

If you are having issues viewing this eNews properly, please [click here](#).



## ISSofBC ELSA teachers among lead trainers on new CLB kit



Lisa Herrera (centre) is all smiles with ISSofBC ELSA students in Maple Ridge.

The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB) credited two ELSA employees as lead trainers to instruct teachers in BC on the latest version of the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) framework.

Lisa Herrera, ELSA Instructional Coordinator and Diana Ospina, ELSA instructor are two of five ELSA teachers in BC chosen by CCLB to instruct teachers on how to use the updated CLB.

“Having two ISSofBC employees chosen to teach teachers on the updated CLB framework is validation that we [ISSofBC] have reputable expertise in using CLB in the ELSA program,” Lisa said.

CLBs are the national standard used for describing, measuring and recognizing the English language proficiency of adult immigrants living and working in Canada. The updated CLB includes a more user friendly Theoretical Framework Document and Support Kit.



### March 2013

In this Issue

ISSofBC ELSA teachers bring updated CLB to BC classrooms

Immigrant professionals learn vital search tips at ISSofBC sponsored event

IS celebrates teacher's accomplishments at farewell party

Food, music and dance connect cultures from around the world

Happy Nowruz

مبارک نوروز - norooz mobarak



ISSofBC staff put together the traditional food and display of Haft-Seen in celebration of

In order to make the CLB a practical, usable document, the competencies and standards had to be considerably compressed and simplified, the CCLB website states.

In addition to training ISSofBC teachers on the updated CLB, ELSA Net (a society of ELSA service providers) which is assisting in facilitating CLB changes in the classrooms, plans to send the pair to other institutions to share their expertise.

Lisa's first training session is on April 5 in Surrey.

Employees of SUCCESS, Camosun College on Vancouver Island and ELSA Net are among others accepted as lead trainers in the province.

## Immigrant professionals learn what it takes to land a job in Canada



Keynote speaker Lionel Laroche says immigrant job seekers need to learn about the Canadian work environment in order find gainful employment.

Immigrants competing for jobs in Canada with a higher education but lower soft skills than the Canadian-born competition will end up at the back of line, said Lionel Laroche, an expert on cultural diversity in the Canadian workplace during the ISSofBC sponsored BC Immigrant Professionals Conference.

Lionel was among a team of employment specialists, panelists and moderators providing expert advice on how newcomers can succeed in their career goals. The conference, held March 16 at the Hilton Metrotown, included seminars and workshops on soft skill training, the hidden job market and interview tips.

During his keynote speech to approximately 300 participants, he urged job seekers to try to understand how the Canadian working

Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

Staff at Drake Street celebrated Nowruz Wednesday March 20 with Persian tea and pastries, along with the Haft Seen (Persian: هفتسین) or the seven 'S's.

The Haft Seen table includes seven items all starting with the letter seen (Persian: س) in the Persian alphabet.

The main items are:  
**Somagh** (sumac): symbolizes the colour of sunrise  
**Serkeh** (vinegar): symbolizes age and patience  
**Senjed** (dried fruit from lotus tree): symbolizes love  
**Samanoo** (sweet pudding): symbolizes affluence  
**Sabzeh** (sprouts): symbolizes rebirth  
**Sib** (apple): symbolizes health and beauty  
**Sir** (garlic): symbolizes medicine

Nowruz is very much a cultural celebration in Iran and has been celebrated for centuries. It is customary for families to gather around the Haft Seen at the moment of the Spring Equinox and celebrate the transition from winter into spring together.

This year Nowruz was celebrated at 4:01am on March 20.

## ISSofBC hits the dance floor in celebration of International Women's Day



Turkish music, Zumba dancers and wine and cheese - this was

environment operates before jumping into more technical training to land a job.

“Soft skills matter a lot more in Canada. Most people think about increasing their technical skills but working on their soft skills is essential,” he said.

Soft skills refer to a cluster of personal qualities, habits, attitudes and social graces that make someone a good employee and compatible to work with.

Staff from ISSofBC’s Skills Connect and Mentoring Connections also presented at the event providing expert advice to participants as well sharing information on the benefits of their ISSofBC programs.

In addition, ISSofBC career services set up an attractive information booth on the exhibit floor to promote ISSofBC’s services to potential clients and interested conference participants.

During the day’s workshops and seminars, participants also had a chance to network, ask questions to a panel of experts and review tips on how to maximize their job search.

ISSofBC would like to acknowledge **Freda Fernandes, Carol Cordeiro, Brenda Alindogan, Mary Tecson, Vanessa Lee, Irene Lin, Silvia Arreguin, Tanja Ivkovic, Maggie Chen, Esther Jung, Laurie Sing and Alla Sotnikova** for all their hard work creating a successful event for the over 300 participants that attended.

