



CIAS celebrates 30 years of service at 2007 IDA

The Calgary Immigrant Aid Society is pleased to present the 11th Annual Immigrants of Distinction Awards (IDA) on Friday March 16 2007 at The Westin Calgary. In 1997, as part of its twentieth anniversary celebrations, Calgary Immigrant Aid Society launched the first Immigrants of Distinction Awards. Now as the agency commemorates thirty years of service to Calgarians, we are very proud of the accomplishments of both the agency and this signature event. This year's event has been appropriately themed, *Calgary Immigrant Aid Society - 30 Years - Making a Difference in the Lives of Immigrants*.



Tseden Dhogonpa, Community Service award recipient (left), Pat Wheeler, guest and Tenzin Kabar, CIAS settlement access counselor at the 2006 IDA gala

The Immigrants of Distinction Awards celebrate the achievements of first-generation Canadians who have made successful contributions to Canada and call Calgary their home. Honouring these accomplishments builds a legacy of continued achievement and excellence within our city. Appreciation and awareness of this event grow with each passing year, making it one of the most enjoyable fund-raising galas in our city.

Approximately 600 guests will attend the event, including representatives from the three levels of government, the voluntary sector and the business community.

Following our call for nominations we were very pleased with the results - 73 in total for the following categories: Arts and Culture, Business, Community Service, Organizational Diversity, Distinguished Professional and Youth Scholarships.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the CIAS Mosaic Family Resource Centre.

The Centre provides innovative holistic programming for children, youth and parents aimed at decreasing social isolation and increasing the social network and well-being of the whole family. The Centre serves a wide range of ethnic communities, providing services for immigrant and refugee families with children 0-6, youth and other dependants facing multiple barriers such as poverty, isolation, loneliness, emotional difficulties and language barriers. In 2005-2006, the Mosaic Family Resource Centre served 5403 clients from 47 ethno-cultural communities. In 2006, the Centre initiated two new programs, the Multicultural Street Smart Program and the Multicultural Tobacco Prevention and Education Project.

Tickets are now available for the 2007 IDA, priced at \$125 each or \$1500 for a corporate table (10 seats). For tickets please contact Tracy Thomson at 538-8342 or visit our website at www.calgaryimmigrantaid.ca.

Thank you to IDA sponsors

Calgary Herald, TD Canada Trust, Cargill Foods, Caron & Partners LLP, CBC Radio One, CTV, FCSS-The City of Calgary, Harry and Martha Cohen Foundation, Intergulf Cidex, McDonald's, McElhanney Land Surveys Ltd, Meyers Norris Penny, National Bank of Canada, Nexen, Shaw TV, Talisman Energy Inc., The Westin-Calgary, United Way of Calgary and Area

Mission

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.

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YIIP graduates 14 in immigrant youth industry program

Calgary Immigrant Aid Society held a graduation ceremony November 9, 2006 for the 14 participants of Intake #8 of the Youth Industry Internship Program (YIIP). The event gathered representatives of our community partners as well as businesses of different industries.

Since 2002, YIIP has helped link immigrant youth aged 15 to 30 with company partners, giving them an opportunity to enter the work force and develop long-term employment.

YIIP's 24-week program prepares participants for the job market through eight weeks of workshops with topics addressing the Canadian workplace, job maintenance, effective communication skills, workplace safety, career goal setting, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), first aid and CPR training. As well, participants are placed for 14 weeks in work-experience jobs that match their long-term career goals, subsidized by industry partners. Finally, students receive two weeks of supportive follow-up to help ensure job retention.

YIIP has successfully helped participants to match work and life skills brought from their home countries with companies willing to give them Canadian work experience. This in turn



contributes to companies' business needs, resulting in economic development. Ultimately, our participants integrate successfully into the Canadian workplace, culture and society.

NEW YIIP INTAKES COMING Intake #9 began January 2, 2007. Expect future intakes in Spring and Summer. For more information, please contact the Youth Industry Internship Program Coordinator at 444-3492 or 538-8373.



