AMSSA®
Strengthening Diversity In BC

Tania Jarzebiak
BC NDP
320-34 West 7th Ave Vancouver,
BC V5Y 1L6

Dear Tania Jarzebiak,

The Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies (AMSSA) and the 87 service provider agencies throughout BC that comprise its membership are reaching out regarding the upcoming provincial election. As a provincial umbrella organization, we represent small, medium and large-sized service providing organizations across the province. We want to better understand BC NDP's key priorities and the actions they will take to improve the lives of all British Columbians.

To that end, we have the following questions:

1. Newcomers are an integral part of Canadian society, actively contributing to the enrichment of their communities by bringing diverse talent and unique cultural knowledge and experience, representing numerous opportunities for economic growth and social development. **How does your party envision immigration in BC in the next five years? What actions will they take to support newcomer integration and retention?**

2. Many rural and smaller centres are reporting intense labour shortages due to BC's aging population, the decline in the workforce participation rate at a time with international competition for highly skilled working age talent is growing, and the sudden decrease of temporary workers. **What is your party's strategy to strengthen immigration and bolster BC's workforce?**

3. Newcomers are part of, use and are affected by all government policies, not just immigration policies and too often, they are used as convenient scapegoats for broader systems issues such as housing, and healthcare. **How will your party communicate about immigration and newcomers while addressing legitimate capacity pressures and recognizing newcomers' contributions to BC's economy and communities?**

4. The Province of BC currently provides key support for services enabling newcomer settlement so they can better participate in the social and economic fabric in BC. **What specific actions would your party take to ensure that B.C.'s settlement and integration sector has stable, sustainable and responsive funding to meet the changing needs of newcomers and communities?**

5. As residential school denialism continues to be on the rise, advancing knowledge of our history and pursuing Truth and Reconciliation is increasingly vital to the social well-being of BC. **How will your party prioritize Truth and Reconciliation and strengthen relationships with Indigenous and First Nations communities in BC?**

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About AMSSA

AMSSA is a provincially and nationally recognized sector leader advancing equitable settlement, integration, and belonging through systems, leadership, cross-sector collaboration, policy influence, and sector capacity building. This includes developing crucial programming and resources, providing fundamental professional development opportunities for service providers, strengthening the overall knowledge of the sector by acting as a central resource hub, advancing key research, messaging and lived experiences to better inform policy, and convening numerous committees and working groups to strengthen and expand essential networks.

As the provincial umbrella for the settlement and integration sector of BC, AMSSA supports more than 85 member agencies across all regions of the province (the North, the Interior, Fraser Valley, Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island). The breadth of our membership means that we have a keen insight into the opinions, needs, and priorities of both the large, urban settlement organizations across the Lower Mainland as well as the small and medium-sized centres located in more rural areas of the province.

AMSSA's mission is to facilitate collaborative leadership, knowledge exchange and partner engagement to support agencies that serve immigrants and build culturally inclusive communities.

The Role of Settlement Services

Settlement services are a crucial part in how newcomers experience settlement and begin to integrate into their new lives in BC. Immigrants and refugees are best supported through a resilient and comprehensive system of settlement and resettlement support services and BC's non-profit and community-based organizations have the unique ability to provide desperately needed holistic and accessible services. Now is the time to be better and live up to Canada's reputation on providing a welcoming and safe environment that celebrates diversity and provides settlement services that addresses newcomer needs in a holistic and compassionate manner and enables them to thrive in BC's labour market.

Our intention is to share your responses back with our membership organizations one week prior to the election date. For that reason, we would appreciate receiving your response on or by Thursday, October 15th 2026.

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If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at (604) 718-2781, by e-mail at dbadesha@gmail.com or by mail (see letterhead for address).

AMSSA and our Member Agencies look forward to your response and to future opportunities for connection and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Daljit Gill-Badesha
Chief Executive Officer

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