

Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society



Celebrating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Celebrate our community's commitment to making Nanaimo a place where all people feel respected and included with an interactive dramatic performance by Nanaimo high school students, videos, displays and refreshments Sunday, March 20th, 12:00 to 4:00 at John Barsby Community School Multipurpose Room, 550 - 7th Street. Sponsored by the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society and the Action for Diversity Team.

For more information call: Terre Flower 250-753-6911 ex 102

Advanced English for Employment & Business

Course Themes

- Success
- Cross-Cultural finesse
- Employee/Employer hats
- Clarity of Communication

11 Weeks - April 5th to June 16th
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
 9 am to 1 pm

The instructor holds degrees in Education and Commerce and is a local business owner. He has also taught for several years at Malaspina University College.

For fee schedule information and to register contact Cecilia Chong 753-6911

Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society Zonta Club of Nanaimo Race Relations Award

Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society and the Zonta Club are co-sponsoring a Race Relations Award of \$500.00 to recognize and honour a student who has made an outstanding contribution to anti-racism and diversity activities in School District #68 (Nanaimo and District).

Please submit applications to:

Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society

Note: This award is open to graduating students. Two references are required. For additional applications, please send request to hschlosar@cvims.org

Deadline: May 3, 2004

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We're on the Web
www.cvims.org



Employment Services Centre

At the Employment Centre you will find:



Job Opportunities Board

- An Employment Advisor ready to assist you with your employment needs - and to answer your questions about the services we offer
- The Job Opportunities Board updated daily with job postings from our local papers, job banks and local employers - a good place to check several times a week!
- We have 3 workstations with computers connected to the internet for you to use while job searching - work on resumes and cover letters or surf the net for jobs, career and labour market information
- Many job resources, including books, videos, and other materials to help you with your job search
- Labour Market Information
- Photocopy, fax and message service

Employment Centre Drop in Hours:

Monday to Friday
8:30 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 4:30

or call Nanette at 753-5503 to book an appointment to find out more

More jobs than ever in Nanaimo *by Joy Andrews*



A good cover letter gets an employer's attention

If you have read the newspaper lately, you will have noticed that there are plenty of jobs out there. With the boom of the construction and real estate industries, the arrival of spring and the anticipation of tourist season, employers are looking for people to come to work. This is a terrific time to get out there and look for a job.

If you are answering an advertisement in the newspaper or on the Canada Job Bank or any of the other paper or on-line job postings, you want your application to stand out so the employer will call you for a job interview. The first thing the employer will read is your cover letter. Here are some tips on how to write a cover letter

that gets an employer's attention.

Put yourself in the employer's shoes - imagine that you are the employer. You are very busy and you want to make sure that you hire the best possible person for the job. Your letter should be concise. Keep it to one page and write 3 - 5 short paragraphs. Tell the employer why you are the right person for the job.

A cover letter is a personal communication from you to the employer about a specific job opportunity. Do not send form letters. A well written, brief letter can show an employer that you understand their business and that you have the qualities

they need. Write about your accomplishments and tell employers how you have demonstrated your skills and abilities at work, in school or at volunteer jobs.

To learn more about how to write an effective cover letter, and see samples, you can go to our on-line

Employment Edge E-manual
http://www.cvims.org/cov_letter.htm

or phone to make an appointment with our Employment Counsellor. Employment Counselling can help you achieve your employment goals.

*Courage does not
always roar.
Sometimes, it is the
quiet voice at the
end of the day
saying, "I will try
again tomorrow".
-- Anonymous*

Action for Diversity Team

"Nanaimo Celebrates its 3rd Annual International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination"

The Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society's Action for Diversity Team is holding Nanaimo's 3rd annual celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Sunday, March 20 from 1-4 pm at John Barsby Community School, 550 7th Street, Nanaimo

"It's important that we take

time to celebrate the positive steps that Nanaimo has taken to become a more Inclusive community," says Action for Diversity Coordinator, Terre Flower. "Events such as these provide an important forum for courageous conversations about racism and discrimination to take place," states Katherine Waller, Event Coordinator.

"In the face of increasing diversity in our community and changes in global relations, it is important that

we start these conversations here at home" continues Waller.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was first declared by the United Nations in 1966. Canada was one of the first countries to support the UN declaration.

For more information call Terre Flower at 753-6911 ex 102



All members of the community are invited to celebrate this day with an interactive dramatic performance by local high school students videos, displays and refreshments

Immigrant Mid-Island Welcome Committee

Immigrant Mid-Island Welcome Committee is the name chosen by the partners who have come together to work on The Welcoming Immigrants to Central Vancouver Island project. This project, funded through the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services includes representatives from the City of Nanaimo, Economic Development Group, media, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, MISTIC, Chambers of Commerce for Nanaimo, Parksville and Qualicum, Community Futures, Amber Education, our Employment Services Centre, BCITP Network, Malaspina University-College and both immigrants and international students. The committee's goal is to develop a strategy to attract and retain immigrants to the

mid-Island region. The committee has recently conducted a survey of students at Malaspina International School, to determine how many would be interested in immigrating here, and what would they need in place to do so. Overwhelmingly, the students told us that they would love to stay in this area, but getting a good job is their first consideration. Here are some other questions asked by the committee.

