



Calgary Immigrant Aid Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

30 Years

Of Making a Difference in the Lives of Immigrants





Calgary Immigrant Aid Society

Vision

Immigrants and their families will have equal opportunity to participate fully in an open, inclusive Canadian society.

Mission Statement

The Calgary Immigrant Aid Society is dedicated to ensuring that immigrants and their families have the opportunity to become full participants, both as beneficiaries and contributors, in Canadian society.

Operational Mission

The Calgary Immigrant Aid Society is a comprehensive settlement agency that supports the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees in the Calgary community. The Society works in partnership with other service providers in the area of diversity and inclusion.

Values

The Calgary Immigrant Aid Society is committed to the values of equity, inclusion, diversity and accountability.

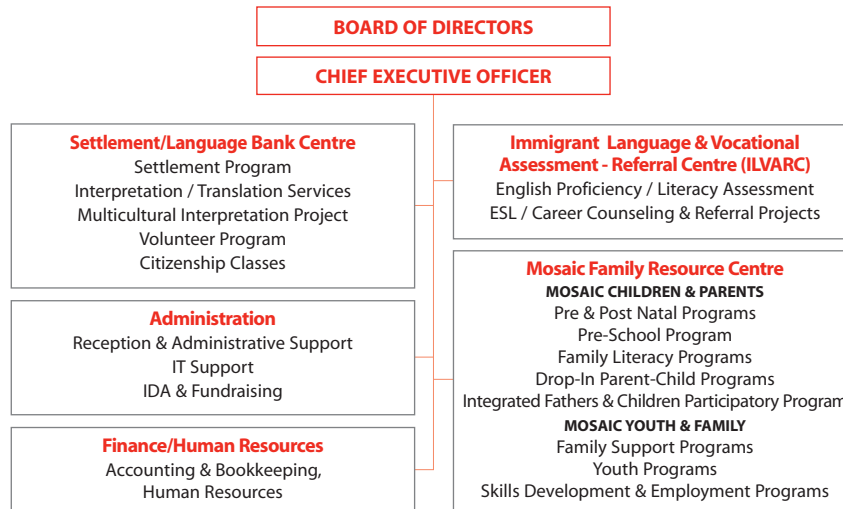


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SERVICE AREAS

First Language Support in Settlement Process

CIAS' Settlement and Language Bank Centre addresses the unique challenges faced by each immigrant group, especially those in underserved communities experiencing multiple barriers. Settlement counsellors carry out comprehensive assessments to identify the needs of new immigrants and facilitate equal access to services and resources. Clients are encouraged to participate in a variety of programs that help address their core settlement needs. Conducted by staff and/or volunteers, these programs include group workshops and individual sessions in immigrants' first language or simple English. Settlement Services works in partnership with three levels of government, the volunteer sector and the community. Settlement Services also partners with other agencies to provide additional services such as mental health, legal seminars, education, skill-building workshops and information on community resources.

Interpretation and Translation

CIAS' Language Bank facilitates access for immigrants to community services by providing high quality interpretation and translation services. The Language Bank helps immigrants access critical community services to resolve their education, housing, legal, health, family, and employment issues. Translation and interpretation are provided in over 70 languages with the help of well-trained Language Bank volunteers.

Language and Vocational Assessment-Referral

The Immigrant Language & Vocational Assessment – Referral Centre (ILVARC) provides centralized assessment and referral services in clients' first language and English to help immigrants achieve their linguistic, educational and vocational goals. ILVARC assesses immigrants' first language literacy and English

proficiency, determines their eligibility for the federal Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) program and refers them to LINC / ESL programs and other training opportunities such as skills for work and career employment assistance programs. ILVARC also provides education counselling, career planning, and information on accreditation procedures and job search.

Family Programs and Youth Employment

The Mosaic Family Resource Centre provides two streams of programming: the Mosaic Children and Parent Centre and the Mosaic Youth and Family Centre. The Children and Parent Centre provides innovative holistic programming for parents and children under six years aimed at decreasing social isolation and increasing the social network and well being of the whole family. The Youth and Family Centre supports immigrant and refugee youth and families in the area of lifestyle support, prevention of family violence, skill building and employment placement.

Volunteer Opportunities

CIAS' unique Volunteer Program provides benefits to both volunteers and the agency. It extends the agency's limited resources while enhancing the integration of immigrants into Canadian society. Volunteers are a vital aspect of the agency's success and exemplify its integrated model of operation. Over 400 volunteers, both Canadian-born and immigrant, maximize CIAS' efforts and help make Calgary a welcoming community. The majority of these volunteers assist with the Language Bank, providing translation and interpretation in over 70 languages to help clients access community services and facilitate their integration into Canadian society.

