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OUR 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.

A Special Thank You
AMSSA would like to acknowledge the commitment and support of the following funders and donors who have made significant financial contributions throughout the past year. This support has enabled AMSSA to maintain quality service and better serve its members.

FUNDERS
Canadian Heritage
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada
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BC Ministry of Attorney General
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BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
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Organizations
Legal Services Society of BC
Genesis Matrix

Our Vision
AMSSA believes in a just and equitable society which values Canada’s cultural diversity.
Is immigration good for Canada during an economic downturn? How is the economic tsunami impacting immigrants in BC? These are very important questions not just to AMSSA’s member agencies, but also to BC employers, communities, academics and government policy makers.

Many “developed” countries are responding to our global economic uncertainty by moving to curb immigration. This is a classic knee-jerk reaction. In Canada and BC, government and private sector leaders are sending clear messages that reducing immigration may be just the wrong thing to do.

The key point is that our changing demographic balance – Canadians’ increasing average age – is a long-term issue that may ultimately hobble an economic recovery and limit Canada’s economic and social development for decades to come. It is being called our Grey Tsunami.

“The demographic challenge facing developed nations is expected to dwarf the cost of recent financial stimulus” read a recent Globe and Mail headline. Organizations such as the CD Howe Institute and the International Monetary Fund agree: Our economic and social development for decades to come. It is being called our Grey Tsunami.

Vancouver’s Fifth Annual Diversity Health Fair was a great success and regional fairs in Abbotsford, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Vernon and Victoria were equally well attended. An important addition to the Fairs was a new diabetes prevention resources supporting newcomers. These materials, and others posted at www.amssa.org/healthyliving, were developed by AMSSA, in collaboration with member agencies, Vancouver Coastal Health, Canadian Diabetes Association and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

AMSSA collaborated with SPARC-BC on the Integration Needs and Collaborative Strategies Project, gathering information about immigrants who still seek settlement services after more than five years. AMSSA also launched the research report Inventory and Analysis of Community Services for Immigrants and Refugees in BC, working with a MITACS practicum student.

BC’s first centralized, web-based resource to support immigrant settlement staff, Settlement Net, was launched and orientation sessions held across the province to ensure frontline workers could access the site.

AMSSA supported member agencies to deliver workshops to Temporary Foreign Workers and their employers on BC Employment Standards. And, in partnership with ELSA Net and Legal Services Society, AMSSA delivered Labour Market Focus service training to frontline settlement service providers.

This year’s editions of Cultures West had especially timely themes: Our Invisible Workforce: Temporary Foreign Workers in BC (Fall 08) and Promoting Mental Health for Immigrants and Refugees (Spring 09).

And a warm welcome to new members TRAC Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre and Community Adult Literacy and Learning Society (CALLS).