Q: What does the central island region have to offer immigrants?

A: A culturally diverse community with a variety of places of worship, access to ethnic foods, good climate, beautiful environment, easy access to major centres, economic growth and opportunities for entrepreneur-

ship, Malaspina and a wide variety of family recreational activities.

Q: What do immigrants bring to our community?

A: A wide variety of skills, education and training, courage and determination, a global perspective, international contacts, tolerance, flexibility, cultural diversity, financial resources. From all of the collected information the committee is now looking at ways to use the media, the internet and liaison with other community groups to influence immigrants to come to this region. They also want to create awareness in the community of the many benefits immigrants bring, thereby expanding the welcoming atmosphere for current and future immigrants.

Dates to Remember

- Mar 18 - ELSA classes spring break begins
- Mar 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Mar 22 - No Games Night
- Mar 25 - No Women's Group Meeting
- Mar 30 - ELSA classes resume
- Apr 1 - Women's Group resumes
- Apr 5 - Advanced English for Employment class begins
- Apr 7 - Immigration Law Information Session
- Apr 7 - BCITP Net Meeting
- Apr 8 - Virtues Project Workshop
- Apr 12 - Games Night resumes
- Apr 15 - Virtues Project Workshop
- Apr 21 - BCITP Net at "Connecting Island Businesses" - Parksville
- Apr 26 - Slide Presentation on CIDA Project at Games Night

BCITP Net

The Central Vancouver Island branch held its latest meeting on March 3. The members in attendance welcomed a local chemical engineer to speak on job opportunities in that field. Hilde Schlosar, the Executive Director of the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society gave a presentation on maintaining a positive attitude in order to achieve success.

The group is busy preparing for two upcoming events. The first is an Immigration Law Information Session

held on April 7, 2005.

Dr.L.MacIlquham will cover such subjects as work permit applications, immigration status, student visas, etc. On April 21, 2005 BCITP Net Nanaimo in conjunction with the Employment Services Centre of CVIMS will be participating in the "Connecting Island Businesses" networking event. This is touted as the largest mid-Island business event of the season with over 600 business people expected to attend.

The next BCITP Net meeting is

scheduled to be held on April 7, 2005 starting at 6:30 at 285 Prideaux Street, Nanaimo.

Finally, BCITP Net Nanaimo has a new coordinator, Maggie Wouterloot. Maggie has worked for the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society for the past 11 years as an ESL instructor. Over the years she has met many individuals in her classes that could have benefited from the support of the BCITP. She sees the new position as a welcome chance to help.

Programs

Drop In Centre



Computers are available to use in the adjacent classroom

Open daily from 2:00 - 4:00 the Drop In Centre is becoming very popular.

Women's Group



Women's Group meets every Friday 9:30 am to 12 pm

"The Virtues Project" addresses rising violence among youth and families. Workshops presented Apr 8 & 15, 9:30 - 11:00 in conjunction with women's group

Games & Sports Evening



7 - 9 pm every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at Fairview School

No meeting March 22nd. Activities will resume April 12th.

Workshops & Information Sessions March/April /May

Personal Income Tax Information Session

Every Wednesday 1:00—3:00 pm until April 28th - Basic Personal Income Tax training sessions are available

Computer Workshops

Presenter: Wendy Wenaus

Afternoon class 1:00 to 3:00, Evening class 7:00 to 9:00 (held once every month)

These workshops will be helpful to people who are not familiar with computers and to people who have some computer knowledge but would like to find out more. Classes will be limited to 6 people.

Immigration Law Information Session

Presenter: Immigration Lawyer

Thursday, April 7th 7 to 9 pm

This workshop will be beneficial to people who have questions about work permits, student visas, immigration status, sponsoring relatives and any other legal topics pertaining to Immigration.

Parenting Issues for Immigrants

Thanks to funding support from the Ministry for Children & Family Development, we are able to offer 12 workshops on: parenting young children, parenting teenagers and information on child care. Workshops will be offered in English, Korean and Mandarin Chinese. Contact our office for workshop schedule.

Registration is required for all workshops. Please register in advance by contacting Cecilia or Wendy 114 - 285 Prideaux Street Nanaimo BC V9R 2N2 Phone: 753-6911 There is no charge for these sessions.



**Spring Greetings
from CVIMS Staff**