ISS of BC
Helping immigrants build a future in Canada

WELCOME CENTRE

2610 Victoria Drive, Vancouver, BC
Opening Celebration – June 25, 2016
June 25, 2016

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations on the opening of the ISSoBC Welcome Centre in Vancouver.

Canada is a nation built on immigration. Over the past 149 years, millions of newcomers from around the globe have joined our two founding peoples and First Nations. Our pluralistic society has been a continuing source of strength for the country.

The ISSoBC is one of the oldest and largest multicultural immigrant-serving agencies in Canada, providing integrated assistance to over 25,000 clients per year. With the opening of this welcome centre in Vancouver — the first of its kind in the world — newcomers will have streamlined access to temporary housing and on-site services from government, community organizations, public and private institutions and programs.

I would like to commend all those involved in working together to develop this new facility that will address the immediate needs of refugees and immigrants in Metro Vancouver.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes on this special occasion.

Sincerely,

John McCallum
The Honourable John McCallum, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
A Message from the Mayor

On behalf of the City of Vancouver, I would like to congratulate ISSofBC on the opening of the Welcome Centre. The Centre is an innovative response to meeting the needs of our newest residents and helping them build a future in our city, and the City is honoured to have contributed to the project.

Vancouver has a longstanding commitment to welcoming refugees and their families in times of need. This proud history of helping refugees start new lives with hope, security, and freedom is at the heart of what makes Vancouver such an inclusive and compassionate city.

Finding suitable and affordable housing is a significant challenge facing many newcomers, especially refugees. The City was proud to support the development of the Welcome Centre, and we will continue to work with federal and provincial partners, as well as community groups, to create affordable housing options and ensure Vancouver is a place everyone can call home.

Congratulations once again to ISSofBC on the opening of the Welcome Centre.

Yours truly,

Gregor Robertson
MAYOR

---

A Message from Premier Christy Clark

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I am pleased to extend greetings to everyone gathered for the opening of the Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia’s (ISSofBC) new facility, here on Vancouver’s Victoria Drive.

The stress of change, uncertainty or leaving behind the life you have always known is a difficult challenge that many immigrants and refugees know all too well. By bringing together government services, settlement assistance, language and employment services, this facility sets an especially high standard for supporting newcomers as they start their lives here in BC.

I want to take this opportunity to commend everyone at ISSofBC for their dedication to helping newcomers — your work truly embodies the welcoming and caring reputation of British Columbians.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful opening and I wish you all the best in the important work ahead.

Sincerely,

Christy Clark
Premier
The opening of ISSofBC Welcome Centre is the culmination of a long-held vision to create a fully-integrated facility that would provide transitional housing and support services to meet the immediate needs of immigrants and refugees in Metro Vancouver. For over 20 years, ISSofBC’s Board of Directors and management have been planning and fundraising to support this vision. With the fruition of this vision, gratitude is owed to many individuals over these years: previous board members who acquired our Drake Street property; the Facilities Committee including Joseph Chan, April English, Nicolas Lozovsky and Jim Tallman; Gregory Henriquez and his team at Henriquez Partners Architects; our CEO Patricia Woroch, and Director of Settlement, Chris Friesen.

ISSofBC Welcome Centre mirrors the multi-level and varied services provided by our organization throughout British Columbia. Today, ISSofBC works with over 25,000 immigrants and refugees each year in our 15 offices providing a broad range of settlement, language and employment programming. We also continue to be at the forefront of providing humanitarian aid and resettlement support for refugees from around the world.

At the ISSofBC Welcome Centre, we are extremely pleased to be working alongside our long-time partners Inland Refugees Society, SOS, VAST, Mount Pleasant Family Centre and VanCity.

While today marks a significant milestone and achievement for ISSofBC, it is also about our future. A future where ISSofBC continues to play an important part in building lives of newcomers to Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada. Thank you for joining us at the official opening of ISSofBC Welcome Centre, and we invite you to become part of ISSofBC’s future.

