



Revived eNews aims to connect

ISSofBC eNEWS is back!

Since our last issue was published 21 months ago, ISSofBC's service delivery locations have grown from nine to 14, with staff currently working out of 26 locations that include those operated by partner organizations. Service coverage area has also expanded beyond the Lower Mainland, with staff assigned in Squamish, Kamloops and Oliver.

While it is exciting to see the reach of ISSofBC's brand of service excellence extended to new, uncharted territories, the task of ensuring that staff who are spread in numerous, geographically-distant locations have equal timely access to organizational news has become, to say the least, challenging. Even as new communications tools have become available to us (eg., sharepoint, social media channels), we are hearing from staff that these do not quite hit the mark in fostering connections among staff and strengthening community spirit within the organization. Hence, the revival of ISSofBC eNEWS!

It is therefore nothing short of fortunate that - with the recent appointment of Chris Stephenson as Departmental Coordinator of the Language College and Career Services administration - we've enriched our writing and editorial capacity which has enabled us to fast-track the project. Chris has -- barely three weeks into the job -- pulled together this first comeback issue of ISSofBC eNEWS!

We welcome your ideas, articles, and questions about this monthly newsletter. Chris will be more than happy to hear from you via his email at chris.stephenson@issbc.org or via phone at 604-684-2561, extension 1144. Let's start the connection!

Lily Lim
Manager - Communications

Staff invited to engage in stories of aspiring Canadians



ISSofBC promotional material

A multimedia exhibit highlighting ISSofBC staff, client and community engagement is an opportunity for all Canadian immigrants to share in their journeys as they build their new lives in Vancouver.

"Untold Stories: History of Immigrants in Vancouver," at the Museum of Vancouver (MOV) from October 18 to January 6, is an exhibit of personal stories brought to life through video interviews and portraits and the role that ISSofBC has played in the last 40 years in supporting newcomers to Canada.

This exhibit is not only for viewing, but a chance for everyone to share his or her own story of

October 2012

In this Issue

Untold Stories exhibit brings immigrant journeys to life

Get your camera ready! Spot, Snap and Ride staff contest

RAP manager retires after 13 years of service

ELSA's Learning in Action connects students with volunteers

Photo of the month: Justin and Laurie

Staff Updates

ShakeOut

The Great British Columbia ShakeOut is an annual opportunity to practice how to be safer during big earthquakes: "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." ShakeOut has also been organized to encourage you, your community, your school, or your organization to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies, and to secure your space in order to prevent damage and injuries.

You are invited to join thousands of people

creating a new life in Canada. Staff, students and clients are encouraged to document their journeys online at www.issbc.org/40th.

In addition, "Untold Stories: History of Immigrants in Vancouver" includes teaching resources for ELSA and Vancouver School Board students. Two curricula, created by ISSo/BC ELSA instructors Nona Mazinani, Brad McKeage and Alla Sotnikova working under the leadership of ELSA-New Westminster Manager Andrea Solnes, explore the topics of immigration and multiculturalism through these personal stories. These free downloadable resources are available at: www.issbc.org/40th.

Exhibit-related programming also includes a no-fee, moderated public dialogue on November 28. The dialogue focus is on how immigration has shaped Vancouver's evolution. Kathy Sherrell, division manager of ISSo/BC's settlement services, is among the speakers at this forum. The dialogue also includes prominent movers and innovators such as Architect Gregory Henriquez, twice-elected member of the Vancouver City Council Geoff Meggs and Professor of Geography at UBC and Co-Director of Metropolis British Columbia Daniel Hiebert.

The "Untold Stories" exhibit opens on Oct. 17th at an invitational event that is focused on donors and funders. ISSo/BC staff invited to the opening will share in hosting duties and interact with the guests. These include management staff, teaching staff who developed the exhibit-related ELSA and VSB curricula and who compiled and produced the ELSA students' immigration stories, and long-term ISSo/BC staff with over 20 years of service.

Complimentary tickets to enable other staff to view the exhibit during its three-month run will soon be available through their managers.

Spot, Snap and Ride staff contest



flickrhivemind photo

It's contest time at ISSo/BC. This one will take you on a ride to a bus shelter near you. Here is the contest breakdown.

Who: ISSo/BC employees can participate in teams of 2-5 people. Choose your co-workers, supervisors, lunch buddies or people in your office you have never met! Create a catchy team name that represents the essence of your personalities.

What: Locate "Untold Stories: History of Immigrants in Vancouver" exhibit advertisements on TransLink bus shelters in Vancouver. Snap a photo of you and your team in front of the shelter using some creative genius. The teams who find the most bus shelters accompanied with photos win. Be sure to capture the moment with the exhibit ad in the background.

Where: To make things a little less hectic and more fun we have included the addresses of all the bus shelters with our advertisements.

1. West Pender Street @ Broughton street
2. Angus Drive @ West 61st Avenue
3. Commercial Drive @ East 14th Avenue
4. East Broadway @ Rupert Street
5. Fraser Street @ East 35th Avenue
6. McGill Street @ Renfrew Street
7. West 10th Avenue @ Discovery Street
8. East 41st Avenue @ Clarendon Street
9. West 49th Avenue @ Alberta Street
10. West 71st Avenue @ Oak Street

If that's not enough to motivate your team [click here](#) to see a handy map.

who will Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10:18 a.m. on October 18.