HIGHLIGHTS

QUICK FACTS – 2006-07

Number of CIAS clients.....	16,455
Number of CIAS volunteers.....	435
Number of volunteer hours	24,860
Number of languages spoken by clients	89
Number of countries of origin for clients.....	117
Number of business partners.....	68
Number of CIAS workshops for clients.....	404

Two Units for Mosaic Family Resource Centre

In response to an increasing demand for services, the Mosaic Family Resource Centre was split into two units, each headed by its own manager. The Children and Parent Centre focuses on programming and support for parents with young children, while the Youth and Family Centre provides programming and support for youth and families. The division of duties and the addition of a new manager better allow for the proactive development of new services. In addition, two new programs for at-risk youth were launched:

- The Multicultural Youth Street Smart Program
- The Multicultural Tobacco Prevention and Education Project

Healthy Start

The Best Beginning program offered through a partnership with the Calgary Health Region since July 2005 was renamed Healthy Start Calgary to differentiate it from Best Beginning programs offered throughout the city. Healthy Start Calgary provides both pre and post-natal programming for immigrant mothers. Promotional materials for the program were updated and translated into additional languages. These materials can be found at CIAS' offices, as well as at various Calgary Health Region locations throughout the city, in medical clinics and in doctors' offices.

This program has been very successful with over 200 pre and post-natal families receiving support and services since the beginning of the program. Feedback from the participants demonstrates the value of this program to immigrant families.

Providing In-Home Support to Immigrant and Refugee Families

This year, the CIAS Multicultural In-Home Support Program assisted over 129 children from 38 families representing 16 languages. As the need for In-home support services increases each year so does the complexity of issues families face. To address many of the complex issues facing some of the families requiring In-home services, the Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority will be collaborating with CIAS to provide an innovative High Fidelity Wraparound approach to assist high needs immigrant and refugee families and prevent children from coming into and/or continuing in care with the authority.

Language Assessments Expanded

ILVARC now offers the following different streams of assessments:

- Basic assessment and referral to determine eligibility for LINC/ESL and other skill training programs
- Assessments for employment purposes
- Assessments for clients referred by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry contracted service providers
- Assessments for foreign-trained teachers seeking accreditation
- Assessments for foreign-trained nurses seeking accreditation
- Assessments for the enhanced language training programs for clients with stronger language skills seeking employment



30 YEARS OF HELPING IMMIGRANTS

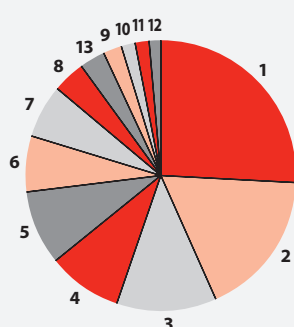
Making a difference in the lives of immigrants

- 1977** A group of concerned citizens formed Calgary Immigrant Aid Society, the first incorporated settlement agency in the city, funded by Mount Royal College.
- 1978** Agencies and governments provided additional funding for two full-time staff.
- 1979** In response to the influx of 50,000 refugees from Asia, CIAS organized interagency meetings with over 30 community agencies and hired two Asian settlement workers.
- 1980** Two new positions were created in recognition of the demand for services. Public education began with the publication of a monthly newsletter.
- 1981** The provincial government funded the Settlement Program.
- 1982** Grants from the Secretary of State allowed more public education and outreach work, for example, advocating for more ethnocultural staff in mainstream agencies. CIAS established its Citizenship Program.
- 1984** CIAS received the Agency of the Year award from United Way.
- 1985** ILVARC was established.
- 1986** Research projects included a study of Spanish-speaking families that sparked the beginning of preventative services offered by CIAS.
- 1993** CIAS moved to modern offices; the Carver model of governance was adopted by the Board.
- 1994** The Mosaic Family Resource Centre was established.
- 1997** The Immigrants of Distinction Awards (IDA) was launched in celebration of CIAS' 20th anniversary. A comprehensive assessment of Cambodian clients helped expand programs offered through the Mosaic Family Resource Centre.
- 1998** Research on inland migrants was conducted. The Calgary Multicultural Healthcare Initiative was launched to develop a framework for accessible and equitable health care.
- 2002** CIAS won the United Way's Spirits of Gold Diversity Award.
- 2003** CIAS began to focus on skills development to better assist newcomers in participating in the economy.
- 2005** Chief Executive Officer, Hadassah Ksienski, received an Alberta Centennial Medal in recognition of her outstanding service to the people and province of Alberta.

Thank You to Funders

CIAS receives funding from federal, provincial and municipal governments, organizations and non-profit groups. The support of our funders is vital for our operations. We are sincerely grateful for the financial support that makes our work possible.

