

Winter 2006

CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND
Multicultural Society

Promoting diversity and community
participation since 1979

www.cvims.org

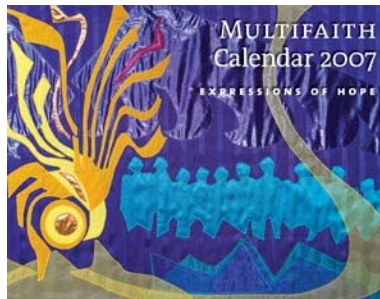


114 - 285 Prideaux Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 2N2 Phone: (250) 753-6911 Fax: (250) 753-4250 Email: wweaus@cvims.org

Multifaith Calendars Now Available!

The **Multifaith Calendar** provides a source of complete and accurate dates, times, and descriptions for over 140 religious and cultural occasions and offering insights to 14 major world faiths.

The visual theme of the 2007 edition of the Multifaith Calendar is Expressions of Hope. Printed in full colour, with captivating photography, an easy to follow layout that will provide quick reference, The Multifaith Calendar will be a valued addition to any office or home... and makes the perfect gift!



Available at our office now!

\$17.00 each, includes taxes

Celebrating Achievements!

The achievements and successes of our clients come in many forms, and often go unrecognized. To acknowledge these triumphs, the CVIMS Board of Directors will host an evening of "Celebrating Achievements" on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. We invite you to attend this event to share the joy and be inspired. Everyone welcome!

**CVI Multicultural Society,
Auditorium - 2nd Floor,
285 Prideaux St. Nanaimo**

We plan to hold this special event three times a year.



Lunar New Year Celebration

Mark your calendars, you are invited to join the fun to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Entertainment includes a variety show of performances from different cultures. Light refreshments served.

**Tuesday, February 13, 2007, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Fairview Community School Gym,
Second Street & Howard Avenue**

Van Isle Employers Want You! - Multicultural Job Fair a Great Success!

On October 12, 2006 CVIMS hosted their first job fair at the Coast Bastion Inn. The event was well received by clients, members, community partners, businesses, exhibitors and the community. For many of our members, it was their first job fair in Canada and it provided an opportunity to meet employers face to face. It was a great opportunity to establish contacts and gain local labour market information. Master of Ceremonies and Board of Direc-

tors member Pradeep Menon introduced Jean Crowder, MP; Diane Brennan, representing City of Nanaimo; Marilyn Hutchinson, Nanaimo Economic Development Group Officer; and Hilde Schlosar, Executive Director of CVIMS, who all spoke about the valuable contributions of immigrants and the importance of their full integration in the community. Presentations held by the exhibitors were very informative and gave insights to the hiring

process within their companies.

The exhibitors represented a variety of sectors including Information Technology, Telecommunications, Tourism, Retail, Financial Services, Customer Service, Construction, Manufacturing and Government Institutions.

We would like to thank all exhibitors and volunteers for their support and participation. Congratulations to those who were successful in finding jobs!

Remember, we are a registered charity and your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated.

Meet Our New Board of Directors...



Paul Armstrong
President

I was born and raised in Toronto and I lived in that city for 32 years. During that time, I was employed in sales and marketing and involved in real estate. At the age of 33 I moved to Alberta, where I attended at the University of Calgary. After obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, I then moved to Vancouver to attend law school at the University of British Columbia. I completed my Bachelor of Laws degree in May 2003 and obtained my articles on

Vancouver Island shortly thereafter. I currently practice law in Nanaimo.

I am very happily married. I met my wife, Ximena, in 1996 while I was living in Calgary. Ximena was born in Quito, Ecuador. She was visiting Canada on a cultural exchange program when we met. We were married in Quito in 1998. Ximena and I now have two young children.

Our greatest joy is spending time together as a family and watching our two sons grow. We also enjoy travel-

ing and meeting new people and discovering new places. As Ximena is originally from Ecuador, we have spent considerable time in that country. We have also traveled throughout South America.

I am a strong believer in multiculturalism and I value the strength and wisdom and diversity that those from distant lands bring to my life and to our society.



Angela Fang
Vice-president

My name is Angela Fang. I have been in Canada for 18 years. When I first came to Canada, the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society helped me to establish myself and my family in Canada. I am very thankful for what they did for me.

At present, I am president of Fang

Tearoe Ent. Ltd Company. I am also working with the BC government to bring investors to Canada as well as to recruit students from China to Malaspina University College.

I am the owner of the Perfect Cup Coffee Shop. I have been the Bay's sales associate for the past 15 years.

I am married and have a 10 year old son. I love golf, swimming and singing. Our family loves all kinds of sports.

I have a very busy life working with four jobs and my family.



