



ISSofBC reaches a successful fiscal year-end

By Patricia Woroch, Chief Executive Officer

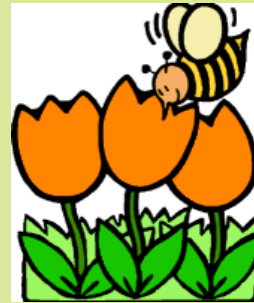
Fiscal year 2009 - 2010 has been a very exciting year at ISSofBC, as we have continued to increase our program offerings and have served the largest number of clients ever.

Highlights over the last year included: The Education Quality Assurance designation for International Studies programming, the new ELSA location in Richmond, the introduction of the Skills Connect program, the Refugee Children's Party, the Income Tax Clinic, the *New Faces of Vancouver* exhibit and the *New Faces of British Columbia* exhibit which travelled throughout BC, and the RBC Royal Bank Community Bursary announcement at the AGM.

We are in an excellent position to face the ever-growing and changing needs of our immigrant and refugee clients. We have strength across all areas of our organization - in our Board, volunteers, management and of course, staff. As we look forward to next year, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work, dedication and commitment to both the organization and their clients and students.

Diane Pearce joins ISSofBC senior management team

ISSofBC welcomed **Diane Pearce** as the new Division Manager, Employee Labour Relations and Training.



MARCH 2010

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Prior to joining ISSo^fBC, Diane worked as the HR Leader with the British Columbia Safety Authority, and with the City of New Westminster as a Human Resources Officer.

Diane is delighted to be a part of ISSo^fBC, and says "what I've enjoyed the most is getting to know the employees; many of them have shared their stories - and lunches - with me, and gone out of their way to make me feel comfortable. By the end of the second week I could tell that ISSo^fBC was going to be a great place to work."

As Diane continues to navigate through her role as HR Manager, she looks forward to implementing progressive Human Resources practices, developing training and development programs, and providing support to managers and employees. Welcome to ISSo^fBC, Diane!



Diane Pearce, ISSo^fBC's Employee Labour Relations and Training Division Manager

Yoga makes its way to ISSo^fBC Terminal

Since January, a dedicated but small group of Terminal Avenue staff have been attending after-work yoga classes.

Meeting once a week with a qualified yoga instructor, about 10 staff have been stretching, balancing, downward dogging, and relaxing for one hour starting

- **New Faces exhibit warmly received in three cities**

GREEN TIP

It's spring cleaning time again! Give your house a green spring cleaning by incorporating a few tips that are healthier for you and the environment!

Skip the air fresheners. Chemical fresheners can cause eye, skin, and respiratory irritation. Aerosol air fresheners are worse — the tiny air-borne particles can damage nerves and lodge in your lungs. Buy fresh flowers instead, or use an open box of baking soda, cedar blocks, and dried flowers to add natural fragrance to the room.

Use vegetable-based cleaning products, like those made with coconut oil, instead of chemical cleaners. Make the switch to vegetable-based dishwashing detergent, too. Traditional dish detergent is made from petroleum, and if every family replaced just one 28 oz. bottle of petroleum-based dish detergent with a vegetable-based product, we could save 82,000 barrels of oil.

Get some vinegar. Nature's cleaning miracle, vinegar can be used to clean just about anything. Use it straight to clean kitchen floors or wash windows, mix it with baking

at 5:15 on Tuesdays.

The next four-week cycle starts in April. If you would like more information, or if you would like to get involved in the Tuesday night yoga sessions, please contact **Sally Phung-Ip** at sally.phung-ip@issbc.org.

Newsletter allows students to share thoughts, experiences

To encourage ELSA student involvement and to help connect students to each other and their communities, the ELSA program began circulating a bi-monthly newsletter in the Vancouver, Richmond, New Westminster and Coquitlam locations.

THE Newsletter



Coquitlam Staff show their Olympic colors and Olympic spirit!
standing - Roz Hart (L-3), Elena Van Ieper (L-2), Isabel Lee (R-3), Esther Wolfe (R-4), Claire Pinkel (C)
sitting - Susan Lisk (L-2+), Dana Dushka (L-5), Ewa Karcevska (Mgr), Kathryn Babitz (L-1)

ISSofBC

Letter from the Director

Welcome to the first edition of the ELSA newsletter! This newsletter is an excellent way for you to learn from your fellow students, to learn about your community and to share stories about your new life in Canada.

I am happy that you have chosen to take ELSA classes at ISSofBC. ISSofBC is the largest provider of ELSA in British Columbia, and we have been providing language classes for immigrants for over twenty years – longer than any other school in British Columbia.

Your ESL instructors, staff and management

work hard to offer you the best English learning classes. Our instructors are well educated (university graduates) and qualified (special adult ESL teaching certification). We provide excellent resources and computer access for all of our students. We also can assist you with connecting to ISSofBC's other services such as employment or settlement support.

