



# The Grapevine

Summer 2011

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## CIWA's new look

### New logo provides a fresh, modern feel

**C**IWA is proud to present its new logo, which was unveiled on June 15th at the 2011 Annual General Meeting. Redesigning CIWA's logo and brand began in late 2010. The project involved multiple stakeholders which included CIWA clients, staff, Board of Directors and a re-branding committee.

The concept behind the logo is the idea of connection and building a strong community. The dominant purple C represents CIWA and the clients that we serve. You will also notice that the linking letters C, represent multiple concepts which are a part of our mandate: clients, children, Calgary, community, connection, collaboration, caring, Canada etc.

When you pay attention to the image you will also notice the W, representing the women we serve from around the world.

The colours chosen are modern, simple and fresh. These colours are chosen as they represent a new start with a new logo.



# CIWA

Calgary Immigrant Women's Association

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From left to right: Nurgul Sahin, Bashta Osmani and Karima Sani use images to create stories on Family Literacy Day

## Reading games

### CIWA encourages immigrant parents to read with their children on Family Literacy Day

On January 27, 2011, CIWA's Language Instruction to Newcomers (LINC) students participated in the Family Literacy Day activities. This annual event promotes parents reading to their children and engaging in literary pursuits.

The need for literacy activities within low-literacy families is vital. These families have less economic security, which affects the learning environment for children.

Keeping this in mind, CIWA's LINC staff developed activities that encourage literacy between mother and child. One of these activities was a booklet, in which the LINC students wrote personalized stories to share with their children.

Another activity involved the women writing stories based on pictures that were given to them. The ladies then presented these stories to each other.

Family Literacy Day was created in 1999 by ABC Life Literacy Canada, a charity that researches and promotes literacy in Canada.

## CIWA receives Community Spirit Program grant

On April 15, 2011, CIWA attended a special ceremony where the guest of honour, Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit for Alberta, presented donation grant cheques to local nonprofit and charitable organizations. The Community Spirit Program allows organizations to apply for a proportional grant based on the value of donations they receive.

“Nonprofit and charitable organizations are able to respond to community needs with great flexibility. The donation grant helps optimize their donor contributions, while allowing them to use grant funding to support operations, programs or capital projects – wherever they need it most,” said Blackett.



From left to right: Deborah Millward, Beba Svigir, Minister Lindsay Blackett, CIWA client Sherouk Amer and Alana DeLong, MLA Calgary Bow



# Think Pink

National Denim Day May 10, 2011

**T**hank you for the unbelievable support to CIWA staff, clients, volunteers and members of the community. Our 2011 National Denim Day Fundraiser raised over \$2300 for the CURE Foundation.



Highlights of the day were the "Think Pink" Bake Sale, a presentation by Carmen Webber, from Alberta Health Services and two raffle draws. A brand new initiative this year was our Candygram delivery which was quite successful!



We would like to give thanks to Strategic Group for their \$500 contribution towards our initiative as well as the following organizations for their donations of merchandise and/or gift certificates: RnR Wellness-THE SPA, Lululemon Athletica, Starbucks, The Body Shop, Aveda, Bliss & Co. Cupcakes and Walmart.



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CIWA staff Sameena Arif and Tatheer Fatima sang love songs on International Women's Day

# International Women's Day

## CIWA Celebrates 100th International Women's Day – Dancing Unites Us

On March 8th, 2011 CIWA clients, children, volunteers and staff came together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. 'Dancing Unites Us' was the theme as over 75 women sang and danced to music from around the world in CIWA's childcare area.

Children from the SMILES (Small Multicultural Immigrants Learning Early Strategies) program performed for the gathering - holding hands, singing and dancing.

Students from our LINC 4+ class gave speeches and shared thoughts and stories about overcoming barriers. These women recited poetry in their first language and in English.

The women described how this special day is celebrated in their home countries and thanked CIWA for the opportunity to celebrate their wonderful achievements here in Canada.

The LINC 2 students proudly sang national anthems of Afghanistan, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Myanmar, Pakistan and Turkey.

Finally, Sameena Arif and Tatheer Fatima sang two traditional, romantic love songs in Urdu. While Tatheer sang the heart-warming lyrics, Sameena translated them into English.

# Milestones

## Celebrating 25 years of service



Silvia Vidal began her work at CIWA as the Coordinator for the New Friends and Neighbourhood Groups program. Soon, she moved on to work in the area of employment as the Manager of the Skills Training and Development Program.

Silvia took a leadership role in establishing one of CIWA's most successful initiatives for bringing professional women together to support each other - Networking Breakfast Meeting. Through this project Silvia has provided thousands of immigrant women the chance to meet prospective employers, mentors and peers.

"Every year, on my birthday, she thanks me for changing her life. She has changed mine!"

-Silvia Vidal

Silvia's most treasured experience involves a client who is now a CIWA staff member: "She was so lost, so totally isolated and so depressed. After my presentation, she started taking courses and workshops. Every year, on my birthday, she thanks me for changing her life. She has changed mine!"



