



# SETTLEMENT AND MULTICULTURALISM Division Update

SPRING 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)



## I N S I D E

BCAMP Stream A: Funded Projects for 2006/07

BCAMP One-Time Grants Awarded

2010 Multiculturalism Theme, Vision and Guiding Principles

Alternative ESL Pilots Initial Evaluation

BCSAP Consultation Process Update

Skills Connect for Immigrants RFP Results

New Child Care Subsidy Initiative

2005 Immigration Trends Highlights

Joint Federal Provincial Immigration Advisory Council

## BRANCH UPDATE COMMENTS

Contact Alison Dudley, Manager, Stakeholder Relations 604.775.0470  
[Alison.Dudley@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alison.Dudley@gov.bc.ca)

## Dialogue Explores Business Case for Multiculturalism in Kamloops

To celebrate Multiculturalism Week in February, the Kamloops Immigrant Services Society held a forum called *The Business Case for Multiculturalism: The Future is Now*, with support from the Simon Fraser University Dialogue Programs and the Settlement and Multiculturalism Division (the Division). The event attracted over 40 community and business leaders, including community leader and philanthropist Milton Wong as keynote speaker. Kamloops served as a pilot site to test whether the dialogue format is effective in increasing local engagement on multiculturalism issues in smaller communities. The Division is planning to support further dialogues in other BC communities this year.

For more information, please contact Mehroona Ghani at [Mehroona.Ghani@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mehroona.Ghani@gov.bc.ca) or 604.660.5140

*"Embracing immigrant workers is not only a way to fill jobs so you can stay in business. It's also a way to support good people who are here to build better lives for themselves. It's a way to boost the Canadian economy. It's also a way to strengthen the fabric of our society and encourage peace and goodwill in our communities. Lastly, it's a way to bring the world to you, so that children growing up in Kamloops will understand what it means to be global citizens and will have the background they need to get ahead in our increasingly cross-cultural world."*

- Milton Wong, Keynote Speaker



(left to right) Dialogue participants:

- Mehroona Ghani, Ministry of Attorney General
- Dr. Ashok Mathur, Thompson Rivers University
- Kim Agar-Ewen, Kamloops Immigrant Services Society
- Lloyd Loveday, Kamloops Immigrant Services Society
- Bill Walters, Ministry of Attorney General
- Milton Wong, Keynote Speaker
- Dr. Joanna Ashworth, Simon Fraser University

## STAFF PROFILE



### SHEILA LAUGHLIN

**Division Position:**

Office Coordinator

**Joined the Division:**

April 1999

**Time in Government:**

Many years in the federal government before joining the provincial government

**Responsibilities:**

Sheila supervises staff who provide administrative support to the Division. Whether it is getting a payment done or a letter processed, her unit functions as the hub of the office.

“What I enjoy most about my job is the variety of work I am presented with. Everyday presents new challenges.”

## BCAMP Funded Projects for 2006/07

Twelve projects were successful in a recent Request for Proposal issued by the Division for the BC Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism Program (BCAMP), Stream A. Contracts of up to \$25,000 have been awarded for community projects across BC.

These projects will support activities that prevent and eliminate racism by enhancing community understanding of multiculturalism and cultural diversity. The next RFP process is scheduled to occur in January 2007.

### PROJECTS FOR 2006/07

- 411 Seniors Centre (Vancouver): *The Elders Mosaic*
- Abbotsford Community Services Society (Abbotsford): *Responding to Racism through Visual Arts*
- Burnaby School District #41 (Burnaby): *Living/Working in a Multicultural Society*
- Burnaby School District #41 (Burnaby): *Valuing Diversity*
- Campbell River and Area Multicultural and Immigrant Services Association (Campbell River): *Building Capacity and Sustainability for School Based Youth 4 Diversity*
- Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria (Victoria): *People and Police: Addressing Cross-cultural Awareness in Conflict Transformation*
- Kamloops Immigrant Society (Kamloops): *Dialogue on Multiculturalism and Safe Harbour Project*
- Mission Community Services Society (Mission): *Communities of Inclusion*
- North Shore Multicultural Society (North Vancouver): *Inclusive Youth Leadership for Violence Prevention Curriculum*
- Powell River Regional Economic Development Society (Powell River): *Learning To Live Together*
- REACH Centre Association (Vancouver): *TOHIO - Bringing Youth into the Circle: A Prevention Focused Anti-Racism Program*
- The Family Education and Support Centre (Maple Ridge): *Embracing Diversity*