Job Fair

ISSo/BC is pleased to announce our upcoming Tri-Cities Job Fair on Thursday October 25, 2012 from 12:30-3:30pm, at the Evergreen Cultural Centre in Coquitlam. Employers confirmed so far are Home Depot-Coq and PoCo UPS, Coit Cleaning Services Burnaby, Boulevard Casino Coquitlam, Vancity, RBC, T & T Supermarket and City of Coquitlam. There will also be several workshops on job search related topics. Thanks for your support in getting the word out about this event.

AGM Highlights

Senator Mobina Jaffer was the keynote speaker at the ISSo/BC AGM on September 19. In her speech, she shared stories of her experiences abroad and outlined the issues in resettlement policies in Canada. MLAs Richard T. Lee and Raj Chouhan also attended the meeting and extended a certificate of appreciation to mark the 40th anniversary of ISSo/BC.

United Way Campaign

ISSo/BC staff have a legacy of giving generously year after year to the United Way of the Lower Mainland's annual fundraising campaign. The monies collected help children, families and seniors - many of which are or have been our clients.

Thanks again to everyone for participating in the United Way Campaign. The final campaign deadline for all envelopes is Oct 15th, 2012.

Contact: bahar.taheri@issbc.org or 604.684.7498 ext 1602.

ISSo/BC Welcome House Update

The ISSo/BC Welcome House Building Team has finalized and made changes to the building as a result of the Urban Design Panel requirements. This includes such things as redesigning the entrance way - e.g. distance from the sidewalk too far, no possibility of the taxi drop-off pad on the lane and addressing fire exit access concerns. A staff report on the rezoning application should be making its way to Vancouver City Council this month. A public hearing to review the re-zoning and development permit application takes place in November.

Did You Know?

Hidekazu Tojo of Vancouver's Tojo's Restaurant claims to have invented the California Roll plus several other famous sushi rolls. Tojo's is a Japanese restaurant on Broadway that is consistently rated one of the top restaurants of its kind in Vancouver.

Chinese immigrants played an enormous roll in the history of Vancouver; their labour was vital to the creation of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which led to Vancouver's incorporation as a city in 1886. While the railway was built, Chinese cooks in Gastown invented the first Chinese buffets: Chinese smörgåsbords for Scandinavian loggers and mill-workers.

Cartoon of the month

When: The contest runs November 5 to December 5 (That's one full month, people). Prizes will be awarded at the staff Christmas party on December 7!

Why: Why does anyone participate in a contest? Because it's a social event and it's FUN; not to mention the prizes. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third teams who snap a photo in front of the most bus shelters. There will also be a bonus prize for the team with the most creative photo. Prizes are courtesy of ISSoFBC's International Studies.

How: Grab a team, find a bus shelter, snap a photo, send the evidence via email to:

chris.stephenson@issbc.org

Be sure to include the team name, all the team members, the place and date of each photo. This contest ends at 12 noon on December 5. Any photos received after 12 noon will not be entered into the contest.

RAP manager bids farewell to ISSBC



Jim Siemens (front-centre) and his co-workers at ISSoFBC (ISSoFBC photo)

Jim Siemens, Manager of the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP), retired from ISSoFBC as of October 4, 2012 after working with us since 1999. In true ISSoFBC fashion we had a wonderful potluck gathering in his honour to recognize and give thanks for all of his contributions. Whether it was advocating for family reunification on behalf of a refugee woman who left her newborn child back home, spending his volunteer time helping refugee youth improve their English language skills or helping refugee newcomers find employment, Jim worked with compassion, determination and an endless amount of energy to give resettled refugees the best possible start in Canada.

Three years ago Jim was awarded the Dr. Soma Ganesan Spirit of Hope Award at the Annual Cross Cultural Mental Health Conference. This award, among many that he received over his career, typified the public recognition of his work as part of the ISSoFBC RAP team. We wish him well in retirement.

Chris Friesen, Director - Settlement Services

Volunteers and students connect for an active take on learning English

A special extra-curricular language activity available only in the ELSA program at ISSoFBC in Vancouver, Richmond and New Westminster is Learning in Action (LIA). LIA is a unique program for ELSA students to practice English outside of the class and learn more about the city they live in. LIA pairs students with English-speaking host volunteers for individual trip fields. This is an opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with the community as well as practice English with their new friends. This ELSA activity is available to Level 2 and 3 students.



Former ISSoFBC staff Jerry Wu and Jill Collingwood and current Instructional Coordinator Lisa Herrera first piloted LIA in 2005 as a way to help immigrants gain a sense of Canadian culture, to familiarize themselves with the community and to practice the English lessons learned in class. LIA is offered twice a year to ELSA students, during the fall and spring terms.

Above: 2012 Fall LIA meet and greet (ISSoFBC Photo)



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eNews photo of the month



Sing and Trudeau (ISSofBC promotional material)

Federal Liberal leader candidate Justin Trudeau and ISSofBC Manager of Mentoring Connection Laurie Sing take a break during a round-table discussion focusing on multiculturalism and its role in shaping federal institutions and policies. The event, hosted by Hedy Fry, MP for Vancouver Centre, took place mid-September.

