



SETTLEMENT AND MULTICULTURALISM Division Update

AUTUMN 2006

Notice

BC Multicultural,
Anti-racism,
Immigrant and
Community Service
Organizations
Directory updated.

[www.ag.gov.bc.ca/
sam/maiso](http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/sam/maiso)

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BRITISH
COLUMBIA

The Best Place on Earth

Ministry of Attorney General Hosts Two Events at World Urban Forum 3



(left to right)
Wally Oppal, B.C. Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism
Sam Sullivan, Mayor of Vancouver
Eduardo Pereira Guimaraes, Secretary of International Relations and Protocol for Curitiba, Brazil
Adam Kimbisa, Mayor of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

The Settlement and Multiculturalism division (SaM) of the Ministry of Attorney General hosted two events of The World Urban Forum, that was held in Vancouver from June 19 to 23, 2006. Over 17,000 participants attended from more than 150 nations to discuss, debate and share experiences about urban sustainability.

The first event, Social Cohesion: Ensuring the Inclusion of Immigrants and Other Newcomers, discussed the impact of international migration on urbanization and social cohesion in cities. The events covered demographic trends, immigrant integration and increasing cultural diversity, from the perspectives of three urban mayors from three different continents. Each panelist's insight and experience in fostering social cohesion within their cities and regions served as a launching point for an interactive discussion with the packed audience.

The second event, Communities in Action: Sustainability and Social Cohesion Study Tour, was a tour that consisted of 60 international delegates learning about the benefits and challenges of cultural diversity. The 60 delegates visited ethno-cultural agencies, neighbourhood organizations and multicultural/immigrating-serving groups to get a first-hand experience on how these services have improved the lives of many immigrants and refugees.

For more information, please go to:
www.ag.gov.bc.ca/sam/wuf3/index.htm

Division Update Comments

Contact Alison Dudley, Manager, Stakeholder Relations
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Staff Profile



Keith Lastoria

Division Position:

Service Agreement Officer

Joined the Division:

June 2002

Time in Government:

18 years

Responsibilities:

I ensure the delivery of Ministry programs by administering established community liaison service programming and managing a portfolio of contracts. I also represent employees on union-related matters.

Evaluation of Two Major Settlement and Multiculturalism Programs

The Settlement and Multiculturalism division is for the first time conducting an evaluation on two of its major programs, from September to December 2006. Focus Consultants has been contracted to concurrently conduct a process evaluation on the BC Settlement and Adaptation Program (BCSAP) and the Critical Incident Response Model (CIRM) Program. The evaluations involve interviews and surveying of stakeholders between September and November.

A preliminary phase of the evaluation began this past Spring. Elevate

Consulting, an external consulting firm, developed an evaluation framework for each of the two programs and made recommendations on how best to implement the evaluations.

While some surveys have been conducted by the division in the past to ascertain client satisfaction and outcomes, the process evaluation will inform how well established the programs are and whether they are functioning in the most effective and efficient way. The reports will be completed at the end of January 2007 and made available to BCSAP service providers and CIRM communities respectively.

BCSAP Training Committee

The Ministry recognizes the need to develop a formalized training strategy to support all BCSAP streams. The strategy is intended to provide a basis for the delivery of stream-specific and generic competency-based training, but will not preclude other internal or professional training supported by individual service providers.

The first step in the process is to develop a training framework that will include an analysis of different training models, the identification of an approach to support the needs of BCSAP workers and guide

future training activities. The framework will also inform the establishment of general principles and the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry and service organizations. Another key task to be overseen by the training committee will be to identify training outcomes based on the Stream 4 delivery assistance logic model.

A formal communication process is being identified with the committee. The Ministry representative on this committee is Norah Boltin, who can be reached at 604 775-0361.

2007 Provincial Immigrant Settlement Conference

The Settlement and Multiculturalism Division, the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies (AMSSA) and the English Language Services for Adults Network (ELSA Net) have established a joint committee to organize a provincial immigrant settlement conference for 2007. The objective of the conference is to provide training, professional development, networking, teambuilding and planning opportunities to front-line and managerial staff from organizations involved in the delivery

of services under the B.C. Settlement and Adaptation Program. The 2007 conference will be reviewed and may provide a model for future immigrant settlement conferences. The Ministry is now developing scope and budget options for the conference and will present them the joint committee for discussion.

“My work for the province over the years has been both rewarding and satisfying.”

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Alternative ESL Pilot Expansion

The volunteer-based, one-to-one tutoring ESL program (Alternative ESL) that the Ministry has been piloting is being expanded to four new rural communities in the province.

An initial evaluation of the first four pilot sites (Salmon Arm, Revelstoke, Smithers and Terrace) found that this new service delivery method was meeting and even exceeding expectations. As a result, the Ministry has decided to extend the pilots in the four original sites for an additional year (April 2006 to March 2007) and expand it to Quesnel, Port Alberni, Squamish and Fort St. John, starting in September.

Over the past few years, Quesnel and Port Alberni have not been receiving a continuous flow of newcomers to sustain English Language Services for Adults

(ELSA) classroom instruction. As a result, the ELSA program has been discontinued there and, in its place, the Ministry will be piloting the Alternative ESL service.

