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ISSofBC is still one of the Best Workplaces in Canada!

It takes a great team to make a great workplace, and ISSofBC was voted, for a second year in a row, as one of the Top 75 Great Places to Work in Canada.

"I believe we have the best of the best in our staff," says **Patricia Woroch**, CEO. "People here want to make a difference, and they do. We have remarkably creative, innovative, dedicated staff who are committed to providing quality services each and every day."

ISSofBC continues to focus on hiring the best people, and strives to create a work environment that is team-oriented, supportive and caring.



ISSofBC services formally unveiled in New Westminister



APRIL 2010

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Jamshid Arefi looks on as Betty McIntosh, Jim Tallman and Patricia Woroch cut the ribbon.

Over 100 members of the New Westminster community, led by Acting Mayor **Betty McIntosh**, learned about ISSoBC and its services in an Open House held at its new location on 620 Royal Avenue last April 14th.

Through guided tours, bulletin board displays and a looping Powerpoint presentation, visitors from government, the media and community-based service providers were introduced to ISSoBC New Westminster's ELSA, Career Centre, Youth Connexions, Skills Connect for Immigrants and My Circle programs.

"We are very excited to be part of this vibrant, growing community," said ISSoBC President **Jim Tallman** in his opening remarks, adding, "(we) are particularly enthusiastic about being able to bring our time-tested, quality programs and services within reach of immigrants and refugees aspiring to... build a future in Canada."

Others who spoke at the brief formal ceremony emceed by New Westminster staff **Jamshid Arefi** (Assistant Manager, Multilingual Case Management) and **Khim Tan** (ELSA Site Manager) were acting Mayor McIntosh; **Deb Zher**, Executive Director of the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Labour Market Development's Immigrant and Welcome BC branch; and, ISSoBC CEO **Patricia Woroch**. Greetings were also conveyed in writing by **Harry Bloy**, MLA for



- ***New Faces of British Columbia comes to Vancouver!***

GREEN TIP

On April 22, celebrate Earth Day with some simple actions that will reap green rewards for the environment.

Get some friends and family together to celebrate Earth Day by planting trees, organizing a neighbourhood clean-up, or making a meal together using organic or home grown products.

Don't trash it, reuse it! Be creative as you look for new ways to reduce the amount of household waste. Give cardboard tubes to pet hamsters or gerbils. Plant seeds in an egg carton. Make a flower pot out of a plastic ice cream tub.

Eat more local fruits and vegetables. On average, vegetables and fruits have to travel more than 1,500 miles to get to your grocery store. If you eat local produce, you not only cut down on the energy required to grow and transport your food by 1/5, you also support your local farmers.

Burnaby-Lougheed.

With a lively trivia contest (sample question: "What's ISSoBC's mission statement?") and a raffle draw that awarded attractive prizes, the open house succeeded in highlighting ISSoBC staff's capacity for hard work and fun!

2nd Immigrant Professionals Conference a winner!

Over 300 immigrant professionals attended the 2nd annual conference on Saturday, April 10th - more than double last year's attendance. ISSoBC along with MOSAIC and DIVERSEcity were the event sponsors for this now annual event.

This year's all day conference featured two keynote speakers: **Lionel Laroche** and **Nick Noorani** from the *Canadian Immigrant Magazine*. Lionel, the author of the recently published *Recruiting, Retaining and Promoting Culturally Different Employees*, provided an excellent start to the day. He focused on the difference between technical skills and soft skills, and how there is a disconnect between immigrants' skills and those that employers are looking for in today's labour market.

The day continued with workshops on a variety of topics including ones with ISSoBC staff participation: Skills Connect (**Lois Armerding**), Mentoring Connections (**Laurie Sing**), ISSoBC's Career Services (**Lily Lim and Jennifer York**) and the "Unwritten Rules: Using Soft Skills to Get a Job and Get Ahead" (**Jennifer York and Laurie Sing**). ISSoBC had a booth at the conference, and staff were out in full force to answer attendees questions and link them with ISSoBC's many services and programs. Clifford Bell, Director, Career Services, was thrilled with the outcome of the conference and said "**Anisa Kassam** did a great job coordinating the staff for the day. A special thanks goes out to all of our staff who contributed to making this year's conference a winner!"



COMPUTER TIP

Earth Day is a great time to recycle your old computers - it's much better than tossing it into the basement, or worse, a landfill.

Obsolete computers are a valuable source for secondary raw materials, if treated properly. If not treated properly, old computers are a source of toxins and carcinogens.

Take your old computers to an electronics recycling center. Reusing and recycling materials like copper and gold saves natural resources and reduces mining and processing. Recycling your old electronics also helps avoid land, air and water pollution by capturing and reusing hazardous substances such as lead or chromium.

Check out collection sites for unwanted electronics at www.encorp.ca/electronics



Clifford Bell (left) with other event sponsors present speaker Nick Noorani with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Learning trip to Kenya increases understanding

Gulalai Habib, an Assistant Manager with the Resettlement Assistance Program, recently returned from Kenya, where she participated alongside four other Canadian Service Provider Organizations in the Canadian Orientation Abroad program in Nairobi and Kakuma Refugee Camp.

During this visit, Gulalai met with several aid agencies, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi, and had the chance to attend a three day orientation session in Kakuma Refugee Camp for a group of 12 refugees destined for Canada.

Kakuma town is located in Turkana West District in North-Western Kenya, approximately 1,000 km from Nairobi. The refugee population as of 1 March 2010 stood at close to 67,000 refugees, who primarily originate from Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Gulalai's visit was a unique opportunity for mutual understanding of the realities of refugees. In the near future, Gulalai looks forward to compiling an observation report and presenting her photographs and experiences to ISSofBC staff.



ISSofBC NEWS BLOG

For up to date news and information on migration issues, both nationally and internationally, visit the [ISSofBC News Blog!](#)



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What's happening at ISSofBC? Get in the know by following us on [Twitter!](#)



NEW STAFF?

Do you have new or current staff who are not receiving the e-newsletter?

ISSoBC-VCC career fair attracts over 1,700 visitors

Over 1,700 jobseekers and job-destined students visited the 2nd career fair hosted jointly by ISSoBC and Vancouver Community College at the latter's Broadway campus last April 15th.

Attendees lined up for the event as early as one hour before opening time, with the line snaking up the long staircase to the floor above where the event was held.

Eighteen employers representing diverse industries, professional associations as well as community-based organizations set up displays at the fair, including CIBC, Loblaws, Vancity, T&T Supermarket, Sun Life Financial, the BC Nurses Union, the Certified General Accountant association of BC, among others.



Sophia Lee (MCM) speaks with a visitor at the ISSoBC booth

ISSoBC's partnership with VCC in the fair was initiated two years ago by staff of the Multilingual Case Management program led by Manager **Alice Wong**, and Employer Relations Specialists **Jim Quinn** and **Sharon Huang**. MCM counseling staff, supported by other ISSoBC Career Services staff, took turns throughout the day explaining the agency's services to visitors to its lively display booth.

If you would like to add them to the distribution list, send an email to Debra Pangestu, LCCS Departmental Coordinator, at debra.pangestu@issbc.org.



New Faces of British Columbia comes to Vancouver!



New Faces of British Columbia advertisement on West Georgia and Granville.

After a successful provincial tour, New Faces of British Columbia is being readied for its final showing in Vancouver.

To catch a glimpse of this touring photography exhibit, stop by the Centre A Gallery on 2 West Hastings street from April 30 - May 6.

The exhibit is open from 11am - 5pm, and admission is free.

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