## BCAMP One-Time Grants Awarded

In May, the Division awarded 16 communities one-time grants of \$2000 to prevent and support the elimination of racism and to increase awareness of multiculturalism and cultural diversity in BC. The purpose of the grant program was to distribute funds remaining from the BCAMP Stream A annual budget of \$300,000 for that last fiscal year. Approximately

70% of the funding will support initiatives in smaller communities in the North, Interior and on central and northern Vancouver Island, with the remaining funds supporting initiatives in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley and Greater Victoria.

### GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Abbotsford Community Services Society, Abbotsford
- BC Black History Awareness Society, Victoria
- Campbell River and Area Multicultural Services Society, Campbell River
- Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Services Society, Nanaimo
- College of New Caledonia, Quesnel
- Cowichan Valley Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society, Duncan
- Family Education and Support Centre, Maple Ridge
- First Nations Education Steering Committee, Province-wide
- Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society, Prince George
- Let's Enhance and Develop Society, Mission
- MISCELLANEOUS Productions, Vancouver
- Mission Community Services
- Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society, Surrey/Delta
- Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society, Vancouver
- Peter Skene Ogden Secondary School, 100 Mile House
- Prince Rupert Anti-Racism Committee, Prince Rupert

For more information, please contact Meharoona Ghani at [Meharoona.Ghani@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Meharoona.Ghani@gov.bc.ca) or 604.660.5140

## CIRM Chairs Meeting

Twenty-three community representatives involved in the Division's Critical Incident Response Model (CIRM) came together for a two-day meeting on February 2-3, 2006 to share best practices and local anti-racism strategies. Communities had the opportunity to participate in a workshop led by Eric Wong from the First Nations Education Steering Committee, as well as hear a presentation on hate crime legislation by Sgt. Mark Graf and Det. Cst. Kate Capraire from the BC Hate Crime Team.

Step 2 and 3 communities were joined by post-step 3 communities on the second day. This provided an opportunity for communities to hear about the successes and challenges involved in developing and implementing community response protocols and to hear about how the CIRM has been a catalyst for new community initiatives. The meeting was a time for open dialogue, information sharing, and feedback on the CIRM



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

3

## Government of BC 2010 Multiculturalism Theme Vision and Guiding Principles

Honourable Wally Oppal, Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, recently approved a theme, vision and guiding principles for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The theme was developed and put forward by members of the province's Multicultural Advisory Council. Division staff have been meeting with LegaciesNow and other partners to discuss opportunities for collaboration.



*As a 2010 Member Partner, the Government of British Columbia is committed to hosting an Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games that promotes equal opportunity and full participation, and celebrates multiculturalism to enhance the social and economic benefits of cultural diversity for British Columbia and Canada.*

The Division will also be working with representatives from the BC Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games Secretariat, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, 2010 LegaciesNow, and the provincial Cultural Services Branch, Ministry of Tourism, Sport & the Arts to move the theme forward.

## Alternative ESL Pilots' Initial Evaluation

A recent evaluation of alternative delivery pilots for ESL in four communities has found that this new service delivery method is meeting and even exceeding expectations. The evaluation highlights some unexpected outcomes of the pilots located in Terrace, Smithers, Salmon Arm, and Revelstoke. For example, the volunteer tutor model has attracted a greater number of learners than those who participated in class. The model also appears to be leading to greater social integration of the learners, in addition to meeting their ESL learning objectives.

In one community, a tutor was able to respond to

an individual student's needs by accompanying her to work. Focusing on job-specific language allowed the student to excel in her job.

The Division has decided to extend the pilots for another year and add new sites that have shown interest in participating. The Division expects to complete a more thorough evaluation during this extension phase in order to determine if it will adopt this program as an ongoing service.