CIAS FUNDING 2006-2007



1. Citizenship & Immigration Canada	26.0%	\$ 1,280,924
2. Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry.....	17.4%	\$ 860,235
3. Public Health Agency of Canada	11.8%	\$ 581,000
4. United Way of Calgary & Area.....	9.2%	\$ 445,546
5. Service Canada	9.0%	\$ 433,123
6. IDA/Casino	6.5%	\$ 320,345
7. Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority	6.4%	\$ 313,898
8. The City of Calgary (FCSS)	4.0%	\$ 198,533
9. Alberta Advanced Education & Technology.....	2.1%	\$ 104,838
10. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.....	1.7%	\$ 86,241
11. Health Canada	1.6%	\$ 77,825
12. Corporations (Talisman Energy Inc., Nexen Inc.).....	1.4%	\$ 68,000
13. Others: Alberta Lottery Fund, Calgary Foundation, Calgary Learns	2.9%	\$ 145,112
		\$ 4,935,620

Report from the Board

Monica Rovers, *Chair*

“Dynamic” describes the 2006-2007 year at Calgary Immigrant Aid Society. The rapid growth of the Alberta economy significantly impacted the immigrant population in Calgary in areas such as housing and employment. As one of the fastest growing cities in Canada, Calgary continued to be the largest recipient of immigrants in Alberta and the fourth largest in Canada. According to Alberta’s new immigration policy “Supporting Immigrants and Immigration to Alberta”, it is expected that 24,000 immigrants will be arriving in Alberta every year, and Calgary is a major attraction of the province. In addition, due to the prospering economy, many inland migrants are moving into Calgary from other provinces.

To help address this growing need, in 2006-2007, CIAS began to implement a new strategic plan, which includes the creation of a fund development plan to promote the sustainability of the agency and its volunteers. Our fund development theme “Diversity Works” is meant to communicate the benefits of a multicultural society to potential funders, donors and the business community. An associated communication plan for the entire organization will help reach out to potential clients who may benefit from our services, and in general increase awareness and support of both CIAS and Calgary’s immigrant community. We would like to replicate the success of our agency’s reputation in China, where many immigrants are already aware of our services before they arrive in Canada.

Recognizing that our reputation is built through stories and experiences of the individuals we assist, working with all of our partners, we remain committed to excellence in all of our programs and services for individuals and families. To that end, the entire team at

CIAS works everyday and is committed to supporting and meeting the increasing needs of these valued contributors to our community—something we could not do without the support, commitment and trust of the organizations who provide funding for our agency and our services. Our funders have been supportive by providing new multi-year funding contracts, which in turn, allow us to plan and better respond to the needs of Calgary’s newest members. This is vital to the future and the sustainability of our organization and the services we provide, and as such, we would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thanks and recognition to all of our funders, sponsors, donors and other supporters for believing in us.

We are also very appreciative of the support of the Alberta Government represented by the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, CM, AOE Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and the Honourable Iris Evans, Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry, who were both special guests at the Immigrants of Distinction Awards (IDA) on March 16, 2007. A special thank you and recognition also goes to our CEO, Hadassah Ksienski, our management, staff and many volunteers, who have all shown their dedication and passion for improving the quality of life of our clients.

Finally, I would also like to personally thank all of the members of the Board of Directors for their vision and insight in helping the agency make progress in this year of challenges and opportunities.

As we start a new year, and celebrate our 30th anniversary as an organization, we can all look forward to another successful 30 years and beyond building on the strong foundation, which we have laid together for CIAS during this past year.

Report from the Chief Executive Officer

Hadassah Ksienski, *CEO*

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While each year the bar seems to get set higher, through innovation and collaboration, we are able to accomplish more. During 2006-07, we extended services to even more immigrants and refugees. For example, through enhanced partnerships with Calgary Immigrant Educational Society and the North McKnight Resource Centre, we increased our presence in the areas of the community where there has been an identified need. We are grateful for additional funding we received mid-year from both the federal and provincial governments to help us reduce the waiting list for assessment and referrals. We also received some targeted funding from the United Way of Calgary and Area to research some of the issues related to the growing number of inland migrants.

Examples of significant activities this past year are:

- The split of the Mosaic Family Resource Centre into two units. The Mosaic Children and Parent Centre focuses on programming and support for parents with children (0-6), while the Mosaic Youth and Family Centre provides comprehensive programming and support for multi-barriered youth and families in crisis.
- The creation of Public Service Announcements by CTV to promote CIAS to potential clients and celebrate the benefits of diversity.
- The addition of a new English language assessment tool, called CELBAN, for foreign-trained nurses.
- Additional resources were received mid-year to address employment readiness issues. The establishment of a pilot 'Host' program to match volunteers with new immigrants for long-term integration.
- We have taken the first steps to identify the scope of a new database to help us better meet our present and future needs.

