



The AMSSA Insider

Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC

July 2005

HOT TOPICS

“PARTNERING IN HEALTH: A MULTICULTURAL HEALTHFAIR” SUCCESS!!

On February 17, 2005 AMSSA’s Multicultural Health Committee was thrilled to have over 500 guests attend the *Multicultural Health Fair* in Vancouver! Health organizations, health care providers and multicultural and immigrant settlement service agencies from around the province took on the challenge of promoting “*Access to Culturally Competent Health Care*”. Forty-six exhibitors had the opportunity to network, present their organizations, and introduce their multicultural health programs. A panel discussion attended by 150 participants discussed access barriers and service gaps in BC’s health care system. As well, professional interpreters in 8 languages supported members of the general public to access information throughout the fair.



FALL EDITION OF CULTURES WEST

This fall’s edition of *Cultures West* will focus exclusively on AMSSA’s strong network of member agencies and their tireless work to improve the lives of new immigrants and 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 when available. A release date will be posted shortly!

☆☆☆NOT TO BE MISSED!☆☆☆



GET YOUR 2006 MULTIFAITH CALENDAR!!

Available Aug 1

This year’s theme, *The Contemplative Circle*, explores “the role of the circle in religious traditions, and its potential for spiritual reflection, meditative insight, and creative expression.” Calendars may be purchased by order form or by contacting the AMSSA office by phone: 604-718-2784, or email: amssa@amssa.org

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

BC SETTLEMENT AND ADAPTATION PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

In 2004, all direct immigrant services delivered through the BC Settlement and Adaptation Program (*BCSAP*) were re-contracted through competitive “open tendering” processes. Happily, overall IICC (*Immigrant Integration Coordinating Committee*) members fared well, however due to the design of the open tendering processes, some funding was not completely allocated for specific locations and service types. In order to allocate the remaining BCSAP service funding, a second round of open tendering services is underway for the specific locations and service types. The proposal submission deadline was June 23. As with the first tendering processes in 2004, AMSSA will continue to monitor these latest processes, ensure all information is immediately available to their members, identify key issues, and direct questions to the BC Settlement and Adaptation Branch on behalf of the IICC.

KAMLOOPS' SETTLEMENT PIONEER RETIRES

After 25 years developing the settlement and integration services of Kamloops Immigrant Services (KIS), Trudy Dirk, their Executive Director is retiring at the end of July. As a concerned and caring community member, Trudy first began assisting immigrants when the first "Vietnamese Boat People" arrived in the Kamloops area. Today, KIS provides a broad range of settlement services, and collaborates with many service providers for the benefit of all newcomers to the Kamloops region. Trudy also acted as the Interior representative to the IICC Steering Committee since the IICC's inception, and has an open and warm relationship with AMSSA and other immigrant serving organizations throughout BC. Good Luck Trudy!

PROMOTING HEALTHY LIVING IN BC PROJECT SUMMARY

AMSSA continues to implement the *Promoting Healthy Living in BC's Multicultural Communities* project with the goal of supporting effective intercultural communication in the area of public health. This includes access to public health promotion, outreach, prevention, and intervention for multi-ethnic populations, as well as mobilization of key multi-ethnic communities regarding public health emergencies. Partners in the project include health authorities, health organizations, community service agencies, research and educational institutions. Visit AMSSA's Multicultural Health Committee's new website to learn more about their projects: www.amssa.org/multiculturalhealthyliving

POVERTY RESEARCH PROJECT

Dr. Heather Anne Smith, a Ph.D. graduate of UBC is once again collaborating with Dr. David Ley, professor of Urban and Social Geography at UBC. The two have engaged in the revision of a RIIM (*Research on Immigration and Integration in the Metropolis*) funded research project which seeks to explore community based poverty and disadvantage as experienced by various immigrant groups. AMSSA will co-ordinate the focus groups.

WHAT'S UP AT AMSSA?

THE MULTICULTURALISM ANTI-RACISM DIRECTORY

On January 17th 2005, AMSSA launched *The BC Directory of Multiculturalism, Anti-racism Community Expertise*. The directory is internet-based and profiles trainers/facilitators with expertise in multiculturalism and anti-racism. AMSSA now has 37 experts listed in the Directory! To participate, visit AMSSA's website at www.amssa.org and click on "Need Multiculturalism Expertise?"

'RACISM SUCKS' YOUTH PROJECT COMPLETED!!

AMSSA has recently wrapped up the 'Racism Sucks' Youth Project that began in 2003. The fundamental goal of the project was to promote youth anti-racism education in BC communities.

In January 2005 over sixty BC youth participated in 5-hour training sessions that focussed primarily on "anti-racism strategies, network building, and development of specific anti-racism activities." As a result of the training component, the youth participants were encouraged by their communities to develop and on March 21 deliver *International Day of the Elimination of Racism* anti-racism activities directed toward their peers. The following are samples of projects identified by youth participants in communities:

- ❖ South Vancouver: Banner Art Project- colourful banners which reflect the diversity of South Vancouver's neighbourhood and businesses are displayed in the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House.
- ❖ Williams Lake: To address an incident of prejudice and discrimination and to raise community awareness through a series of newspaper articles have been produced.

For resources and to learn more about the 'Racism Sucks' Youth project. Visit AMSSA's website at www.racismsucks.ca

DEVELOPING A LOGIC MODEL FOR AMSSA'S IICC SERVICES

The BC Settlement and Multiculturalism Branch, which now falls under the authority of the BC Attorney General, is in the process of developing a *Logic Model and Performance Measures* for all BC Settlement and Adaptation *Sectoral Support services*. *Sectoral Support services* include networking, resource development and sharing, government and other external communications, and professional development which supports organizations and staff delivering direct settlement services to immigrants.

As the provider of *Sectoral Support services* to the BC *Immigrant Integration Co-ordinating Committee (IICC)*, AMSSA has been invited by the Branch to actively participate in development of the *Logic Model and Performance Measures*. AMSSA will be joined in this task by ELSA Net, the BC Settlement and Integration Workers' Association, and Vancouver Community College. The work will be completed this Summer.