For more information, please contact Rob Boldt at [Rob.Boldt@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rob.Boldt@gov.bc.ca) or 604.775.0293

## BCSAP Consultation Process Update

In April, the Division held a day-long consultation with other government and non-government funders whose areas of responsibility include the provision of services to immigrant adults, families or children. The purpose of the consultation was to:

- share feedback obtained at a consultation conducted with BC Settlement and Adaptation Program (BCSAP) service providers in December 2005;
- solicit further input on priorities for immigrant services; and
- explore potential partnership opportunities to better address immigrant service needs.

Approximately 55 participants attended the consultation, including representatives from seven provincial ministries, four federal departments,

three Lower Mainland municipalities, the Union of BC Municipalities, seven School Districts, and two health authorities.

Among the major themes of the day was an interest in looking at ways to increase and improve settlement services for youth, families and multi-barriered adults. Feedback received is being used by the Division to inform future planning and programming decisions, and to identify future collaboration and partnership opportunities.

For more information, please contact Alison Dudley at [Alison.Dudley@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alison.Dudley@gov.bc.ca) or 604.775.0470



## Skills Connect for Immigrants RFP Results

Six consortia with experience in the delivery of employment-related services targeting immigrants have been selected through an open tendering process to deliver the Skills Connect for Immigrants Program administered by the Ministry of Economic Development. Services will begin in all regions of the province by early June and will specifically address critical skill shortages in the construction, transportation, energy, and tourism/hospitality sectors.

### SKILLS CONNECT LEAD AGENCIES

Back in Motion Rehab Inc. (serving the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley)

Camosun College (serving the Capital Region)

Douglas College, The Training Group (serving the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley)

Multicultural Helping House Society (serving the Lower Mainland)

Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society (serving Surrey and the Fraser Valley)

Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training, ASPECT (throughout the province)

Immigrant participants will benefit from a customized combination of services including qualifications assessment and career planning, pre-employment skill enhancement, and workplace orientation and practice. Additionally, the Ministry of Economic Development is working closely with the ministries of Health and Advanced Education to deliver services targeting the health sector. In consultation with employers, regulators, and training institutions, a number of health-focused pilot projects have been identified for implementation in early 2006/07. Over 5,000 immigrants will benefit from this expedited employment-entry approach over the next three years. Eligible participants will possess an intermediate to advanced level of language proficiency and have a minimum of five years work experience within the sectors identified above prior to arriving in Canada.

For more information please contact Vicki Chiu at [Vicki.Chiu@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Vicki.Chiu@gov.bc.ca) or 604.660.3603

## New Child Care Subsidy Initiative

In April, the Division and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create a child care subsidy outreach pilot project for non-English speaking residents. The purpose of the pilot is to create greater awareness and access of child care subsidy by the immigrant community. MCFD recognizes that awareness of the child care subsidy program has been low for immigrant families and that families where English is the second language face barriers to accessing the program.

Under the Memorandum, MCFD will provide additional funds to the BCSAP Information and Support Services contractors. With the funding, settlement and outreach staff within these organizations will provide support to families, including care providers, to access child care

subsidy where language barriers currently exist. The pilot project will be carried out for one year.

For more information, please contact Rob Boldt at [Rob.Boldt@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rob.Boldt@gov.bc.ca) or 604.775.0293

*Child care subsidy is a monthly payment administered by the Ministry of Children and Family Development that helps low and moderate income families meet the cost of child care.*



### STAFF UPDATE

Co-op student, Clara Wong, has been working with the Division since January. Clara is majoring in Communication at Simon Fraser University. Since joining the Division, she has assisted with a variety of layout and design projects, including this newsletter. Additionally, she has developed several presentations and helped to coordinate an April consultation session on BCSAP.

