

Winter
2010



The Grapevine

News for CIWA Supporters and the Community

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Proud Women Book Launch



On October 29th, 2010, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association launched our most recent publication - *Proud Women: a collection of stories*. The book is a product of the initiative which brought together immigrant seniors and youth. Over 100 people attended the book launch that was held at the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

Proud Women Project encouraged intergenerational communication and understanding between Calgary's immigrant youth and seniors. Through this project, senior immigrant women shared their life experiences and accomplishments with immigrant youth. From listening to the seniors' stories, youth gained valuable knowledge and wisdom needed to pursue personal goals.

This project would not have been possible without the support of Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program and CIWA volunteers.

Copies of the book are available for \$30. If you would like to order a copy, please call CIWA reception at 403-263-4414.



Proud Women Project participants

2010 International Metropolis Conference

This year, the city of The Hague hosted the 15th International Metropolis Conference, October 4th to 8th. The conference is a prestigious international event dealing with the topics of migration, integration and citizenship.

The theme for this year's conference was 'Justice and Migration: Paradoxes of Belonging.' It dealt with various aspects of belonging, the opportunities and challenges it poses in the context of migration and integration, as well as the consequences for social policies. In doing so, this conference contributes to a better understanding of how governments and international bodies can deal with different forms of belonging in multicultural societies and a globalized world.

Researchers, policy-makers, NGOs and other interested delegates were invited to submit proposals. In keeping with this year's theme, Beba Svigir and Gerda Bloemraad - CIWA's Executive Director and our Board Chair – represented CIWA in a workshop presented by Team Canada, focusing on questions of belonging from a gender point of view.

Literacy Alberta Awards of Excellence

We are proud to announce that Zomkey Zomkey was the recipient of the Award of Excellence in the Student Category!

Zomkey began attending CIWA's *Pebbles in the Sand* ESL literacy classes in April of this year. Rain or shine, she makes the trek to class twice a week. She comes to class with a bright smile, eager to learn and enthusiastically participates in all activities.

Zomkey's story began in 1954 in Tibet, where she was born into a family of four children. While growing up, Zomkey didn't receive any formal education. She subsequently got married and had two children. Through sheer determination, she became a shopkeeper and learned how to trade. Life was a continuous struggle.

Her journey to Canada began when she wanted a better life for her children and sent them here when they were old enough to leave home. In 2009, she immigrated to Canada with the help of her son. Zomkey was determined to learn the ways of the Canadian people and most especially the language. With her daughter's help, she was soon registered with the *Pebbles in the Sand* program for literacy support. At first, she was very shy and withdrawn. It was a bit overwhelming for her. She had never been in an educational setting but was determined to learn.

Through perseverance, hard work and a positive attitude, Zomkey has proven herself to be an exceptional learner and continues to strive to become an equal and contributing member of Canadian society.



L – R: Berniece Gowan, Regional Support Project Manager – Literacy Alberta; Eva Szasz-Redmond, CIWA Manager Language Training and Childcare; Zomkey Zomkey; Celestina Akinkunmi, CIWA Facilitator.

United Way Campaign

Love (cheap) Books?

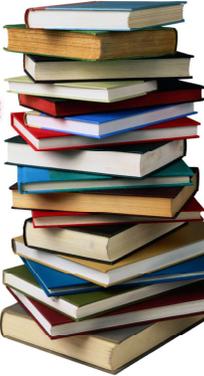
Join us and support the...

**CIWA
PRE-LOVED BOOK SALE
UNITED WAY 2010**

Where:
CIWA Main Office
#200 - 138 4th Ave SE
2nd Floor Lobby

When:
Wednesday, October 6th
11:00-2:00pm
&

Thursday, October 7th
11:00-2:00pm & 6:00-8:00pm



COME HAVE A LOOK AT OUR EXCELLENT BOOK SELECTION!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Multicultural LUNCH

Join us for a colourful BUFFET STYLE LUNCH with delicious dishes from ALL OVER THE WORLD.

WHERE: CIWA Main Office #200 138 4th Ave SE 2nd Floor Lobby

TICKETS: \$8:00

WHEN: Wednesday, October 20th 11:30am - 1:30pm

You can purchase your ticket in advance at 2nd floor reception, at the event, or by filling out a pledge form for the amount.
Thank you for supporting the CIWA 2010 United Way Campaign

Thanks to the incredible support and enthusiasm of CIWA staff, Board members, clients and volunteers, this year's fundraising campaign for the United Way was our most successful ever!

Approximately 150 people, enjoying more than a hundred different dishes from around the world attended our ever-popular Multicultural lunch, held on October 20th!

Several events, including the Used Book Sale, Arts & Crafts Raffle, Halloween Costume Raffle, and Penny Collection were brand new fundraising initiatives and are sure to become annual traditions.

Thank you to Avison Young Canada Inc for their generous donation of exclusive Flames tickets. Their valuable donation helped us to push past the very important \$10,000 threshold.

