For the past twenty years Mary has continued to build links among seniors of different cultures and to promote cultural inclusion. Her involvement in activities to promote diversity in British Columbia include: serving on the first Board of the Harry Lin Chin Foundation; Chair of the Special Council Committee on Seniors Task Force to Review Availability and Accessibility of Health and Social Services to Diverse Ethnic Groups in Vancouver. As well Mary worked on the inception and the development of the Vancouver Cross-Cultural Seniors Network Society. Congratulations Mary!

AMSSA SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD

Cecilia Chong, Immigrant Settlement Co-ordinator for Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society, is the recipient of the inaugural AMSSA Service Recognition Award. Cecilia has bridged the gap between immigrants and the larger community by networking one-on-one, collaborating on projects, as well as providing cross-cultural training and information. Her initiatives like the bi-weekly Sports and Games Evenings with Nanaimo Parks and Recreation; the Multicultural Women's Group and the Newcomers Clubs for Men, Women and Youth, are programs that have paved the way for newcomers to the Island for over twenty years. Awesome work Cecilia!

"MULTICULTURAL HEALTH FAIR 2006"

The 2006 *Multicultural Health Fair* will be held February 18th at Collingwood Neighbourhood House from 11am until 5pm. This year's Health Fair theme will focus on promoting healthy living habits and public health safety. Keep informed about the latest developments for the Fair by visiting the AMSSA website: www.amssa.org

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

BCAMP RFP's SUCCESSFUL!!

The Ministry of Attorney General and The Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services recently approved the BC Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism Program (BCAMP) RFP's submitted by AMSSA and the following member agencies:

- ❖ Abbotsford Community Services Society;
- ❖ Campbell River and Area Multicultural and Immigrant Services Society;
- ❖ Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society;
- ❖ Collingwood Neighbourhood House;
- ❖ Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George;
- ❖ Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria;
- ❖ Kamloops Cariboo Regional Immigrant Society;
- ❖ Mission Community Services Society;
- ❖ North Shore Multicultural Society and
- ❖ Vancouver Multicultural Society.

AMSSA's BCAMP will bring Nanaimo's Action Diversity Team's *Safe Harbour Program* to other BC Communities. The *Program* is an original initiative of the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (CVIMS), in partnership with the (ADT). The goal of the project is to encourage municipalities, businesses, and agencies in communities throughout BC to work collaboratively to build safe and inclusive communities that celebrate diversity and reject discrimination. In order to meet this goal AMSSA will adapt Nanaimo's *Safe Harbour Program* package into an accessible resource (Internet download and hard copy versions) that can be flexibly applied in a broad range of communities throughout British Columbia. AMSSA will then directly support five selected communities (where no anti-racism initiatives currently exist) to implement the *Safe Harbour Program*.

STREAM FOUR LOGIC MODEL COMPLETED

The Stream 4 Logic Model and Performance Measures were completed at the end of July. The BC Settlement and Multiculturalism Branch will now determine what process it will design for

contracting of Stream 4 BC Settlement and Adaptation Program (BCSAP) support services in 2006. Currently AMSSA, ELSA Net, BCSIWA and Vancouver Community College receive funding support through Stream 4.

WHAT'S UP AT AMSSA? 🌿

GET YOUR 2006 MULTIFAITH CALENDAR!!

Visit www.amssa.org to order



KAMLOOPS IMMIGRANT SERVICES

AMSSA joins the Board of Directors, Staff and Mr. Carl Rigby, President of Kamloops Cariboo Regional Immigrant Society also known as Kamloops Immigrant Services (KIS), in welcoming Mr. Peter Schwirtz as the new Executive Director. Mr. Schwirtz has replaced Trudy Dirk who retired in July after 25 years developing the settlement and integration services of KIS. Peter brings many years of experience in working with profit and not for profit organizations in the areas of Management, Accounting, Audit, Finance and Economic Development to Kis. We wish Peter every success in his new position!

AMSSA's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AMSSA will be holding their Annual General Meeting Friday, September 16th from 4-6pm in the Joyce Whalley Learning Centre, at the Vancouver Museum. Mr. Zool Suleman will be the key-note speaker. AMSSA will also recognize the winners of the Riasat Ali Khan Diversity Award and the AMSSA Service Recognition Award at the AGM. Please contact Evelyn by phone: (604)-718-2780 or email: amssa@amssa.org if you wish to attend.

IICC SC REPRESENTATION/ MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

A task group comprised of Patricia Woroch, Jean Maloney, Jean McRae, Tim Welsh and Lynn Moran met on July 6, to develop recommendations for new IICC membership criteria and IICC Steering Committee membership criteria and selection guidelines. The draft recommendations were reviewed by the IICC Steering committee at their July meeting and will be reviewed by all IICC members at the September regional meetings.

☆☆☆NOT TO BE MISSED!☆☆☆

FALL EDITION OF CULTURES WEST

This fall's edition of *Cultures West Magazine* will focus exclusively on AMSSA's strong network of member agencies. The goal is to showcase their innovative work to improve the lives of new immigrants and to build an inclusive and prosperous society for everyone in BC. Copies of the magazine may be ordered from the AMSSA office by phone at 604-718-2784 / 1-800-355-5560 or viewed on AMSSA's web-site at www.amssa.org in September.

AMSSA's CELEBRATING

- ❖ A toast goes out to newly weds Brita Fransvaag (AMSSA's Accountant) and Suzanne Dinelle! They were married on July 30th.
- ❖ AMSSA would like to formally welcome Purnima Sharma to their staff. Purnima was recently hired as the Information Co-ordinator for the IICC. Purnima began working in the non-profit multicultural sector as the Anti-Racism Youth Program Co-ordinator at Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society in her home town of Prince George. Since, Purnima has graduated with a degree in International Studies from UNBC and is currently completing a MA in International Studies. Welcome to the team Purnima!