MOSAIC and DIVERSEcity were also point sponsors for the event.

## IS says farewell to longtime teacher



**Audrey Suchoplas (second from front left) celebrates her retirement among co-workers from the IS division.**

From chalk boards, to white boards to smart boards, ISSofBC’s **Audrey’s Suchoplas** has written the ABCs on all of them throughout

all part an International Women’s Day celebration hosted by the ISSofBC’s Women’s Program.

The celebration, at the Creekside Community Centre on Friday, March 8, included performances by Turkish and Iranian bands and a Zumba dancer.

Around 60 people attended including past program graduates, participants, volunteers, staff and friends.

On International Women’s Day, Canadians participate in a worldwide celebration of women, peace and human rights. Canada’s theme for International Women’s Day 2013 was Working Together: Engaging Men to End Violence against Women.

### Richmond Child Minding featured in case study on play environment



Natural Pod, a locally owned business that manufactures non-toxic toys and play environments, featured ISSofBC’s Richmond Child Minding Facility in a case study.

The new facility was built from scratch with the assistance of Natural Pod and **Josee Lavallee**, Richmond’s ECE supervisor.

[Click here](#) to read the case study.

### “Talking About Pain” ESL curriculum recognized as collaborative success

her career as an English language teacher.

However, after over a decade of teaching students, training teachers and instructing workers, Audrey retired from the International Studies Division (IS) to become a full-time grandmother.

Over Audrey's 13 years at ISSofBC, she played a vital role in IS instructing teachers in TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages), TEC (Teaching English to Children) and Pronunciation classes. In addition, she supervised a variety of practicum students and carried out Workplace English contracts off-site at various Vancouver companies.

**Bonnie So**, ISSofBC Division Manager of International Studies said Audrey's warm presence in the classroom provided students with the push to learn.

"She really gave students encouragement and hope," she said.

In addition, Audrey was a key teacher in off-site Workplace English classes at a number of well-known companies including the Sorin Group which specializes in building heart valves for the medical industry.

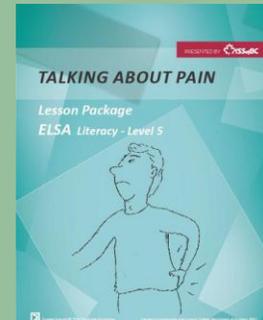
Bonnie said because of her confidence and good people skills, she was successful at bringing her teaching abilities wherever she went.

With Audrey's departure from ISSofBC comes the arrival of a set of new teachers including **Martin Karakas** who now teaches TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) classes and substitutes in other IS programs. He has a Master in Arts in translation (English/Spanish) and also speaks French.

## Cultures meet in Maple Ridge



An event poster highlights the diversity of the Maple Ridge cultural extravaganza.



The ISSofBC Talking about Pain lesson package, created in collaboration with students from the Langara College School of Nursing, and with the support of the BC TEAL Charitable Foundation, will be the focus of two upcoming presentations in Vancouver.

Because of the successful collaborative efforts of the project and the quality of the lessons, ISSofBC staff have been invited to present the Talking About Pain package at the upcoming BC TEAL conference. In addition, Langara College Nursing students will present the package at the UBC Graduate Symposium.

For a look at the lessons and supporting videos [click here](#).

## Local library can unlock employment potential



Richmond jobseekers looking for quick tips on improving their employability need to look no further than their neighbourhood library for meaningful help.

Beginning April 4 until June 27, the Richmond Public Library-Brighouse is hosting a three-

A mix of Ukrainian food, Chinese dancing and Iranian music is not something a person would generally experience in one place at one time. However in Maple Ridge, ISSofBC ELSA students and staff did just that by joining forces with other community organizations to put together a multi-cultural extravaganza called Celebrations Around the World.

This event, on March 7 at The Hive Neighbourhood Centre, showcased an array of multicultural food, performances, videos and displays ELSA Maple Ridge students created.

This collaborative effort with The Hive, the Maple Ridge Literacy Committee and the Family Education & Support Centre, brought in approximately 200 people to the celebration.

**Eysa Alvarez**, ISSofBC Assistant Manager/Registration Coordinator in Maple Ridge, said all involved are looking forward to holding more collaborative events in the future in order to promote a more inclusive and welcoming environment for immigrants in Maple Ridge.

Eysa would like to give a big thank you to the Maple Ridge Settlement and ELSA staff and ISSofBC's **Yumiko King** for contributing to the success of this event.

month workshop series called Employability 101 facilitated by ISSofBC.

For more information [click here](#).

## 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](mailto:chris.stephenson@issbc.org)