Since the Ministry identified the need for ESL programming in Squamish, the Ministry has been seeking to set up ESL services there. With the development of the new pilot program, the Ministry has now found a partner, Capilano College, to implement the new services in Squamish this fall. Similarly, Fort St. John is attracting a number of newcomers with ESL needs. The Fort St. John Literacy Society has been contracted to start service delivery this fall. The pilot will be evaluated over the next five months, with the intent of then determining its future status.

Labour Market Focused ELSA 4/5

The Government of British Columbia is committed to support the language and labour market needs of adult immigrants. However, research shows that recent immigrants are not reaching their full potential in the labour market.

A recently released request for proposal (RFP) will allow the Settlement and Multiculturalism division to build a solid delivery model for labour market focused ELSA programming. A total of \$5 million of funding is allocated to this initiative for the period Jan. 1, 2007 to March 31, 2009.

Initial criteria for class delivery and student placement will be prescriptive due to a number of factors including:

- the time available to co-ordinate LMF ELSA 4/5 program delivery;
- achieving optimum results for the available budget;

- managing the projected demand for service (exceeding supply);
- taking the time to build a staged model which will prove effective in serving the needs of immigrants and, ultimately, B.C. society.

Classes will be established in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. The target clients are recent ELSA level 3 graduates destined to the labour market. Approximately 78 sessions of 300 hours of level 4 and 5 instruction are expected to be provided. Successful proponents will be able to utilize levels 4/5 curriculum guidelines and test materials developed through previous pilot initiatives. SaM will communicate further program and delivery details as they are finalized.

STAFF UPDATE

Babies, babies, babies...

Congratulations to two new parents from the SaM Division, Joe Nguyen and Devi Brar! Baby Austin was born to Devi on Aug. 7, 2006 and, Khai, Joe's son, was born on July 25, 2006. Both Devi and Joe are taking leave to enjoy their every moment of parenthood and the hard work that goes along with it.

Goodbyes

Best wishes to Doug Miller on his retirement. Doug had been with the Province for 34 years and joined our division in 2002. He is now enjoying his freedom by travelling B.C. and Alberta. Bon voyage!

After a successful co-op term in this division, Clara Wong, has been replaced by a new co-op student, Christine Fong. While Clara was here, she developed several presentations and created a variety of layout and design projects. Clara has nicely integrated herself as one of the team members here and will be missed.

Welcome

Our division has two new administrative staff, Sarah Campbell (secretary) and David Figueredo (program clerk). Both Sarah and David bring experience from other government ministries. Sarah worked previously for the Ministry of Transportation and David for the Ministry of Economic Development.

Ivy Wong, a past co-op student and recent graduate from Simon Fraser University, is back at the division. She is filling in for Joe Nguyen as the systems co-ordinator while he is on paternity leave.

Christine, our new co-op student, is a communication major and psychology minor from Simon Fraser University. Within the short time Christine has been here, she has already assisted with a few layout and design projects, including this newsletter.

Critical Incident Response Model Update

We are excited to begin work with four potential Step 1 communities: Chetwynd, Courtenay, Langley and Nelson. These communities are considering entering the model and we look forward to working with them.

This year, the CIRM chair's annual meeting will be taking place at the end of November 2006. The meeting will offer Step 2 and 3 communities the opportunity to share resources and information on their partnership building and community protocol development initiatives.

Multicultural Advisory Council Update

The Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) is more active in the community than ever! During the meeting in May 5, 2006, a MAC Committee on Youth Issues was established to act as a link between the MAC, the Minister, and various youth communities in, B.C. The committee's primary purpose is to:

- i. explore and develop a workable definition for "youth" that will capture the demographic target audience that is intended for the work undertaken through this committee;
- ii. explore and develop recommendations to the Minister to engage youth through multiculturalism by establishing concrete short- and long-term initiatives to engage youth;
- iii. develop recommendations to establish provincial multiculturalism awards for youth; and
- iv. develop an ad-hoc advisory committee for youth to inform the MAC committee on important youth themes and concerns at a provincial level.

The MAC Committee on Provincial Legislation and Program Review was established to review the annual report on multiculturalism.

In addition, the MAC Committee on Multiculturalism and Municipal Engagement established a planning process that will engage representatives of municipalities in a dialogue on multiculturalism.

2005/06 BCSAP Consultation Sessions

In December 2005 and April 2006, the Settlement and Multiculturalism division held two consultation meetings to discuss programming priorities for immigrant settlement and language services delivered under BC Settlement and Adaptation Program (BCSAP).

Based on stakeholder recommendations, the division has established the following notional priorities:

- Reduce waitlists for adult English language training (ELSA)
- Implement higher levels of language training for adults
- Increase information and support services delivered in first language by settlement workers for specific immigrant groups
- Provide additional "blended" services for multi-barriered groups
- Implement specialized programming for youth and families (possibly in partnership)
- Address possible service gaps in smaller communities outside the Lower Mainland
- Improve "sectoral support" activities for immigrant service providers (e.g. conferences, resources and tools)

Please note the notional priorities are not listed in any particular order.

