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ISSofBC receives sixth Great Place to Work® award



ISSofBC has been recognized once again as one of this year's Best Workplaces in Canada, joining 49 other companies nationwide that made it to this year's list in the medium company size category.

This is ISSofBC's sixth such award, and the fourth in a row since 2010. The first two awards were received in 2007 and 2009.

ISSofBC was one of eight BC-based organizations, and one of only three social services organizations nationwide, to make it to this year's list.

"This award is a testament to the amazing capacity of ISSofBC staff to uphold the values and work ethic of the organization despite what seems to be relentless change, much uncertainty and increasing professional demands," said Patricia Woroch, ISSofBC's CEO, in a message to staff. "I continue to see staff going the extra mile to support each other, to care for clients and to meet goals and objectives, all the while maintaining a wonderfully positive attitude."

The list of "Best Workplaces in Canada" is compiled annually by Great Place to Work® Institute Canada. Over 300 nominations were received and over 57,000 employees participated in this year's survey.

Vancouver City gives final stamp of approval on Welcome House



April 2013

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Have you clicked today?



The new ISSofBC website is live!



Chris Friesen, ISSofBC director of settlement services, explains the ins and outs of the new Welcome House Centre at the Museum of Vancouver last fall.

ISSofBC's plan to build a 58,000-square-foot refugee services hub in East Vancouver received the final green light early April by Vancouver City Council who approved a grant close to \$500,000 and a 60 year land lease for the project.

"This is another milestone in this long-term multi-year project of getting this facility built... we've had outstanding support from the city," said Chris Friesen, ISSofBC director of settlement services during an interview on CBC Radio's On the Coast April 9.

The Welcome House Centre, to be located at 2610 Victoria Drive, will be the first facility of its kind in the world and brings together a variety of essential organizations, programs and services that address the needs of immigrants and refugee newcomers to Vancouver.

The City of Vancouver will provide \$490,000 and a 60-year land lease at \$1 per year in support of the project.

Royal Roads simplifies admission for ISSofBC international students



International students mingle at the Royal Roads University campus in Victoria.

Click on the streamlined [program pages](#) to read all about ISSofBC's diverse services, scroll through the [news and events section](#) to find out the latest at ISSofBC or browse the [Facebook page](#) to see photos of employees, clients and students.

However, the revamped site is not completely finished yet.

The communications team continues to make minor adjustments, so please bear with us as we put on the final touches.

ISSofBC Open House to showcase new services



New services for immigrant and refugee children, youth and young adults are now available at ISSofBC's Alexandra Road location in Richmond.

These services, to be introduced at an open house on May 7, include free Child Minding Services for children whose parents are enrolled in the ELSA (English Language Services for Adults) program, and the Moving Ahead Program (MAP).

[Click here](#) for more details.

ELSA students learn how the wheels on the bus go round and round

ISSofBC international students who wish to enter a BC public university are one step closer to acceptance thanks to a new partnership between Vancouver Island's Royal Roads University and ISSofBC.

The new articulation between the institutions allows successful ISSofBC graduates of a variety in International Studies programs to apply to the Royal Roads International Study Centre bypassing the English language entrance exam.

"This new articulation is a great pathway for students who wish to enter a Canadian university," said **Camilla Dietrich**, Instructional Coordinator at ISSofBC's International Studies Division (IS).

IS graduates from Intensive English, Professional Communication and Marketing Diploma, Academic English, and Business Diploma can all apply to skip the English exam provided their grades are in good standing at ISSofBC.

IS also has similar agreements with other Canadian universities such as the University of Prince Edward Island, Edmonton's Grant MacEwan University and BCIT.

Job seekers hone employability skills in Richmond workshop series



Librarian Haidee O'Brien, introduces Employability 101 at the Richmond Public Library- Brighouse.

Richmond residents seeking to improve their employability with better cover letters and elevator pitches received expert advice on how to stand out among job seekers in an ISSofBC-led workshop series at the Richmond Public Library-Brighouse.

Every Thursday from April 4 to April 25, ISSofBC employment counselors conduct the workshops called Employability 101. At the



How long is a valid ticket for? What is a kneeling bus? Who is responsible for loading and unloading bicycles?

ISSofBC ELSA students learned the answers to these questions and then some in last week's hands-on orientation on how to use Vancouver's bus system. The orientation took place in a parked TransLink bus outside of ISSofBC Terminal on April 15 and 16.

A special thank you goes out to the TransLink instructors who showed students the ins and outs of riding public transit.

ISSofBC staffs busy booth at VCC career fair



ISSofBC teamed up with Vancouver Community College April 11 for VCC's annual career fair. The event, attended by close to 1500 people, included an array of employer and organization booths including UPS, Vancity Group and Training Innovations.

In addition, the fair hosted a number of informative seminars on strategies for getting hired and utilizing social media for your career.

ISSofBC has been a key event partner in VCC's Career fair since 2009.

A special thank you goes out to

first session in the series, ISSofBC employment counselors **Gloria Mariash** and **Alan MacInroy** conducted a one-on-one lesson with Richmond Library patrons to prepare stand-out cover letters and Resumes.

Camilla Dietrich, Instructional Coordinator at ISSofBC's International Studies Division, facilitated the second session focused on soft skills, particularly Canadian-style assertiveness. Attendees investigated the differences between assertive, aggressive, passive and manipulative responses to challenging situations.

Pauline Davidson, ISSofBC ELSA for the Workplace instructor, led the third workshop focused on business English, particularly idiomatic language. During the session participants also explored the elevator pitch using a YouTube video, an article from the Canadian Immigrant magazine and discussion within the group.

The final workshop, Industry Talk: Bank and Finance, takes place on April 25 at 2pm at Brighthouse Richmond Public Library.

[Click here](#) for more information on the workshop series.

all the ISSofBC staff and volunteers who helped in making this day a success.

Contact

Chris Stephenson
Departmental Coordinator
Language College and
Career Services
#501 - 333 Terminal Avenue,
Vancouver, BC V6A 2L7
T: 604-684-2561 ext. 1144
chris.stephenson@issbc.org