Peter Eng - Treasurer

I was born in the British Colony of Hong Kong. I came to Canada when I was sixteen-and-a-half years of age to attend the University of B.C. During my years at the University, I managed to earn three degrees --- two degrees in Chemistry and a bachelor degree in Pharmaceutical Science. After I had completed my hospital pharmacy internship at the Royal Jubilee General Hospital in Victoria, BC, I took my first professional position as a dispensing pharmacist with Woodward's Department Stores, Port Alberni. A year later, I was invited by the West Coast General Hospital in Port Alberni to establish a new Pharmacy Department. I completed that assignment and became the head of the Department.

With opportunity available, I left the Hospital two years later, to become the proprietor and manager of a clinic pharmacy. Through the years, I expanded to Qualicum and then to Parksville. I sold all my businesses shortly after my wife passed away from cancer.

We have five grown children and since my retirement 14 years ago, I have kept myself very active. My present activities include:

Federal and Provincial court interpreting (11 years); Provincial Language Service -Interpreting for Health Services (new); Canadian Cancer Society (Nanaimo) - CanSumount Counsellor (12 years); Nanaimo Family Life, Senior Peers Counsellor (2 years); Volunteer Nanaimo Income Tax Preparer for

seniors and low incomes (10 years) Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society member - assisting with new immigrants to integrate into Canadian society.

I have maintained good health by keeping myself physically, mentally and spiritually in balance.---I play tennis three times a week year round; practise i Gong (Energy Works) and meditation daily; play the violin. I have self educated in Oriental medicine and complementary health care.

I know that I have the knowledge, the experience, the capability and the confidence to commit myself to the task. The rest is up to you. Tuum est.

Multicultural Society Introduces E-Bulletin

Keeping you informed of upcoming events, our programs and services, and other news from CVIMS is important to us. We are excited to introduce our new E-bulletin starting in January 2007 - making it possible to deliver news and updates directly to your inbox! We hope you will enjoy receiving and reading the E-bulletin. If for any reason you wish to unsubscribe please let us know. If you would like to add your email to our list, send us an email at mollek@cvims.org. CVIMS does not share its mailing list.



Joe Crossland - Secretary

I was born in Toronto where I resided for 21 years before moving to Vancouver Island.

While working in Toronto at Centennial College for the department of Continuing Education and at the campus bookstore I developed a strong love for learning. I moved out west and worked in forestry for 10 years which enabled me to see vast

amounts of the province. I spent some time at Royal Roads University and Camosun College where I studied business and tourism. I obtained a TESL Certificate and met my wife during a teaching practicum. She had recently arrived from Thailand. I have since done some teaching and tutoring but the best experience came last year when I had the opportunity to

facilitate a men's group for Newcomers at the centre.

I am currently on the board with CVIMS which has been tremendously rewarding allowing me to participate in this invaluable organization whose services and programs benefit such a great many individuals.



Zeno Jeon

I am a landed immigrant. I am from South Korea, and I have been living in Nanaimo for about 6 years. I worked for Samsung in Korea as a personnel general manager. I am married and have 2 children. Both my wife Sophia and I are happy to live in this beautiful harbor city, Nanaimo.

I am a seminar coordinator. I plan

and coordinate Korean CEO'S seminars and international students program. I am an instructor of Christopher Leadership Course and Phoenix Leadership Seminar that teach public speaking skills and leadership.

I have traveled to many countries because of my business. Now, traveling has become one of my hobbies. I like to play golf and walk with my little

dog.

I am still struggling to learn English. My New Year's resolution is to improve my English skills and to participate in our community more actively.

Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!



Pradeep Menon

Pradeep Menon came to Canada and to Nanaimo about nine years ago. Born and raised in Mumbai, India, he spent fifteen years in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Having traveled and lived in many countries, he brings his own unique perspective to the Board.

He is married with two young children. He and his wife are the first members of their respective families to settle in North America. With first-hand experience of the challenges faced by new immigrants and especially by immigrant professionals, Pradeep eagerly introduces him-

self to new arrivals and mentors them whenever he can.

Pradeep is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer and is currently working for Shaw Cable in Nanaimo. Previously he has worked for Future Shop and also ran his own computer repair business. He also teaches computer-related courses at Malaspina University/College.

Pradeep is very active in Toastmasters International, an organization that trains members in communication and leadership skills. He has been Division Governor for Division G, District 21, leading 24 clubs in North

Vancouver Island. He has also represented Division G in three District 21 speech contests. He has promoted and led Toastmasters' Speechcraft courses. He has been master of ceremonies and featured speaker at many local events in Nanaimo.