In October, the Board and Senior Management Team Retreat had a sole topic to address: fund development. As a first step, a monthly giving campaign is being created to target donors. We are grateful for the growing recognition from the business community of the benefits of immigration. We have more business partners than ever before. Some special partners include Nexen Inc. and Talisman Energy Inc., who have provided funding for specific projects.

We are also taking time to celebrate. It has been 30 years since CIAS first started 'making a difference in the lives of immigrants'. In addition to our annual IDA, we are planning to hold an open house, create special opportunities for recognition of volunteers and staff, and build a financial legacy for the agency that will help us continue our important work well into the future.

We are pleased to mark this important milestone in our history. Thirty years is a long time in a young city like Calgary. During times of a significant change, organizations come and go. The fact that our organization has withstood the test of time is a credit to our supportive funders, our forward-looking Board of Directors, hard-working staff and dedicated volunteers. To another 30 years!

Monica Rovers and
Hadassah Ksienski



Settlement/Language Bank Centre

SETTLEMENT SERVICES

Number of clients served.....	3417
Number of countries of origin	117
% of clients in Canada for less than one year.....	49.9%

LANGUAGE BANK

Number of Language Bank volunteers.....	350
Number of volunteer hours	7734
Number of languages.....	74
Number of translations in 2006-07	1133
Number of interpretations in 2006-07	553

Inland Migrants Project

Increasing numbers of immigrants from other parts of Canada are moving to Calgary to take advantage of the province's economic boom. However, many of these migrants are unable to access federal funding because they have lived too long in Canada. As a result, they face a variety of challenges, including poverty. During 2006-07, CIAS obtained funding from the United Way of Calgary and Area for a short-term project to investigate the barriers and challenges that inland migrants face in Calgary. This project includes conducting community consultations, and developing a problem-solving strategy jointly with other social service providers, educational institutions and the business community.

Employment Needs

Mid-year, additional financial resources were received to help address immigrant-related employment issues. Employment readiness programs are being developed with these funds. For example, TD Canada Trust provided an orientation for new immigrants looking for careers in banking.

Capacity Building

A number of initiatives have helped Settlement/Language Bank Centre address the growing demand for services. For example, a number of new staff positions were implemented:

- A cross-cultural/outreach facilitator to reach out to underserved communities and to conduct cross-cultural training for mainstream organizations
- A settlement coordinator and senior settlement counsellor to facilitate staff training, supervision and to assist the department manager
- An employment counsellor to help clients in job search activities
- A full-time intake worker to improve access to settlement services for new clients

This year CIAS capacity to serve clients in their native language increased including the ability to serve francophone clients. The number of languages provided for the Multilingual Interpretation Program for the Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority also increased. This program provides interpretation assistance for clients involved in child welfare cases.

Capacity building also occurred through forging partnerships with other organizations. This past year, Settlement referred clients and received referrals through the city-wide 211 information service. Citizenship classes were offered in the community through partnerships with the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society and the North of McKnight Resource Centre.

Finally the Language Bank implemented a new and improved intake system that has reduced waiting time for translation services from eight to four weeks.

Calgary Immigrants Face Unique Stresses

Calgary's booming economy has its downside. The continuing lack of affordable housing and frequent rent increases are challenges for new immigrants. This past year, Settlement provided information and support for clients looking for housing, and advocated and interpreted on their behalf, when required.

Another issue facing new immigrants is the lack of credential recognition, leading to unemployment or underemployment, and ultimately increased poverty rates

Thanks to our volunteers, the Language Bank is able to offer services in the following 74 languages:

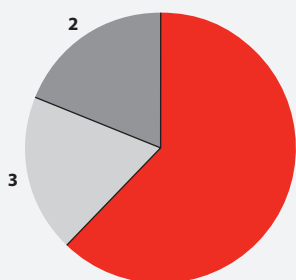
Amharic	Dari	Hindi	Lingala	Pushto	Thai
Anuak	Dinka	Hungarian	Lotuka	Romanian	Tigrinya
Arabic	Dutch	Ilocano	Malay	Russian	Turkish
Armenian	English	Indonesian	Mandarin	Serbian	Turkmen
Azari	Farsi	Italian	Marathi	Slovak	Ukrainian
Azerbaijani	Filipino	Japanese	Nepali	Somali	Urdu
Bengali	French	Kakwa	Nuer	Spanish	Uzbek
Bosnian	Flemish	Kashmiri	Oromo	Swahili	Vietnamese
Bulgarian	Georgian	Khmer	Pahari	Swedish	Zulu
Cantonese	German	Kirundi	Persian	Tagalog	
Croatian	Greek	Korean	Polish	Taiwanese	
Czech	Gujarati	Kurdish	Portuguese	Tamil	
Danish	Hebrew	Latvian	Punjabi	Telugu	

among immigrants at a time when the city is desperate for skilled workers. Settlement provided information and referrals to clients to programs and financial assistance.