Once again thank you for choosing ISSofBC! I look forward to reading your newsletter in the future.

Clifford Bell

Kurt Munari, an Instructional Coordinator at ELSA Richmond, says "We are trying to give students a forum to share their thoughts and experiences by publishing some of their work."

Each edition of the ELSA

newsletter will feature the work of students from all ELSA levels and locations. The content of the stories in the newsletter will also touch on the curriculum themes employed in ELSA.

Kurt continues, "In addition to featuring student work, we also hope to better inform students about some of the programs run by ISSofBC, and to give them information about special events that may be happening in their communities."

Youth Connexion graduates a new intake group

soda and essential oils to clean sinks, and even use it to remove stains in your carpet.

Don't forget the baking soda. Multi-purpose baking soda can be used for everything from freshening the air, to freshening the carpet or furniture, to scrubbing the toilet and tub.



COMPUTER TIP

When we do Spring cleaning around your homes, take a few minutes to clean your computer, inside and out. Dust can kill your computer, and with it, valuable information.

Make a backup of every possible data file. They day will come when your computer goes on the fritz, and the valuable information you worked long and hard to compile suddenly vanishes.

Reorganize your hard drive for greater efficiency. Search for files that haven't been modified in the last six months or year. If they're not being used, get them off your

A group of 10 youth were thrilled to achieve a remarkable accomplishment within a year of arriving in Canada by successfully graduating from the Youth Connexion program. This graduation represents their first certificate in Canada.

In addition to receiving ISSofBC Certificates, the graduates, who hail from different parts of Asia and Africa, received recognition from Burnaby-New Westminster MP Peter Julian and New Westminister MLA Dawn Black, who personally handed the certificates to the Youth Connexion graduates.

Contributed by Silvana Guglielmetti



Youth Connexion graduates with Dawn Black, MLA of New Westminister

Photo: Silvana Guglielmetti

International Studies Olympic Medal Contest winner announced!

At the end of the Winter Olympic Games Canada was awarded with 26 medals, and **Mun Pyo Hong**, an International Studies student, was awarded with Olympic swag for winning the Olympic Medal Contest.

Mun Pyo Hong, a student in the Intensive English advance level class, was presented with movie tickets,

hard drive.

Clean your drives with an inexpensive cleaning kit. Vacuum dirt off the cooling fan in the back. Clean the keyboard with an unused paintbrush, and get the crumbs out from between the keys.



ISSofBC NEWS BLOG

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



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tuition credits, and Vancouver 2010 souvenirs for closely predicting the overall medal standings.

In addition to the grand prize, International Studies also awarded daily draw prize winners with a pair of movie tickets and Olympic mittens.

The final medal count was:

UNITED STATES: 9
Gold, 15 Silver, 13
Bronze
GERMANY: 10 Gold, 13
Silver, 7 Bronze
CANADA: 14 Gold, 7
Silver, 5 Bronze

And Mun Pyo Hong's
winning guess was:

UNITED STATES: 10
Gold, 12 Silver, 13
Bronze
GERMANY: 10 Gold, 9
Silver, 11 Bronze
CANADA: 12 Gold, 8
Silver, 7 Bronze



Mun Pyo Hong receives his Olympic Medal Contest prize pack

Photo: Kristin Chow

New Faces exhibit warmly received in three cities

The *New Faces of British Columbia* photography exhibit successfully completed one-week showings in Abbotsford, Nanaimo and Prince George during the month of March.



Patricia Woroch, John Rattan and Hilde Schlosar at the New Faces of British Columbia exhibit, Nanaimo

The exhibit made its debut at the Nanaimo Museum, which was attended by John Rattan,



NEW STAFF?

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

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.



the Mayor of Nanaimo. The museum decided to run the exhibit past its one-week showing, as it was warmly received by the community and continues to draw crowds.

From Nanaimo, the exhibit made its way to the Fraser Valley Cultural Diversity Awards in Abbotsford. Over 300 individuals attended the awards ceremony, including the former Mayor of Salt Lake City, Deedee Corradini, who also served as the evening's keynote speaker.

The exhibit ended its provincial tour in Prince George at the Two Rivers Gallery, which featured appearances by the Bollywood Dream Dancers and Vista Radio.

To accompany the exhibit, **Theresa Howell** and **Andrea Solnes**, two ISSoBC ELSA instructors, developed and distributed an ELSA curriculum to engage and involve newly arrived immigrants and refugees in their community.



New Faces of British Columbia exhibit at the Fraser Valley Cultural Diversity Awards, Abbotsford

The Vancouver showing of the *New Faces of British Columbia* exhibit will take place at the Centre A Gallery from April 30 - May 6. If you would like to see who represents the new faces of British Columbia, stop by the Centre A Gallery and check out the exhibit!

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