He believes that looking beyond the immediate challenges to the many opportunities that Canada has to offer, as the key to successful settlement in the new country. If one is hard-working, resourceful and humble, the fruits of one's initial struggles will come in good time.

From the desk of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There are many things going on behind the scenes of client services and programs. Here's just a glimpse:

October: I have previously been an Alternate and now serve as a Board Member of ELSANet – a network of English Language Services for Adults (ELSA) service providers.

November: I attended an Enhanced Language Training conference hosted by Citizenship and Immigration Canada in Ottawa. It was an ex-

cellent opportunity to learn from other English Language services across the country and to collaborate on ideas. Special Guest speaker was the Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Monte Solberg.

Minister Solberg happened to be on my return plane to Vancouver and I had an opportunity to speak privately with him. Coincidentally, in my role on the Immigrant Integration Steering Committee of AMSSA, I was also one

of 5 invited to a consultation with Minister Solberg the following week in Vancouver.

December: We are proceeding with plans for a Multicultural Health Fair in 2008 and are now recruiting a Steering Committee to assist us.

In our efforts to provide continuing and enhanced services to our clients we are currently working on 5 program or project funding applications (and considering 2 more) all due in January.

Dates to Remember

Jan 8 - 9:00 am

ELSA classes begin

Jan 9 - 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Multicultural Sports & Games
Evening begin
Fairview Community School

Jan 12 - 9:30 am

Multicultural Women's Group
Meetings begin
285 Prideaux St. office

Jan 19 - 10:30 am - 12:00

Parent-Teacher Communication
285 Prideaux St office

Jan 24 - 7:00 - 9:00 pm

RRSP Info Session
285 Prideaux St office

Jan 31 - 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Celebrating Achievement
285 Prideaux St Auditorium

Feb 7 - 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Info Session on Canada
Pension Plan
285 Prideaux St. office

Feb 13 - 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Lunar New Year Celebration
Fairview Community School

Mar 14 - 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Info Session on Old Age
Pension & Old Age Security
285 Prideaux St. office

Mid-February - End of April

Volunteer help with Basic Per-
sonal Income Tax for Low In-
come New Immigrants

News & Updates

Important Information Sessions for Members

A Representative from Service Canada will provide valuable information and answer your questions. Don't miss these!

INFORMATION SESSION ON CANADA PENSION PLAN

Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: our office at 285 Prideaux St

INFORMATION SESSION ON OLD AGE PENSION AND OLD AGE SECURITY

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: our office at 285 Prideaux St

More Workshops

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Workshop designed to support immigrant parents to participate in parent-teacher meetings and create better communication with schools

Date: Friday, January 19, 2007

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Location: our office at 285 Prideaux St

RRSP INFORMATION SESSION

Learn more about Registered Retirement Savings Plans

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: our office at 285 Prideaux St

Two New English Classes

ENGLISH GRAMMAR REVIEW

Beginning January 2007

Classes designed to review English grammar. One evening class per week for 8 weeks.

ENGLISH WRITING SKILLS

Beginning March 2007

Classes are designed to help you improve your written English skills, including business writing. One evening class per week for 4 weeks.

For more information or to register for these classes, please contact Cecilia at (250)753-6911 ext 1 or cchong@cvims.org

Child Care Subsidy Application

We provide assistance with these applications. If you need help with a Childcare Subsidy Application, call for an appointment or more information. Application forms are available at our office.



From the CVIMS Board of Directors and staff, may you find peace and happiness this holiday season and prosperity in the New Year!

Immigrant Employment Centre

Need help to find a job?

The
Employment Centre
is available to
all unemployed
Individuals eligible
to work in Canada.

Monday to Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Drop-in Centre

- Help with resumes
- Use of computers and Internet
- Job Postings Board
- Photocopy & fax service

Employment Counselling

- Action Plan Development
- Contact with Employers
- Job Interview preparation
- Access to English language school
- Access to training and education
- Assistance with foreign credentials

To learn more, contact Nanette Longo

Tel: (250) 753-5503, ext. 1 Email: nlongo@cvims.org

Skilled immigrant?

Not working in your field?



The **Skills Connect Program for Immigrants** is designed to assist skilled immigrants to return to work in their area of expertise.

The program features:

- Career Planning
- Prior learning assessment
- Qualifications assessment/credential evaluation
- Connections to and assistance with professional regulating bodies
- Work experience or practicum
- Industry specific skills training
- Networking assistance
- Ongoing one-on-one job coaching

Skills Connect is designed for landed immigrants who have:

- Lived in Canada for 5 years or less
- 3 years of pre-landing skilled employment
- Intermediate English language ability

To learn more, contact Sylvia Wende

Tel: (250) 753-6911, ext. 108 Email: swende@cvims.org