Volunteer Development

Like many other non-profit agencies, CIAS continues to face challenges in recruiting and retaining volunteers. With so many jobs available, many volunteers are choosing to enter the workforce, rather than volunteer their time. Volunteer retention and satisfaction was enhanced by reducing the wait time once an application is received to less than a month. A more formal volunteer appreciation evening was attended by about 100 volunteers. Targeted outreach to potential volunteers from underserved communities has helped broaden the languages available for translation and interpretation.

SETTLEMENT CLIENT CATEGORIES IN 2006-2007



1. Independent.....	62.4%
2. Family.....	18.8%
3. Refugee.....	18.8%

The largest new immigrant group in 2006 was from the Independent category. The leading countries of origin for immigrants were China, Colombia, Russia, Pakistan, India, Ethiopia and Sudan.

IMMIGRANT LANGUAGE & VOCATIONAL ASSESSMENT – REFERRAL CENTRE (ILVARC)

Krystyna Biel, *Manager*

Assessment for Foreign Trained Nurses

In June 2006, ILVARC officially became the Canadian English Language Benchmarks Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN) administration site for Calgary, the second one in Alberta.

Developed in response to the critical shortage of nurses in Canada by the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks, CELBAN is an assessment tool to assess the English proficiency of internationally-educated nurses seeking licensure in Canada. CELBAN content reflects the language used in the nursing profession in Canada, and candidates receive feedback on their specific strengths and weaknesses.

In May 2006, four ILVARC assessors were trained and certified in CELBAN administration. From September 2006 to March 2007, ILVARC conducted four testing sessions and assessed a total of 57 internationally trained nurses.

ILVARC also held CELBAN orientation workshops for interested internationally educated nurses. Fifty-seven participants attended orientation sessions in August, September and October, 2006 and March 2007. In October, ILVARC also provided a CELBAN overview at Bow Valley College for 20 internationally educated nurses.

Increased Demand for Services

In 2006-07, ILVARC experienced a higher demand for ESL/LINC assessments from external sources such as employers, ESL institutions, post-secondary institutions, licensing bodies and bridging programs for internationally trained professionals. For example, ILVARC conducted English proficiency assessments for an international pharmacy bridging program. This

program is designed to help internationally-trained pharmacists acquire a license to practice pharmacy in Alberta.

Wait List Reduced

In November 2006, ILVARC obtained additional funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry to reduce its waiting list. With the additional resources, and the application of various strategies including the use of technology to improve efficiencies, ILVARC was able to increase the number of assessment and counselling daily intakes as well as the assessment hours, reducing the waiting list for assessments and counselling to one week.

ASSESSMENTS

Total Assessments Completed6,126

ILVARC REFERRALS

Language Training 58.2%
Educational Opportunities 8.5%
Vocational/Career/Employability 13.2%
Support Services 20.1%

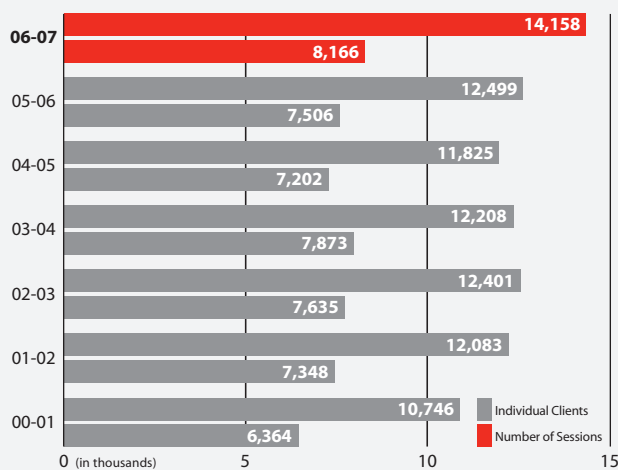
LEADING LANGUAGES GROUPS FOR ILVARC CLIENTS

Mandarin 24.1%
Punjabi/Hindi/Gujarati/Urdu 14.4%
Spanish 9.5%
Arabic 7.4%
Russian/Ukrainian 4.4%

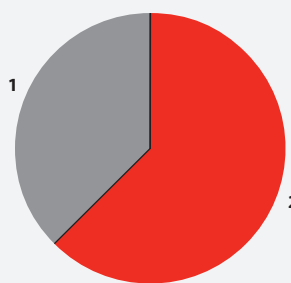


CELBAN orientation

ILVARC CLIENTS SERVED



INLAND MIGRANTS



- 1. Inland Migrants..... 37.4%
- 2. Other Immigrants 62.6%

Calgary's booming economy is attracting increasing numbers of immigrants from other parts of Canada. Many of these migrants may not qualify for funding, even though they still require assistance.