Patricia Woroch
Welcome Centre: From Vision to 2610 Victoria Drive

ISSofBC Welcome Centre is an incredible achievement, and one that has taken a number of years to bring about. While it has taken just over two years to move from the Ground-breaking to the Opening ceremonies, ISSofBC’s past boards of directors and management have been planning, developing and executing a viable financial and development plan for close to 30 years!

Beginning in the late 1980s, ISSofBC’s board put in motion the first step by purchasing the Drake Street office, which housed temporary refugee accommodations and a variety of settlement services. In the 1990s and early 2000s, successive boards put their vision of a multi-service centre providing a wide range of programming for immigrants and refugees into successive strategic plans, and a Board Facilities Committee was formed.

Working closely with the CEO and key management and staff, this committee laid the groundwork for the feasibility of ISSofBC Welcome Centre and worked out all of the key elements for the facility.

The last four years have seen tremendous amounts of activity poured into working with the community, all levels of government, and the internationally-renowned architectural firm, Henriquez Partners Architects. A myriad of details – both large and small – have had to be looked after in the last two years of construction, consuming vast amounts of organizational energy and attention even as ISSofBC management and staff continued the important work of providing excellent service.

Today, ISSofBC Welcome Centre has an address – 2610 Victoria Drive in Vancouver – and is ready to open its doors to the world.
“This painting of the low, warm sunset glow on the building face might reflect where dreams begin. The welcoming warmth of the building holds many guided choices for immigrants and refugees towards a new future in a holistic sense, many parts of the bigger picture for Canada. Many pictures and hours of research went into this image, a strong foundation to develop the multiple layers of colour similar to Canada’s multinational people.”

About The Artist: Lillian Loponen

The Loponen heartbeat can be felt in her paintings located in noted permanent art collections such as the Royal Collection of Drawing and Watercolours in Windsor Castle, UK, included in a Toronto exhibit chronicling the history of watercolours 1925-2000, and in numerous collections throughout the world.

Loponen is an advocate of the healing power of art and was part of a Yukon art fundraiser YAAW4kids held in Ottawa April 24th to help raise funds for an art therapy program in the Netherlands for refugees suffering trauma. With this in mind, the artist gifted the “Where Dreams Begin” watercolour painting to ISSofBC Welcome Centre for immigrants and refugees.
Our Donors and Supporters

ISSLofBC Welcome Centre and its services have benefited greatly from many supporters, including donors whose names are listed in the following pages. We have made every effort to include all donors before our publication deadline. To all of you including those who might have been missed due to the publication deadline, our sincerest thanks for your generous contribution.

We also acknowledge the funding support of the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver.

Our Deepest Thanks...

**Partner**
$10,000-$99,999
- BC Hydro
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Central City Foundation
- Claudia Morawetz and Kevin Tate
- David Ebner & Sheena Johnson
- Edward Thai
- Enabling Accessibility grant - Employment and Social Development Canada
- Storm Crow Tavern

**Supporter**
$1,000-$4,999
- Ann Elizabeth Carroll
  - Canada Helps
- Charity Brighouse
- Claire Roger
- David Ricketts
- Elissa & Harrison Mak
- Kate Pragnell & Hanah Davies on behalf of BC Film Industry
- Leanne Averbach
- Leonard Foster
- Macdonald Real Estate Group
- Peter & Carol Ann Williams
- Peter Williams
- Professor Daniel Skarlicki on behalf of UBC Sauder School of Business
- Ronn Management Inc.
- Sarah Chan
- The Barbara Claire MacKenzie c/o the Aqueduct Foundation
- Verathon Medical (Canada) ULC

**Special Recognition**
$1,000,000+
- Vancity

**Builder**
$200,000+
- Edith Lando Foundation

**Provider**
$5,000-$9,999
- Dustin Dinh on behalf of the Vietnamese Community in Metro Vancouver
- David & Diane Hardouin on behalf of the Marine Drive Tuesday Women
- Ed Eduljee
- Ken Grace and Philip Waddell c/o The McGrane - Pearson Endowment Fund
- Leonard Schein
- McGill Family Fund
- Missy Clarkson on behalf of the Vancouver Hairstylist Community
- Rick and Sandy Young
  - Foundation on behalf of the Marine Drive Tuesday Women
  - VSB SWIS Project 3B

