



July 2009

Skills Connect program starts this September

ISSofBC has been awarded a contract to deliver Skills Connect, a program that will bring together the organization's employment and language training expertise to help skilled immigrants fully utilize the experience and knowledge they bring to the workforce.

Skills Connect clients will develop individual action plans, take on additional training (ESL, Essential Skills, Occupational Skills), and receive workplace orientation through workshops, mentoring and job search assistance. Skills Connect staff will be able to refer clients based on their needs either externally or internally.

"The program fills a much needed service gap for skilled immigrants," says Patricia Woroch. "Skills Connect builds on the strengths of our career counselling and mentoring services and our language courses. We are also very excited to be enhancing our relationship with BCIT, which is a major partner in our Skills Connect program." BCIT will offer program advising, opportunities for skills enhancement and participate in the Skills Connect Program Advisory Committee.

Skills Connect will be based out of ISSofBC's Vancouver location with points of access in Burnaby, Coquitlam, Richmond and New Westminster.

ELSA for the Workplace starts at locations across the Lower Mainland

ISSofBC is being awarded ELSA for the Workplace contracts from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development in all four of the organization's ELSA locations - Vancouver, New Westminster, Tri-Cities and Richmond.

Following the success of the delivery of Labour Market Focused ELSA, this new program continues ISSofBC's ability to deliver ELSA classes at a higher level to clients who can benefit from a

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International Studies students BBQ at Stanley Park

Over 100 students came out to experience what Vancouver summers are all about- sun, fun and food. Students from International Studies enjoyed a barbeque with activities at Stanley Park on July 10th.

Teachers from the program organized the barbeque for students to connect with each other outside of the classroom. Students from different classes were able to meet each other in a fun and active setting, complete with boxing, soccer volleyball and frisbee.

Here's a few snapshots of their afternoon:

curriculum that focuses on career planning and job search.

"Our clients in all four locations are ecstatic with the news," says Lisa Herrera, Instructional Coordinator of ELSA. "The continuous intake model with an ESL focus on the workplace meets the needs of ISSofBC's diverse clientele and also the shifting labour market. Our clients need every support they can get to find and keep a job in today's tight job market".



ISSofBC Volunteer contributions celebrated



Over 500 volunteers dedicate their time through ISSofBC's volunteer programs every year- the equivalent of 12 staff and a value of over \$333,000. Some look to gain Canadian work experience, others want to get involved in the community.

On June 18th, these volunteers' hours of service were recognized at the annual volunteer appreciation party held at Heritage Hall this year.

The longest serving ISSofBC volunteer recognized at the event was Adassa Brooks, who has been giving her time for 14 years. People like Adassa get involved through the General Volunteer Program, the Host Program and Mentoring Connections.

Hosted by Bob Gabriel of Surrey Multi-ERC, the party featured lots of entertainment including Persian musicians, a Caribbean dance group and two Salsa dancers who taught interested guests how to salsa.



Green Tips

Find out where you can recycle your drink containers and electronics by clicking [here](#)