Mosaic Family Resource Centre

Wendy Auger, *Manager, Children and Parent Centre* Rapheal Soungie, *Manager, Youth and Family Centre*

Reorganization Helps Address Increasing Demand

In response to increasing demand for services, the Mosaic Family Resource Centre was split into two units, each headed by its own manager. The Children and Parent Centre focuses on programming and support for parents with young children, while the Youth and Family Centre provides programming and support for youth and families. The division of duties and the addition of a new manager better allows for the proactive development of new services.

Early Childhood Programming

The Children and Parent Centre continues to face overwhelming demand for its services. During 2006, 520 children and 517 family members participated in early childhood and parent programs. There is especially strong demand from the Chinese community, the largest immigrant group coming to Calgary, for early childhood programming. In some cases, clients have indicated they had heard about CIAS' services from family and friends while they were still living in China.

The relentless growth in demand has meant that clients sometimes wait up to six months for specific programs. Efforts to manage the demand for programs for young children and their families include limiting Monday Family Drop-in Program participants to families not registered in other programs and scheduling specific times for different parent groups to ensure all get equal opportunity. However, given ever increasing immigration rates to the province, meeting demand will continue to be a challenge.

Unique Model Promotes Parent Involvement

One unique aspect of the Children and Parent Centre model is parent involvement. For example, parents regularly participate in interactive focus groups and surveys to help identify the need for new programs and services. They are also encouraged to volunteer in a variety of capacities, both for the Mosaic Family Resource Centre and for other CIAS units. Through volunteering, parents gain experience that helps them plan for entering the workforce or for further

career education. They also experience pride in giving back to the organization, helping to cultivate the volunteer spirit that Calgary has become known for.

Two New Programs for At-Risk Youth

At the Mosaic Youth and Family Centre, the new Multicultural Youth Street Smart Program takes an early interventionist approach to crime prevention among at-risk immigrant youth. Through this program, immigrant youth and their families participate in educational workshops and one-on-one counselling aimed at reducing the likelihood of youth becoming involved in at-risk behaviors.

Through the new Multicultural Tobacco Prevention and Education Project, youth and their families are made aware of the dangers of tobacco use, including the impact of second hand smoke on babies and children. This project will also create a toolkit for national dissemination.

Demand for Employment Services

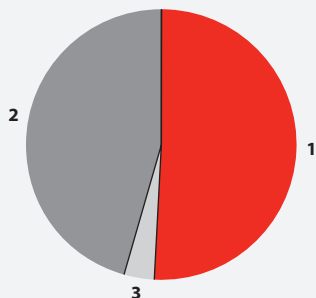
The Youth and Family Centre also faced increasing demand, especially for employment-related services. In contrast with previous years, this past year potential employers demonstrated a strong interest in participating in the program, both to meet their diversity needs as well as to fill staff positions. The booming economy of Calgary has meant a 300% for Youth Industry Internship Program and 200% for Career Focus Program increase in employer interest this past year compared to the previous year—from large organization such as the Calgary Health Region and the banking industry to smaller, privately-owned companies.

The two employment programs offered by the Youth and Family Centre—the Youth Industry Internship Program (YIIP) and the Career Focus Program—are extremely successful. Over 94 percent of participants successfully complete the YIIP program, while over 90 percent of participants complete the Career Focus Program. Over 80 percent of employers have expressed satisfaction with the programs.



Parent volunteers are working to upgrade the Mosaic Family Resource Centre's toy lending library. They also learn about how to use toys more effectively for their own children by attending a workshop on how to select developmentally appropriate toys.

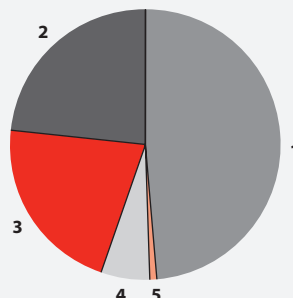
MOSAIC CHILDREN AND PARENT CENTRE STATISTICS



1. Adults served.....	50.9%	782
2. Children and Infants served.....	45.7%	701
3. Other non program registered family members.....	3.4%	52

Total clients served: 1535

MOSAIC YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRE STATISTICS



1. Adults served.....	48.8%	1625
2. Children served.....	23.3%	779
3. Seniors served.....	21.4%	715
4. Youth served.....	5.9%	198
5. Others served.....	0.6%	20

Total clients served: 3337

Last year, the Mosaic Family Resource Centre served a total of 4872 clients from 57 ethnocultural communities.