---

Thanks...
Friend
Under $1,000

Aglais Jane Burns
Ai Ling on behalf of HS-Westside
Aijou S Aimee through Vancity Community Foundation
Aio Haberli
Alan Williams on behalf of Ted Williams and Pearl Perehudoff
Alan and Rosalind Sanderson
Alana Tees
Alexandra Petter
Alexis Stephanie Bach on behalf of Spider Elementary
Alison Thomas
Amy Fairbridge
Andrew Wilkins
Angela Redish
Anita Palpeu
Anita Wilks
Ann de la Hey
Armaghan Aliabadi
Arthur Yee
Arthur/Elizabeth Delahey
Avtar Sidhu
BC Housing (ER contribution match)
Bean VGH (Annette Kim)
Beatrice Marie Elsie Okyere in memory of Kingsley Okyere
Bettina Stiemer
Brandon Hastings
Brian Egan
Brian O’Donnell Prism Engineering Employee donation
Carol A. Crabtree
Carolina GW Wong in honour of Karbo Kam
Cassandra Florio
Catriona Main
Celene Chan
Chancery Chambers
Charles Dickens Elementary Parent Advisory Council
Christina Campbell
Christoph Clodius made through Ketchum Canada Inc.
Christopher Alan Clogg
Clifford Bell
Coast Capital Savings Credit Union
D&B Cloud Innovation Center c/o TechPong 2.0
Dana and Dave Prescott
Daniel Ruiz
Danielle Peacock
Danielle Sien-Yee Lee
David Brown
David Hauck and Celia Brinkerhoff
David Lo
David Pritchard on behalf of Jennifer Love
Dawn Bowles
Dean Broadland
Deborah LeRose
Denise G. Sosa
Dita Jarolim
Diversity Awareness Club Clayton Heights Secondary
Donna Barreca
Donna Moroz
Douglas Arthur Scott
Dr. Erling Christensen
Dr. Michael Wrinch
Duchess Designs Ltd
Dundarave Print Workshop
Esther K.L. Allaye-Chan
Felix Breden
Fiona Rough
Gabriel A. Baranyi
Gabriel JV Hodge
Hamidreza Ebrahimi Zadeh Saffar
Harald Grob
Hayne Wai
Haytham Abulela Aly
Heather Hay
Heather Toews
Heidi Nutley
Holly Heath
Ian Giesbrecht
Ione Smith
J Michael Anstead
James Alexander
James Bradbury Lees
Janaya Fuller-Evans
Jane Susan Maskell
Jason Landry
Jeanette Kramer
Jeff Lowe
Jennifer Ellis
Jennifer Gray-Grant
Jennifer Hubbard
Jennifer Stewart
Jennifer Stratford
Jenny Rutherford
Jenny Tough on behalf of her sons
Joanne Rosemarie Dodge
John Vanderlee
Juliet Craig
Kathleen Findlay
Kathryn Arehart in honour of her brother
Kevin Asher
Kevin Goh
Kevin Pohlmann
Kevin Thingvold
Khaled Akkad
Khmer Buddhist Association in Memory of Naomi Staddon
Kim Feltham
Kim Patrick
Kong Bona
Kori E Dacho
Kotby Mona Lee on behalf of Avera Kwong, Amyta Kwong, Lisa Zheng, Yumi Nakajima, Linda Mai, Beth, Alvin Chin, Titus Yip, Krystie Lee, Brennan Seid, Rebecca Koan
Kristin Cole
Kumon of North Vancouver Capilano
Kun Thea
Kutheary Oung
Kwantlen University students Refugees Welcome t-shirt initiative
Lanny Campbell
Laurence McBride
Lausanne Yamolky
Leonard & Patricia Luders
Lesley Jones
Leslie Margaret Rae
Lihong Yang
Linda Read
Lindsay Paterson
Lindsay Selling
Lois Klassen
Lorena Kanke
Lori Rozali
Lucienne Siedlecki
M Sofia La Bounty
Mable Ting
Margaret Crowe
Margaret O’Brien
Margaret f Phillips

Thanks...