

Holiday Greetings

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Central Vancouver Society would like to wish all members and their families a happy holiday season. May the coming year be filled with health, happiness and harmony!

At the end of the International Year of the Volunteer, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of volunteers to the work of the Society. Without your support, year in and year out, the Society would not be able to do the work it does. Thank you.

We also would like to thank our community partners, Home Depot for the paint and Coastal Community Credit Union for the volunteer labour. As a result of their generosity, we were able to paint the daycare and one of the classrooms.



**CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND
MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

114 - 285 Prideaux Street
Nanaimo, B.C.V9R 2N2
Tel: 753-6911, Fax: 753-4250
cvims@island.net
www.island.net/~cvims

English Classes Begin

English Classes for Adults (ELSA) begin

Conversation and Pronunciation Evening Classes begin *See page 4 for details.*



Winter Fest

Our annual winter fest celebrations will be held
Wednesday, December 19, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm
at the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society

Everyone is welcome to this fun family event.

Admission is a contribution to the potluck lunch. Please bring a food item that reflects your traditions and cultural celebrations at this time of year.

Job Search Training

The Multicultural Society offers a series of 4-day workshops specifically designed to address the needs of immigrants who are seeking employment.

Each of the workshops includes components that enhance motivation and self-esteem by increasing knowledge of Canadian job search customs and developing skill in the job search process.

Our Employment Counsellor, who is a certified Job Club Leader and English as a Second Language Instructor, uses materials appropriate for the group such as:

- plain language videos of job search and interview techniques
- pictures and objects that help demonstrate concepts
- role plays to practice the techniques
- use of the appropriate language for the job search activities



Workshop topics include:

- ✓ Meeting Canadian employers
 - ✓ Evaluating foreign credentials
 - ✓ Canadian workplace culture
 - ✓ Canadian resumes and cover letters
- ...and more.

To sign up for the monthly workshop series, please drop in or call:

Joy (250) 753-5503

or

Nanette (250) 518-0192

108 - 285 Prideaux Street
Nanaimo

Employment Services Centre

DROP-IN CENTRE

- Use of computers and Internet
- Help with resumes and cover letters
- Job Postings Board
- Photocopy, fax and message services

Please come in to #116 - 285 Prideaux St.
Hours 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM

EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING

- Individual and Group Sessions
- Contact with Employers
- Job interview preparation
- Access to training and education
- Assistance with evaluation of foreign credentials



ASPECT Training Works

ASPECT program is now more than a year old and continues to be very successful. To date, the program has assisted 172 participants. Anyone who wants to participate in the ASPECT program should contact his or her financial assistant worker or training consultant at the Ministry of Human Resources to obtain a referral to the program.

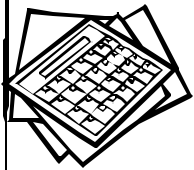
For more information, call Eric or Irina at 753-6918

Our Board for 2000-2001

Marica Benven, Secretary
 Ana Maria Donat, Race Relations
 Manjit Jaswal, Secretary
 Raman Lal Jinna, Race Relations
 Corinne Stewart, President
 Polly Wong, Fundraising/Membership

Iona Deri, At-large
 Tessie Fumerton, Fundraising/Membership
 Marina McLeod, Vice-President, Special Events
 Sukhjinder Parhar, At Large
 Judith Summers, Treasurer, Personnel

We would like to express a special thank you to Margo Westheim, our past president for her untiring work as a board member and volunteer with the Society.



Dates to Remember

February 12 - Chinese/Vietnamese New Year
 February - Black History Month
 February 17-23 - Multiculturalism Week
 March 8 - International Women's Day
 March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

NANAIMO TAX SERVICES
Income tax consultants and tax preparers

Eileen Hooyberg
 250-729-0115
 250-758-3668

2219C McGarrigle Road, Nanaimo, BC V9S 4M4

Sustaining an Accessible Agency

As a participant in the Diversity and Organizational Change project, the Society continues its efforts to be more welcoming to our diverse community. In

response to our clients' concerns that many in the community do not know the breadth of services offered by a "Multicultural" Society, we have designed a multilingual rack card, describing our employment services. We will be using the same design for descriptions of our other services. We also have displayed our multilingual signs prominently in our windows. We will be creating more signs. We have just completed revamping the Society's Policies and Procedures which have been presented to the board for approval. These Policies and Procedures help support an organizational culture that is committed to equity, accessibility and diversity.

As part of the Action For Diversity Team (formerly known as Central Vancouver Diversity and Organizational Change Process), Cecilia has contributed to the creation of following mandate for the Team.

We, the Action for Diversity Team, come together to build and strengthen a diverse and inclusive community by sharing resources, support and opportunities for growth and education.

We join with others to speak out against racism, ableism, heterosexism, sexism, classism and other forms of oppression and discrimination.

To this end, we have designed a brochure describing our work. It will be sent out to community service agencies and others. We also have a number of committed diversity trainers who are available to do training session for the staff and volunteers of these agencies. Requests can be made to Terre Flower, the project facilitator at 753-6911.

**Multicultural Women's Group
Resumes Thursday January 10 2002**



**Thursdays
9:30 a.m. to 12 noon**

This support group is open to women of all cultural backgrounds. It is a safe place for us to share our feelings and experiences, and to care for each other. Each meeting begins with stress-relieving

exercises, followed by a variety of different activities. Members also work to improve immigrant women's access to services in the community.

New members are always welcome!

On-site Childcare available.

For information, contact Cecilia at 753-6911

**Multicultural Games Evening
Resumes Tuesday January 8 2002**

**2nd and 4th Tuesday
of every month
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Inside in the Multipurpose Room
Fairview School,
2nd Street and Howard Avenue**

Please bring your favourite game to share.

Call: 753-6911 for more information.

Free Admission

All ages welcome

On Site Childcare available

The Multicultural Youth Group for high school, university and college students meets during the Games Evening. Our goal is to provide peer support for youth as they adjust to life in Canada through sports and cultural activities. This is an opportunity to socialize and share experiences.



English Classes

English Classes for Adults (ELSA)

Begins January 7 2002

Part-time classes will be held on Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m.

(*On-site Childcare available for parents with pre-school children during class time.)

**Full-time class will be held from Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:30 p.m.,
Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

For more information or to register, please contact Cecilia Chong at (250) 753-6911.

Conversation and Pronunciation Evenings

January 16 to February 20 2002

This class meets every Wednesday from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Fee: \$ 40.00 for 6 weeks

Daytime classes available Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:30 am

For more information and registration, please contact Mary at (250) 753-6911.