Since she joined CIWA in 1986, Hamda Umar has been a key player in making CIWA a leader in educating immigrants about parenting practices in Canada. She has touched the lives of immigrant parents and made our Cross-Cultural Parenting Program (CCPP) manual the standard for agencies and communities across North America. Hamda also

oversees CIWA's Healthy Families Program. Hamda's secret to success: "I believe in the work I do. I believe that knowledge is power and my small contribution empowers parents and their children to create the building blocks for long and successful lives in Canada."

" I believe that knowledge is power and my small contribution empowers parents and their children to create the building blocks for long and successful lives in Canada."

-Hamda Umar

# CIWA's night out

Mother's day concert raises funds for CIWA



From left to right: Elizabeta Liguric ,CIWA's Breast Health Coordinator poses with Marina Starshok from Fiesta Productions and Maria Nella De Lisi, CIWA's Bridging the Gap Coordinator

It was an unusually energetic Mother's Day as over 700 salsa lovers danced to Oscar D'Leon's energetic hit, "Amada Mia", which pulsed out of Flames Central.

D'Leon and his 16-piece Venezuelan salsa band were the main attraction to the Calgary-based Fiesta Production's Mother's Day Celebration.

In honour of Mother's day, Marina Strashok, founder and owner/operator of Fiesta Productions has pledged one dollar from every ticket sold to the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA). Funds from the raffle draw were also donated to CIWA.

Among the highlights for CIWA was the debut of the "We are CIWA" video. The video featured CIWA clients sharing how the organization impacted their lives.

## Getting started early

Bishop Kidd students win prize for CIWA



From left to right :Beba Svigir with Kate, Burgundy, Shaye and Allison from Bishop Kidd Junior High School

CIWA was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Toskan Casale Foundation from Toronto. Four girls from Bishop Kidd Junior High School entered a competition called Youth Philanthropy Initiative that teaches students the fundamentals of philanthropy. The initiative was created to encourage students to learn about local charities and to understand the problems their communities face.

Bishop Kidd students chose CIWA to advocate for and present our work and services to the community, and they won the competition.

Congratulations to the girls for earning this prize for CIWA and above all for showing interest and support in empowering immigrant women!

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## CIWA's crime prevention mission

Provincial government funding for the Assisting Immigrant Mother's Program

Yvonne Fritz , Alberta's Minister of Children and Youth Services, visited CIWA on May 12, 2011 to announce funding of two community-based initiatives to support immigrant youth and their families. These funds are the latest efforts of the Government of Alberta's Crime Prevention Framework to reduce crime in immigrant communities.

CIWA received funding for the new Assisting Immigrant Mother's (AIM) project which will be running for the period of three years. The minister also announced funding for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Calgary's, Mentoring for Inclusion: Building Community and Organization Strategies initiative.

"It is very important to support our immigrant and refugee families with the challenges their teenagers may encounter as they adjust to a new way of life," said Minister Fritz.

# Volunteers of the month



**January**  
Marina Klabukova

**February**  
Ona Stonkus



**March**  
Louise Hobday

**April**  
Georgia Cameron-Chin



**May**  
Cristina Calibo-Balamban

**June**  
Charito Mundaca

CIWA is looking for volunteers to lead weekly workshops and help immigrant women to:

- \* Develop new friendships
- \* Practice English
- \* Learn about Calgary's services
- \* Integrate to Canadian society

Please contact :  
Marilee Campbell, NFNG Program Coordinator  
403 444-1752  
marileec@ciwa-online.com

# New programs at CIWA

Breast Health Initiative for Newcomers builds on the successful breast health education projects CIWA has implemented over the last three years. Funded by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, the project focuses on educating immigrant women about breast health and early detection of breast cancer. In partnership with Alberta Health Services, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and Central Alberta Refugee Effort (C.A.R.E.) Committee, the project will provide educational sessions for immigrant women living in Calgary, Brooks, High River and Red Deer.

The project will utilize the newly developed Breast Health Curriculum and provide translated copies of the curriculum. With the support of Alberta Health Services Screen Test program, the project will also ensure that women are accessing breast cancer services and engaging in regular screening practices. First language support, tours of screening centers and transportation to the mammogram facilities will be provided for clients. Lastly, the Train-the-Trainer workshops will build capacity of immigrant women as they continue to raise awareness about breast health within their communities.

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Assisting Immigrant Mothers (AIM) project is one of two projects that received grants from the Government of Alberta's Safe Communities Innovation Fund. The project will work in collaboration with the Calgary Housing Company, offering culturally sensitive services for immigrant youth and their families based in several Calgary Housing complexes around Calgary.

The project provides family services which include parenting programs, counselling and educational sessions. Youth support includes mentoring activities, homework support and leadership training. The project also provides support for employment, English enhancement and referrals to community resources to further reduce risk factors such as poverty and social isolation.

# Funders

# Canada

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

 Citizenship and Immigration Canada    Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

# Alberta

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



RBC Foundation®



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## Upcoming Events:

Annual United Way Campaign

## Grapevine by:

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