



The Insider

November 2013

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AMSSA's By-Law Amendments

The AMSSA Board of Directors noted that the By-Laws around membership had not been revised since 1999 and needed to be reviewed, updated and clarified. The amendments to the By-Laws consisted of changes to the language, clarification of the membership application process and membership categories, and re-numbering and re-lettering of the sections accordingly.

On September 27, 2013, at AMSSA's Annual General Meeting, AMSSA's Full Organizational Members voted on proposed By-Law Amendments. Full Organizational Members who were not in attendance voted in advance.

Out of 19 votes, the results were 100% in favour of the AMSSA By-Law Amendments. The amended By-Laws were filed with the Registrar of Companies on October 23, 2013 and are now in effect.

Vision 2020 National Settlement Conference

Given the extent of recent immigration policy changes, CIC is convening the 'Vision 2020 National Settlement Conference' on November 13-15, 2013 in Ottawa to consult with settlement sector delegates from across Canada. The conference will provide an opportunity to learn about the future directions of the National Settlement Program, and provide input to CIC regarding regional priorities. As the first National Settlement Conference to take place in over a decade, this conference aims to facilitate the national conversation that will guide future settlement initiatives.



Immigrant newcomer families usually arrive in good health, but with time their health tends to deteriorate due to the stresses involved in the settlement process, language and cultural barriers, financial problems, and in many cases, lack of social support from their families or their communities.

We invite you to visit a new section of the AMSSA website which provides access to a comprehensive list of multilingual resources intended to help immigrant newcomer families to maintain and / or improve their health status and well being. View the section [here](#).

Upcoming Event



Join employers and community members to celebrate provincial diversity champions at the **5th annual Safe Harbour Champions' Breakfast!**

When: 7:30am, Tuesday, November 19, 2013
Venue: The Arbutus Ballroom, Holiday Inn, 711 West Broadway, Vancouver

In preparation for the conference, 182 immigrant serving organizations from all of BC's regions were asked to identify key recommendations for BC's 58 delegates to bring forward to the National Settlement Conference. Feedback from these organizations was compiled through an online survey and regional networking meetings, facilitated by AMSSA.

AMSSA Regional Meetings

AMSSA hosted a series of Regional Meetings from October 24 to November 5, 2013. The in-person meetings are a unique networking opportunity for settlement service providers from across the province. Attendees were updated on potential upcoming changes to client eligibility within the settlement program, and provided feedback on a strategy document on how to best ensure clients service continuity once settlement services have been transitioned to federal oversight in April 2014. In addition, the attendees reviewed the themes of the upcoming CIC 'Vision 2020 National Settlement Conference' and discussed regional priorities and trends that affect their local communities. The participants were given the opportunity to identify issues and recommendations to be brought forward to the Vision 2020 National Settlement Conference.

The regional meetings took place on the following dates:

- Kelowna (BC North / Interior) – October 24
- Vancouver Island – October 29
- Metro Vancouver – November 1
- Fraser Valley – November 5

AMSSA gratefully acknowledges the Government of Canada and the Province of BC for their financial support, as well as the presenters for sharing their knowledge and expertise.

Safe Harbour's Inclusion Café Series

AMSSA, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, South Burnaby Neighbourhood House

Keynote Speaker: Tej Singh Hazra, Head of Diversity & Inclusion, HSBC Bank Canada

*Purchase your tickets today by contacting Melissa Jay, AMSSA: 604.718.2780 | amssa@amssa.org

Title Sponsor: Vancity
Community Sponsor: Canada Safeway

New Edition of Cultures West

In September 2013, AMSSA released Volume 31 of the Cultures West Magazine: Housing Challenges for Immigrants and Refugees.

Read the latest edition and previous editions of the Cultures West Magazine [here](#).

Get Ready for 2014 with a Multifaith Calendar!



The Multifaith Calendar promotes intercultural understanding by giving you insight into important dates and facts about 14 of the world's major religions and spiritual paths.

Containing original artwork, the Multifaith Calendar would be a great gift for your family, friends, clients and colleagues.

Learn more about the Multifaith Calendar [here](#).

Order online through the [AMSSA Store](#) or send an order form to amssastore@amssa.org.

and Burnaby Family Life, in partnership with the Vancouver Public Library, the Burnaby Public Library and the City of Vancouver, hosted three **Inclusion Cafés** recently to focus attention on different aspects of inclusion. The Cafés generated a deeper understanding of diversity and inclusion in our workplaces and communities by examining the impacts of stereotypes, exclusion, and discrimination on diverse members of our communities and by sharing inclusive practices and policies across sectors.

Safe Harbour: Respect for All Program Updates

AMSSA's National Safe Harbour program now supports the Yukon College, the City of Winnipeg, the City of Brandon and the Association of New Canadians in St. John's, Newfoundland to advance their goals to create an inclusive community.

We are now delivering Safe Harbour certification workshops to organizations and businesses outside of our community network in person or by webconference. Please contact Lindsay Marsh, Safe Harbour Program Coordinator for details at: lmash@amssa.org.

Be sure to follow Safe Harbour on Twitter [@SafeHarbourCdn](#) and Like our [Facebook page!](#)

Respect for All – Pass It On

www.safeharbour.ca



Introducing AMSSA's Board of Directors

AMSSA is happy to introduce the AMSSA Board of Directors for 2013 - 2014 elected at AMSSA's AGM on September 27, 2013:

Executive Committee:

Carol Wutzke, Past President
Jean McRae, President
Alisa Choi Darcy, 1st Vice President
Rachel Blaney, 2nd Vice President
Colleen Chong, Treasurer
Catherine Ducharme, Member at Large
Pradeep Khare, Member at Large

Board of Directors:

Jane Dickson, Region1: North
Keith Dennison, Region 1: North
Riminder Gakhal, Region 2: Mid Central
Andrew O'Brien, Region 2: Mid Central
Alison Gutrath, Region 4: Fraser Valley
Bill Dartnell, Region 4: Fraser Valley
Lily Chen, Region 5: Lower Mainland
Raminder Pal Singh Kang, Individual Director at Large
Berta I. Lopera, Individual Director at Large

Staff Movement

A warm welcome goes to Karen Coulson, AMSSA's Diversity Health Fair Coordinator.

To learn more about the Vancouver Diversity Health Fair please visit our website [here](#).

Quick Links

[AMSSA Website](#)

[AMSSA Research Database](#)

[AMSSA Healthy Living Resources](#)

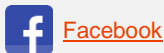
[Cultures West Magazine](#)

[Safe Harbour: Respect for All](#)

[Safe Harbour: Respect for All Blog](#)

[2013 Multifaith Calendars](#)

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