

ISSofBC NEWS

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ISSofBC prepares for arrival of Bhutanese refugees to Tri-Cities



Over 800 Bhutanese refugees will be arriving in the Tri-Cities area over the next 3 years and ISSofBC has started preparations to welcome them. On February 20, Operation Swaagatem (Nepali word for "Welcome") was officially launched in Coquitlam. Over 90 participants took part in this first-ever pre-arrival planning process for a refugee population.

The pre-arrival forum was opened by City of Coquitlam Mayor Richard Steward . Attendees were walked through the process that Bhutanese refugees will go through during their first month in Canada. Participants worked in groups to discuss and respond to three issues: Where to focus housing search efforts, how to engage Tri-City residents in the settlement process, and which programs Bhutanese youth will be able to access to help them adapt to their new environment.

Bhutanese refugees have been in refugee camps in Nepal for over 20 years. The first group of 150 will arrive before June 30. ISSofBC will host a post-arrival forum in late Fall

In This Issue

- ▶ [ISSofBC prepares for arrival of Bhutanese refugees](#)
- ▶ [ELSA Pre-Literacy pilot project underway](#)
- ▶ [Afghan refugee seniors program is launched](#)
- ▶ [New ISSofBC salary grid takes effect January](#)

ISSofBC's New Faces of Vancouver Photo Exhibit is accepting submissions!

The 'New Faces of Vancouver' juried photography exhibit is underway and accepting entries.

Held in partnership with Centre A, the exhibit aims to showcase local talent and reflect on Vancouver's increasing diversity.

Local artists have started to submit entries, which will be reviewed by a panel at the end of March. The exhibit is

New ISSo/BC salary grid takes effect in January

ISSo/BC is implementing a new salary grid that promises to be more competitive with external markets and internally fair to all employees. In developing the grid, both market rates and social service sector rates were reviewed for all internal positions.

With its implementation on January 5th, all employees will be placed in their appropriate grade at their new step which is higher than their current pay.

This would result in wage increases for all employees that will range from at least 3% to 5%, depending on the position's placement on the new wage grid.

lunchrooms.

The pilot is expected to run until the end of March. If successful, the recycling program will be rolled out to all ISSo/BC locations!