STATISTICS

77% of parents surveyed in the Mosaic Family Literacy Program indicated that their English language vocabulary had increased during the program, particularly in the areas of speaking and listening.

100% of parents in the Family Literacy Program indicated they had more information on community resources and that they felt more comfortable accessing these resources on their own after participating in the program.

100% of parents feel that their children are more ready to enter the Canadian school system after participating in the Mosaic Pre-School Program.

Immigrants of Distinction Awards

On March 16, 2007, Calgary Immigrant Aid Society hosted the 11th annual Immigrants of Distinction Awards (IDA).

The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, CM, AOE, and Her Honour Mrs. Mary Kwong along with Iris Evans, Alberta Minister of Immigration, Employment and Industry, joined the festivities.

The IDA raises awareness of the contributions immigrants have made to our society. IDA recipients have enriched the lives of all Calgarians through their commitment to the areas of arts and culture, business, community service and professional activities. These awards also recognize organizations and businesses that strive to make diversity and inclusion a priority

in their workplace, and highlight the achievement of immigrant youth through the presentation of youth scholarships.

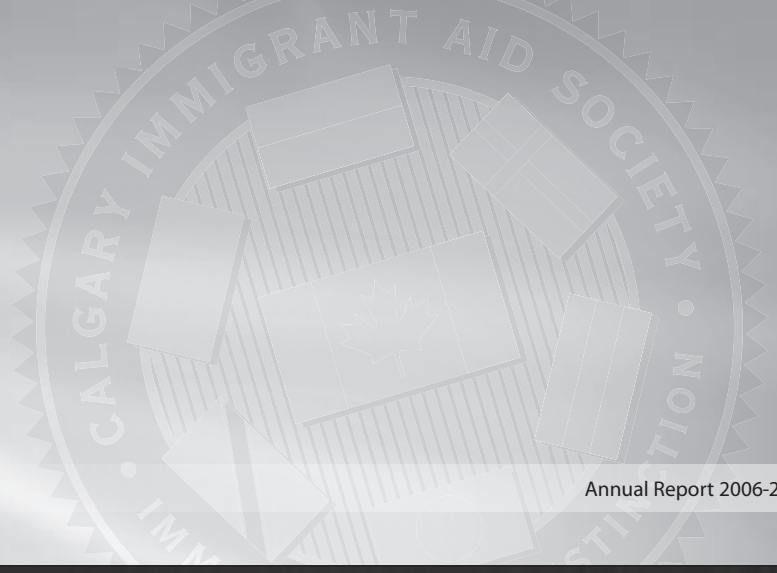
Silent auction and raffle raised \$12,881 for CIAS' Mosaic Family Resource Centre, including a signed Calgary Flames jersey that went for \$900. The Latin Corner Dance Studio provided entertainment for the evening—with salsa dances from a variety of different Latin countries.

Anticipation and enthusiasm for this event grow with each passing year, making it one of the most successful and enjoyable fund-raising galas in our city, attracting over 600 guests, including representatives from government, the voluntary sector, and the business community. We thank all sponsors, donors, and friends for their support throughout the years.

RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2007 IDA AWARDS

Arts & Culture	Vahe Tokmajyan
Business	Lina Castle, Lina's Italian Market
Community Service	Dr. John Wu
Distinguished Professional	Dr. Thaddeus Demong
Organizational Diversity	Calgary Public Library
Youth Scholarships.....	Alice Chen, Joseph Lagasca, Nyial Majock, Eva Ouyang, Carrol Zhou





The Honourable Iris Evans, Minister of Immigration, Employment and Industry addresses the attendees.



Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Norman L. Kwong and the Honourable Mrs. Mary Kwong enjoy the festivities with Mrs. Hadassah Ksienski, CIAS Chief Executive Officer.



The 2007 Immigrants of Distinction Awards' Finalists.

Dr. Erika Hargesheimer and Mr. Jason Luan from FCSS – The City of Calgary chat with Mr. Esau Torres, CIAS Settlement/ Language Bank Centre Manager.

Eva Ouyang on receiving a Youth scholarship:
“I will never forget this experience that showed me just how much of a difference an individual can make”.

Success Stories

Amy

When 'Amy' joined the Mosaic Family Literacy Program at Col. J. Fred Scott School, her daughter 'Lynn' was preparing to enter a kindergarten. Amy was concerned about her daughter's English as only Vietnamese was spoken at home. The Mosaic Family Resource Centre provided a volunteer interpreter so Amy could attend the parent program, while Lynn participated in the early childhood program. Facilitator observations at this time indicated that Lynn required support to focus on activities, partly due to language deficiency and partly due to a lack of boundaries.

