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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
Service Canada

BC Ministry of Attorney General
BC Ministry of Labour and Citizen Services
BC Ministry of Advanced Education & Labour Market Development
BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

City of Vancouver

S.P.A.R.C. of BC

DIVERSITY HEALTH FAIR SPONSORS

Coast Capital Savings
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Pharmacy at Safeway
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Mary Kean
Farah Kotadia
Kathie Landry

Mason Loh
Gary Snider
Emese Szucs
Tina Ng
Carol Wutzke

Organizations

Legal Services Society of BC
Genesis Matrix



AMSSA

Affiliation of Multicultural Societies
and Service Agencies of BC

Diversity Health Fair

Promoting Healthy Living

AMSSA
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La foire de santé de diversité

Hội Chợ Sức Khỏe Đa Dạng

多元化健康展 Feria de la diversidad y salud ਵੈਨ-ਸੁਵੈਨਾ ਸਿਹਤ ਮੇਲਾ

건강 다양성 박람회 امور بهداشتی و سلامت

OUR VISION

AMSSA believes in a just and equitable society which values Canada's cultural diversity.

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.



Annual Report

Affiliation of Multicultural Societies
and Service Agencies of BC

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President's Message

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 challenges with aging may make this economic downturn seem minor in comparison, and we need to keep doing all we can to prepare for the Grey Tsunami. While immigration alone cannot solve the problem, it can help.

But we know that immigrants have difficulty finding suitable employment even in the best of times. Now AMSSA's member agencies confirm media reports that immigrants are often first to lose their jobs in hard times. Therefore, AMSSA and its members are now working extra hard to support B. C. newcomers through this economic malaise. Although BC is projected to recover early from the economic downturn, it is only with the appropriate immigration policies and effective settlement services to build our labour force, tax base, and communities, that we can ensure not just our prosperity but that of our children's



Executive Director's Report

This has been an exciting and busy year in the sector. Increased funding has allowed for more innovative services to the immigrant community and themes of expansion, innovation and collaboration mark AMSSA's work with its members to ensure that British Columbia is a welcoming new home for immigrants.

Safe Harbour Respect for All is now active in 26 communities and 550 locations across BC and is gaining strength and visibility in Alberta. Complete information about the program is at www.safeharbour.ca.



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 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 front-line 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)

Financial Report

REVENUES	2009	2008
Government Grants	1,045,967	762,696
Foundation Grants	30,495	53,044
Membership Fees	8,975	10,700
Fundraising & Donations	90,793	118,897
Gaming	42,704	47,574
Cost Recoveries	19,850	20,113
Other	6,793	4,986
	1,245,577	1,018,010

EXPENDITURES	2009	2008
SALARIES & BENEFITS	402,628	298,494
OFFICE EXPENSES	51,638	74,885
TRAVEL & MEETING	73,318	48,905
FUNDRAISING	51,784	59,148
TELECOMMUNICATION	13,738	12,552
RENT	51,726	47,995
CONTRACTS	544,571	415,950
PROGRAMS	48,668	23,103
	1,238,071	981,032

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	2009	2008
	7,506	36,978