Liliana arrived from China in May, 2006 with a Master's degree in Measurement Technology and Instrument. The young professional, reunited in Calgary with her husband, dreamed of pursuing a career and having a family in Canada.

After three months of intensive job searching, Liliana joined the Youth Industry Internship Program. Before completing the course, she was offered a position in the inventory management department of a drilling-tools company. Based on her previous education and work experience, the job was at entry level, but it was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the company's products.

Liliana's efforts were not overlooked by her employer, who sent her overseas for further training after she completed her three months. She travelled to Scotland, where she built, tested and calibrated a new drilling tool that the company was planning to manufacture. When she returned, she was promoted to the position of electronics technician. Now Liliana feels integrated and confident to grow and develop in her profession, and will be returning to Scotland for more training in January.

We congratulate Liliana on her success and hope that all her expectations are fulfilled.

MYSSP prevents youth crime involvement

Multicultural Youth Street Smart Program (MYSSP) is a holistic, culturally sensitive approach to educating immigrant youth and their parents/caregivers about crime prevention and community safety. The program provides support, community safety information, recreational opportunities, and encourages intergenerational communication and social inclusion for teenagers and their parents. MYSSP's mission is to address the root causes and social factors that place youth at risk of joining street gangs and engaging in criminal activity.



Urmil and her son both attended a MYSSP six-week workshop which Urmil said gave her the latest information in areas such as parenting, crime prevention and cultural awareness. "Since the workshop, I am now able to openly approach my teenager about many different issues and to negotiate matters such as late night parties, chores and TV time." Urmil is also thankful that the program offered them the opportunity to participate in recreational activities. Her son enjoyed socializing with others in a friendly, supportive and family-like environment.



Multicultural tobacco prevention and education project kicks off

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness, disability and death in Canada. In an effort to reach ethnic communities, the Multicultural Tobacco Prevention and Education project offers culturally and linguistically sensitive workshops through CIAS Mosaic Family Resource Centre.

These workshops, which have received a positive response, include: Pre-School mothers' groups, Pre-natal and Post-natal Healthy Start Group, Settlement Language Bank, Calgary Mandarin School, Vietnamese University Association, Sudanese Community Association, City of Calgary, Core Sudanese Youth Group, Calgary Board of

Education, Calgary Catholic School District, Calgary Chilean Association, Bishop McNally Spanish Class, and Calgary Hispanic Catholic Church.

A tobacco education toolkit designed for immigrant population and printed in four languages, including French, will be completed and distributed across Canada for the use of any group wishing to start its own project. Cultural ambassadors will also be recruited to promote tobacco prevention in their communities.

CIAS and Kids Up Front join forces to help families

Immigrant families face daily challenges in understanding and raising their awareness of the expectations of the host society. Recreational activities and personal enjoyment must often be put aside in the quest to provide basic necessities for the family in an increasingly busy world. The partnership between Calgary Immigrant Aid Society and Kids Up Front ensures that families are introduced to cultural and recreational activities that support their integration into the Canadian mosaic.

Let us introduce you to a family from Eritrea, secondary migrants who came to Canada through Germany five months ago. This family has three young children: the oldest is of school age but, due to language barriers, is currently attending special language classes; the second child is registered in the Mosaic Centre's Pre-School Program, and the third is an infant.

Although the family is very resourceful, it is challenging for them to make ends meet, as language barriers make it

difficult for the father to find work. One day in the pre-school program, a facilitator discovered that the two older children loved Peter Pan. She asked the children's mother about the story, who said that she had been reading it to them, using a library copy written in simple language.

The following day, the Early Childhood programs were notified that five tickets were available for the opening night of the Alberta Theatre Production of Peter Pan. Immediately, the facilitator contacted Kids Up Front and then called the family to see if they could attend the performance. They were overjoyed at the opportunity and, with an extra ticket, were able to take their older child's friend. Next day, the children came to pre-school and could hardly wait to say how much they had enjoyed the performance. "It was real!" exclaimed the oldest child. The mother said that the whole family felt their stress had been relieved and they could laugh for a while without worrying about life.