The division will engage in further fact finding and stakeholder discussions on how to take these priorities forward. The implementation of some of these priorities will depend upon the approval of additional funds, as they become available.



CIRM is a three-year, three-step process for communities to build capacity and develop formal protocols to respond to racist and hate activity.

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IMMIGRATION POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Highlights of Immigration 2006 Trends - Quarter 1 -

During the first quarter of this year, there was a slight decrease in immigrants arriving in Canada and B.C., with a 2.6% decrease compared to B.C.'s first quarter immigration statistics in 2005.

Mainland China, India, and the Philippines still remain as the top three source countries. Due to the increase of family class immigrants, 1,458 immigrants arrived from India to B.C., a 66.6% increase from the first quarter in 2005. Filipino immigrants have also increased 64.8%, from 694 to 1,144, with an increase in every landing class. Chinese immigrants, on the other hand, dropped 19.6% to 2,945, during this year's first quarter.

A slightly higher share of youth and adult immigrants (60.3%) came to B.C. with official language ability, while those who arrived without English or French skills decreased from 3,534 to 3,310. Official language ability ranged from a high 71.7% in the skilled worker class to a low 27.6% in the business class. In addition, more immigrants arrived with a secondary school or less education level, which accounted for 27.1% of adult immigrants arriving; an increase from 18.1% in 2005.

Multiculturalism and Social Integration

The Ethnic Diversity Survey (EDS) developed in 2002 by Statistics Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage provides information on the ethnicity and cultural diversity of Canadians. The survey sample represents 22.4 million non-Aboriginal Canadians aged 15 years and older.

Recent studies using the EDS data indicates that Canadians of non-European origins accounted for more than one-third of the total population in both Vancouver and Toronto. Those who identified as British, French and or of Canadian origins accounted for approximately one-quarter of the total population in

- Racism and discrimination were also examined in the EDS. A higher percentage of first-generation immigrants, particularly those who arrived in Canada in the 1990s, tended to experience discrimination or unfair treatment than the second and third generations of immigrants in Vancouver. Individuals who reported being the third generation descendants of immigrants were more likely to report experiences of discrimination or unfair treatment in Vancouver than their counterparts in Toronto and Canada.

- Race or skin colour was quoted to be the most common reason for discrimination or

Chart 1
Population by large ethnic ancestry groups in Vancouver, Toronto and Canada, 2002

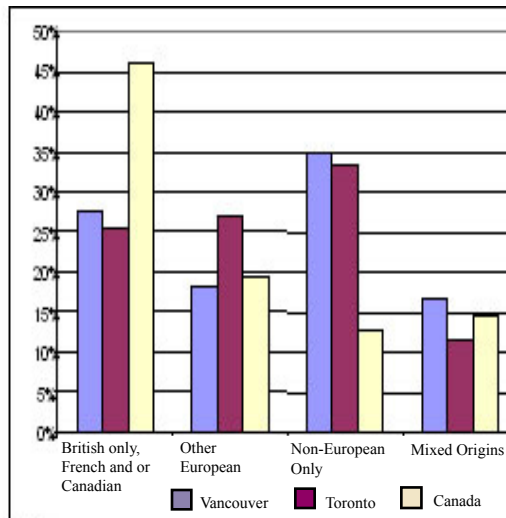
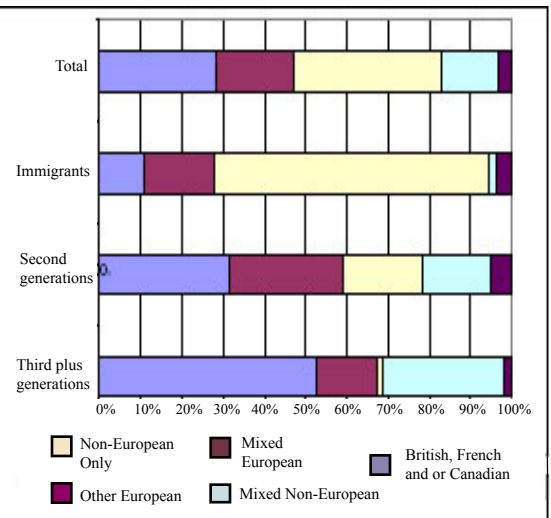


Chart 2
Population by generation and large ethnic groups in Vancouver, 2002



Source: Statistics Canada, Ethnic Diversity Survey, 2002. Percentages are calculated using total valid responses.

Vancouver (Chart 1). Seventy per cent of the immigrants in Vancouver were of non-European origins, compared to 60% in Toronto. These numbers diminished, with each generation born in Canada. Approximately 66% of the second-generation (Canadian born) immigrants and 50% of the third-plus generations report non-European origins (Chart 2).

- unfair treatment in Vancouver. Nearly 80% of second generation and the third-plus immigrant generations attributed the reason for the mistreatment they experienced to race or skin colour, compared to 70% of first generation immigrants. Language or accent was more often stated as the reason for mistreatment for the first generation than third-plus generation immigrants.