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'Business as usual' at ISSofBC during Olympics

Despite being in the heart of the bustling action surrounding the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, the ISSofBC offices in Vancouver - and all the programs and services located herein - are operating normally throughout the Winter Games.

"Our focus will continue to be client services," stressed **Patricia Woroch**, ISSofBC CEO, adding "staff have really pulled together, and made various accommodations to ensure we can be here to serve clients.

The agency took steps to arrange staffing plans and flexible work options to ensure uninterrupted service delivery and sufficient staff coverage during the Games from February 12 to 28.

Telus funds MY Circle

ISSofBC's MY Circle program recently received \$16,000 in funding from the Telus Community Foundation, marking the first time that the agency has received funding from the foundation.



FEBRUARY 2010

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Since 1992, the program has provided newcomer youth with integration and adjustment assistance by delivering training sessions to help them overcome challenges such as social isolation, communication barriers, racism and lack of support services.

The Telus funding will enable MY Circle to provide more training sessions in Burnaby and New Westminister. Immigrant and refugee youth learn leadership, communication, outreach and other skills that prepare them to become peer facilitators and community leaders.



Janet Austin, Telus Community Foundation board member, presents cheque to Chris Friesen and MY Circle staff

Photo: Thea Fiddick

For more information about the MY Circle program, please contact Thea Fiddick at thea.fiddick@issbc.org.

Sweet relief for Haiti

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ISSofBC IS A VALUED PARTNER!

Did you know ISSofBC is a partner agency with the Kids Up Front Foundation?

Thanks to Kids Up Front, our kids have the opportunity to experience a variety of sports, recreation and arts & cultural events that otherwise would not be possible.

Since 2004, Kids Up Front has been providing quality entertainment and educational experiences to kids and families across Greater Vancouver by redistributing unused event tickets and by creating special events to help heal, bond and

CareerAxis staff, moved by the devastation in Haiti, organized a one-day bake sale last month that raised over \$500 towards relief efforts.

The entire team contributed baked treats such as cookies, muffins, cakes, pies and savoury bread that were handed out to staff for a minimum donation of \$2.00. "The success of the bake sale goes to show what generous hearts ISSoBC staff have," said CareerAxis counselor **Freda Fernandes**.



CareerAxis staff with Jennifer York showing proceeds from the bake sale

Photo: Soumya Balakrishnan

Many ISSoBC staff gave monetary contributions as well. The collection totaled \$537.55 which went to Nobel Prize-winning Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres), an international medical humanitarian organization that provides emergency medical care to victims of war and disaster.

International Studies

unite.

For more information, visit

www.kidsupfront.com



GREEN TIP

Every Valentine's Day, millions of roses and other cut flowers are delivered all over Canada.

Although they make beautiful gifts, think about what happens to them when they are done blooming.

Do you just throw them in the trash?

Cut flowers and other nitrogen rich items like food waste break down in the landfill, creating

celebrates 15th anniversary

The International Studies division turned 15 last month and is celebrating this milestone by rolling out a variety of Olympic-themed treats for its students.

Starting the first week of the Winter Games, IS has been hosting an Olympic Spectator Room at the ISSo/BC Terminal Avenue location, where students can drop in between classes to check in on their favourite Olympic events and athletes and munch on snacks.

A medal contest is also on and the winner receives tuition credits, movie tickets and an Olympic souvenir package that includes a fleece blanket, Olympic mittens, toque, water bottle and more! Daily prize draws are also being held in the Olympic Spectator Room and lucky winners can walk away with movie tickets and an Olympic souvenir.

IS' growth over the years has been nothing short of remarkable, and **Bonnie So**, IS manager says she is "so proud to work with such a professional, dedicated team who deliver quality services and instructions to our students."

Bo, Joseph: certified Career Development Practitioners

Ann Bo and **Cecil Joseph** are ISSo/BC's first

methane and other harmful gases, which contribute to global climate change over time.