Foreign-trained nurses move toward professional licensing

In the summer of 2006, Immigrant Language and Vocational Assessment-Referral Centre (ILVARC) became the official administration site in Calgary for the Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN). It is an assessment tool designed to measure the English proficiency of internationally educated nurses in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

From September through November 2006, ILVARC administered CELBAN to nurses applying for licensure in the nursing profession in Canada by conducting two full days of assessments each month. Thirty-two clients participated. ILVARC also delivered CELBAN information workshops for interested international nurses. Forty-five participants attended the orientation workshops held in August, September and October.

In October, ILVARC provided a CELBAN overview presentation at Bow Valley College, along with the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA), Mount Royal College - Bridging to Canadian Nursing Program, and Grant MacEwan College - Nursing Refresher Program. Approximately 20 participants attended this presentation.

Future dates for the CELBAN test in Calgary are February 15 and May 24, 2007. Details can be found online at www.celban.org.

Tuning into the world beat - volunteer party

Song and dance are beautiful expressions of culture, a message we wanted to convey at the 2006 Volunteer Appreciation Event. The theme of the evening was inspired by the notion that each CIAS volunteer is "Tuning into the World Beat" by joining hands with agency staff to help newcomers from all over the world participate fully in Canadian society

More than 90 volunteers and staff gathered at La Joie de Vivre Banquet Hall in Inglewood Sept. 15, 2006 for an eclectic array of entertainment, from captivating Persian melodies to a breathtaking East Indian dance. Guests also had a chance to explore their dancing talents by learning both Latin American and Chinese traditional dances led by professional instructors. Once the prizes and certificates were awarded, volunteers danced the rest of the night away to beats from all over the world.



Amrita Lall gives a beautiful performance at the 2006 Volunteer Appreciation Event

CIAS thanks all volunteers, staff and door prize donors for making this event a truly memorable one.

Help make a difference

Your donation is a vital part of the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society's fund-raising endeavors. Through your support, thousands of new immigrants and refugees in the Calgary Community are able to benefit from the services CIAS provides.

Contact Information:

Ms. Mrs. Mr.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

May we recognize your gift by publishing your name as a 'Friend of CIAS'?

Yes No

Please mail your cheque to:

Calgary Immigrant Aid Society
1200, 910—7 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 3N8
Or call: (403) 265-1120

Thank you for supporting Calgary Immigrant Aid Society in its efforts to enhance programs and services for immigrants!

Multicultural interpreters do more than translate

Calgary Immigrant Aid Society and the Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority are responding to the needs of Calgary's ever-expanding population of diverse citizens through the Multicultural Interpretation Services project. This project deals exclusively with existing Child and Family Services Authority clients, providing services in Arabic, Cantonese, Dinka, Hindi, Mandarin, Nuer and Punjabi. Interpreters not only translate between languages,

they also understand the client's culture and identify and resolve conflicts related to the meaning of words, concepts, practices and conduct.

At least seven days' advance notice is required for interpretation service. For more information please contact Helen Ong at 265-1120 ext. 260.

Thank you to CIAS Funders








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Share your Spirit, Volunteer!

Do you enjoy meeting people from different cultures?

Would you like to enhance your cross-cultural
communication skills?

Would you like to gain experience doing different types of
assignments?

If your answer is yes, come join our team of
volunteers at Calgary Immigrant Aid Society.

We offer the following volunteer opportunities:

- Translator
- Interpreter
- Mosaic Centre
- Office Support
- Special Events
- Computer assistance
- Casino

For more information please contact Sophie,
Volunteer Coordinator at (403) 538-8355

Charities # 11882 3640 RR0001

All opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the individual authors.

All names in Success Stories have been changed to protect client identity.

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