When Lynn joined the kindergarten program, her teachers were concerned about her progress. The school asked if Lynn and her family could go back into the Family Literacy Program for additional support, while she attended kindergarten. When Amy re-joined the program with Lynn, she mentioned to facilitators that she was concerned about her own limited English skill. Facilitators referred her for a language assessment at ILVARC. Amy also needed support with parenting. She received information on positive discipline and child development, and was able to implement some of the suggestions. At the end of the school year, the Mosaic Family Resource Centre team met with the kindergarten teacher to assess Lynn's progress. The teacher indicated that there had been a noticeable increase in Lynn's understanding and use of English and a corresponding increase in her ability to attend to tasks in the classroom. The Mosaic Family Resource Centre continues to maintain contact with the family through home visits and school contact to provide support to the family.

Alfonso

'Alfonso' is a 46 year old man from Colombia. Having to flee his homeland in 2003, he was forced to leave his wife and two children behind. With no way to contact his family in Colombia and the challenge of adjusting to a new country, Alfonso became very

distressed. In addition, his employment search was unsuccessful due to his limited English. As Alfonso's situation became much more difficult, his financial situation became constrained, and as a result, his frustration and anger increased.

Through contacts, Alfonso heard about the Men's Program at CIAS. Alfonso was able to connect with the Men's Program counsellor to discuss his depression, cultural adaptation and immigration sponsorship. The counsellor referred him to social services for financial support and Legal Aid for his immigration issues, as well as food bank services. The program staff also connected him to community health resources available in his first language, Spanish. With ongoing counselling and participation in the Men's Program's Skills Building Group, Alfonso started to see positive solutions to some of his challenges. Alfonso learned to adjust to the new culture, made new contacts and developed friendships. Now, he is comfortable with his new job, and his wife and two children have arrived in Canada. Alfonso thanked CIAS, saying "I know that I would not have been reunited with my family if the Men's program did not exist; my life and those of my family members would have been worse off if I did not get the support that you have provided."

Mona

'Mona' was sponsored by her husband to immigrate to Canada from Venezuela in 2003. Soon after her arrival, she came to CIAS and worked as a volunteer translator to gain Canadian work experience.

Recently Mona's family began to experience financial difficulties and she was forced to seek paid work to help support her family. She met with a Settlement/Integration counsellor to get advice on how to look for a job. Mona told the counsellor that she was hoping to find work as a teaching assistant. The counsellor advised Mona to contact the local boards



The Mosaic Children and Parent Centre has been a significant resource in the success of many immigrants.

of education and referred her to another agency to get help in preparing her resume. One short month later CIAS provided a letter of recommendation for Mona based on her volunteer work to a school that was interested in hiring her. A short time after that, Mona called her counsellor to share good news that she was offered a teaching assistant job at the school. She greatly appreciated the support she received from the counsellor and CIAS for help in fulfilling her goals.

Cam

Cam is a family-sponsored refugee. In his country of origin, he worked as an administrator with different government agencies. Due to political problems and a civil war in his country, he had to take refuge in a neighboring country first and then seek asylum in Canada.

He, his wife and their four children came to Canada without knowing a word of English. His relatives referred them to CIAS. Their first stop was ILVARC. Both husband and wife had their English

language skills assessed and subsequently were referred to the LINC Program. Other referrals were made to Settlement Services and the Mosaic Family Resource Centre, as well as to the Calgary Board of Education for the schooling of their children.

Cam was working full-time while attending the LINC Program. After a year of working, he got laid off. He decided to go back to school and to further upgrade his language and other job skills. He successfully completed an upgrading program in a year and was accepted into an employment preparation program with a work experience component. He was placed at a major grocery chain for his practicum and upon completion, secured a job at the same company. In the meantime, Cam's wife has started an upgrading program in a college. Their children are doing quite well at school. One of their children has just graduated from high school. With their determination and the assistance of agencies such as CIAS, Cam and his family have been able to truly become part of the Calgary community.

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Calgary Immigrant Aid Society also wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all those individuals who have contributed to CIAS this past year. In keeping with the privacy legislation, individual names are not listed.



CALGARY IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

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CALGARY IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Helping immigrants become contributing members of society will always be an investment in Canada's future. As an individual or a company, we can offer you the opportunity to assist immigrants to enrich Canada's social fabric, support economic growth and bring depth and cultural diversity to our community. If you are interested in contributing with a donation, or with your time as a volunteer, please call us at 265-1120.



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