### REPORT ON MULTICULTURALISM



The 2004/05 Report on Multiculturalism documents key multicultural policies and initiatives of provincial ministries and Crown agencies. This report is now available at [www.ag.gov.bc.ca/sam/rom](http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/sam/rom)



# IMMIGRATION POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS Division Update

SPRING 2006

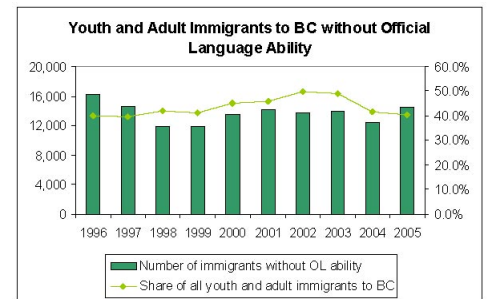
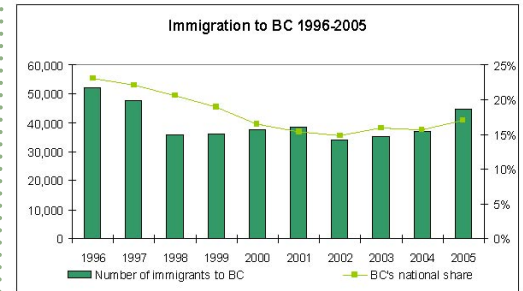
## MISSION TO FRANCE

Supported by funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), BC participated in its first immigration recruitment mission to France in March. Representatives from the Ministry of Economic Development, the Société de développement économique and the University of British Columbia's TRIUMF research laboratory met with Francophone immigrants and skilled workers in Paris and Nice. Representatives reported that young professionals were particularly interested in BC's employment opportunities and lifestyle. BC developed two bilingual display banners and compiled 500 CD-ROMs for distribution in France. The CDs detailed program and service information and provided links to community organizations and French language materials across government. Representatives also distributed an information booklet on teaching opportunities in BC's French school system, developed by the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie Britannique and its member agencies.

## 2005 Immigration Trends Highlights

In 2005, the level of immigration to Canada and BC increased significantly. The province welcomed 44,734 new immigrants, up 21% over 2004. Of these newcomers, 30,172 (67%) came as economic immigrants (including principal applicants and their dependants). BC remained the most popular province for business immigrants and received 48% of immigrants to Canada in this class, the highest share in the past 10 years. Investors continued to dominate business class immigrants. In contrast, BC's share of refugees continued to decline and in 2005, the province received only 6% of refugee immigrants to Canada.

A higher proportion of youth and adult immigrants (59%) possessed official language skills upon landing. The number of immigrants without English or French ability however, reached 14,476, an increase of 17% from 2004, as a result of the increased immigrant inflow. The share of adult immigrants who arrived with post-secondary education reached a record 10-year high at 55%, indicating an improvement on the education level of BC's new permanent residents.



## Joint Federal Provincial Immigration Advisory Council

The BC/Yukon Region of CIC and the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) have established a joint Federal Provincial Immigration Advisory Council. The purpose of the Council is to provide a channel of communication between CIC, MAG and community members to enhance program delivery and community relations, and to contribute to the development of policies, programs, and research

in the areas of immigrant selection, integration, refugee protection, and citizenship acquisition. The Council is co-chaired by CIC Regional Director General, Marilyn Viger, and MAG Assistant Deputy Minister, Tom Jensen. The first meeting was held in Vancouver in January. Council members, listed below, represent the province's geographical, cultural, economic, and social diversity.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Health** - Dr. Cheryl Anderson, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
- Social Research** - Dan Hiebert, UBC/Metropolis
- Official Languages** - Michelle Rakotonaivo, La Federation des Francophones de la Colombie-Britannique
- Vancouver Municipal** - Baldwin Wong, City of Vancouver
- BC Municipalities** - Marie Crawford, Union of BC Municipalities
- Legal Services** - Joshua Sohn, Canadian Bar Association (Immigration)
- Settlement and Integration** - Jean McRae, Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC
- Small Business** - John Winter, BC Chamber of Commerce
- International/Post-Secondary Students** - Donna Hooker, British Columbia Centre for International Education
- K-12 Education** - Sheila Rooney, Burnaby School District
- English Language Training** - Ming Berka, ELSA Net (Providers of English Language Services for Adults)
- Community Development** - Marie Gallant, Community Futures Development Association of BC
- Asia Canada Business** - Yuen Pau Woo, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
- Social/Community Programs** - Don Black, Laurier Institution
- Refugees** - Chris Friesen, Immigrant Services Society of BC
- Business Community** - Ed Wong, Business Council of BC