Be a kid again...
Dress up for **HALLOWEEN!**

CIWA HALLOWEEN COSTUME RAFFLE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

Support the United Way in an EXTRA FUN WAY!
Wear a costume to work and you could win!
\$5.00 to Participate
See Sameena or Yanping to sign up.

Thank you for your SUPPORT!

PRIZE!! HOCKEY TICKETS!

FLAMES VS. BLUE JACKETS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13th, 2010
7:00 PM
SECTION 204, ROW 22, SEATS 3 & 4
\$110.00 VALUE!

Get comfy for a good reason

JEANS MONTH for UNITED WAY

\$1.00 for a DAY
\$5.00 for a WEEK
\$20.00 for the WHOLE MONTH

Be sure to get your "I'm dressed this way for United Way" sticker(s)
See Sameena, Yanping or the United Way Team to participate

Calgary Flames Raffle for Tickets

Enter for your chance to win Calgary Flames Tickets!

\$20 a raffle ticket. Only 50 raffle tickets available!
Draw will be held Nov. 30, 2010- 12:00 Noon

Flames vs. Islanders
Monday, January 3, 2011
7:00 pm
Section 121, Row 5, Seats 9 + 10
*These are Club Seats with access to Avison Young Lounge
*Free parking included!

Face value of \$252
Each Ticket!

All proceeds will be donated to United Way

Volunteer of the Month

Since our last newsletter, CIWA has been proud to recognize the outstanding commitment and dedication of the following Volunteers of the Month.

Thank you ladies for all your hard work!



Marlene Acosta
July 2010 Volunteer of the Month



Ana Luisa Rodriguez
August 2010 Volunteer of the Month



Nina Djebbari
September 2010 Volunteer of the Month



Maria Kandaurova
October 2010 Volunteer of the Month



Saleha Majeed
November 2010 Volunteer of the Month



Maribel Melliza
December 2010 Volunteer of the Month

Volunteer Appreciation Party

CIWA's 2010 Volunteer Appreciation party took place on November 18, 2010. During this event, volunteers were recognized for their contributions in supporting CIWA clients and staff. Since January 2010, 557 volunteers have contributed 24,801 hours towards supporting CIWA programs. Volunteers provide assistance in the areas of translation, interpretation, group facilitation, in class support, child care, reception, filing, etc.

Volunteers who attended the event received gifts of appreciation. This event would not have been possible without the support of our community partners. Thank you to Conoco-Phillips and Humanity in Practice for donating gifts and raffle prizes for the event.

Canada's Citizenship Award

On Monday November 8th, 2010, Citizenship and Immigration Canada held a special presentation during a citizenship ceremony in the Harry Hayes building to honour and celebrate one of CIWA's most tireless, committed and passionate people. At the ceremony, Shokoofeh Moussavi received the prestigious Canada's Citizenship Award. Only twelve Canadians across the country were selected to receive the award this year.

Canada's Citizenship Award honours Canadians who have demonstrated exemplary citizenship by assisting newcomers in their successful integration into Canadian society and by promoting the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. Shokoofeh's active involvement in helping others and our community illustrates Canadian ideals and enhances the meaning of Canadian citizenship for us all.

Join us in proudly celebrating Shokoofeh's accomplishment!

Congratulations Shokoofeh!

To find out more about the award and this year's recipients please visit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/celebrate/citation.asp>.



Shokoofeh Moussavi receiving award from Rob Ferguson - Director, Southern Alberta Citizenship & Immigration Canada



Shokoofeh Moussavi with award

Adopt-a-Family Initiative

In early December, as CIWA staff were in the midst of another hectic Thursday morning, we had wonderful news! Like Santa & his sleigh with many friendly helpers, representatives from ConocoPhillips appeared at our 2nd floor reception, bearing news of many gifts - wondering where to park their truck and how to deliver the 49 boxes of 'wish-list' items they had waiting for three needy CIWA client families!

With deep generosity and heartfelt wishes of goodwill, our steadfast supporter, ConocoPhillips, has again provided special gifts and basic necessities for immigrant women and their families, here in Calgary.

On behalf of CIWA clients and staff, we send grateful thanks and warm wishes for the holiday season to our thoughtful and ever-supportive friends at ConocoPhillips.



ConocoPhillips representatives and CIWA staff

Engaging Immigrant Seniors

Engaging Immigrant Seniors offers women, over the age of 50, fun opportunities to enhance individual capacity while promoting their participation and leadership in the community. Through this project, senior immigrant women from diverse backgrounds meet, work and learn together. Participants plan activities and share their skills, knowledge and stories with other seniors, CIWA staff, volunteers and clients. They enhance their English language and public speaking skills - taking ownership of their integration process while making valuable contributions to the well-being of their communities.

All CIWA programs offer free childcare for children aged 6 months to 6 years.

Acknowledgements

Funders:

Canada

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Service Canada
Status of Women Canada
New Horizons for Seniors Program
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Alberta

Alberta Employment and Immigration
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority
Alberta Children and Youth Services
Alberta Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation



CIWA Board of Directors

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