Instead of throwing away your wilted flowers, consider starting a compost pile in your backyard.

Composting is easy and provides beneficial nutrients back into your lawn and garden.

For next Valentine's Day, try showing Mother Earth some love as well!



COMPUTER TIP

If you're a frequent traveler or have friends and family in

certified Career Development Practitioners and have been deemed by the Career Management Association of BC to have met established professional standards for knowledge, skills and practice as career development practitioners.

Cecil, an Employment Relations Specialist at the Richmond Career Centre, says that the certification "will contribute to ISSoBC's overall commitment and mission in providing assistance to clients."

Ann, an Employment Counsellor/Case Manager at the Multilingual Case Management, is thrilled to be certified, and "appreciates the fact that ISSoBC supports employees' professional development." "I am so grateful for the support that ISSoBC management offered me," she adds.

Over 20 other ISSoBC employment staff are currently working towards being certified. These staff recently attended an application support meeting led by Cecil and Ann who are also taking an active role in advising their colleagues on application requirements, providing helpful tips based on their own experience with the process.

***New Faces of BC* photo show goes on the road!**

Beginning next week, ISSoBC's *New Faces of BC* photo exhibit makes its tour of four cities in BC, showcasing the province's rich and diverse cultural landscape.

Funded by Welcome BC through the Embrace BC

another time zone, you can set up Vista to display multiple clocks at once!

Click on the clock in the Start bar, then click "*Change date and time settings*," followed by the "*Additional Clocks*" tab. Check the box next to "*Show this clock*" for each additional clock you want to add, then specify the time zone and display name for each clock.

After you apply your changes by clicking OK, clicking on the clock in the Start bar will show you the clocks for every time zone you've selected!



ISSoBC NEWS BLOG

For up to date news and information on migration issues,

program, the touring exhibit will make its debut in Vancouver Island March 2 to 8, at the **Nanaimo Museum** in the heart of downtown Nanaimo.

From Nanaimo, the exhibit will make its way to the Fraser Valley, stopping at the Fraser Valley Cultural Diversity Awards Ceremony in Abbotsford on March 5.

In addition to Nanaimo and Abbotsford, the exhibit will visit the Central Interior region, with a week-long show at the **Two Rivers Art Gallery** in Prince George for. It will then wend its way to



Vancouver, where the **Centre A Gallery** will house the exhibit from April 19 to May 6.

If you would like more information on the *New Faces of BC* photography exhibit, please visit the ***New Faces of BC***

both nationally and internationally, visit the **ISSofBC News Blog!**



ISSofBC IS ON TWITTER!

What's happening at ISSofBC? Get in the know by following us on **Twitter!**



[website](#). See you at the exhibit!

ELSA opens new location on Cedarbridge Way, Richmond

A new ELSA location has opened on Cedarbridge



Caroline Dailly, Veronica Lee and Kurt Munari at the Cedarbridge Housewarming

Photo: Adrian Bailon

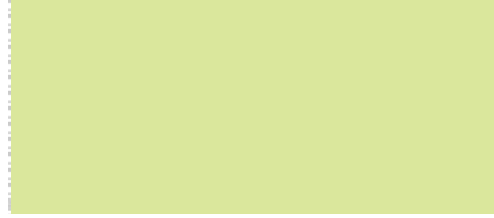
Way in Richmond, which will serve an estimated 140 new students through seven classes.

Situated within walking distance to the Lansdowne Canada Line station and

ISSoBC's other ELSA service

delivery site on Alexandra Road, the Cedarbridge site boasts 6,000 square feet of spacious facilities spread over two floors.

Full-time and part-time classes for students in the Literacy level up to ELSA Level 3 are being offered at this new site which is being managed by **Caroline Dailly** with **Kurt Munari** as Instructional Coordinator. A formal open house is being planned for April.



You are receiving our monthly newsletter because you opted in at our website <http://www.issbc.org/>

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