

# CIWA YOUTH FORUM 2014



**Celebrating youth empowerment and integration in Canada.  
A FREE event hosted for youth by youth!**

“ In loving one another  
through our works  
we bring an increase  
of grace and growth  
in divine love.

”

**MOTHER TERESA**



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# Introduction by Executive Director, Beba Svir

Welcome to CIWA's second annual Youth Forum. This event promotes cross-cultural awareness and understanding between immigrant and mainstream youth, as well as their families. The forum highlights the individual experiences of mentees and mentors, their journeys to Canada and involvement in the Youth Mentorship Program. We want to encourage personal growth, civic participation and intercultural understanding. The theme of this year's event is 'Culture Fest'. The event, publication and all related work have been coordinated by youth program participants.

The idea of diversity and inclusion being a "two way street" is at the heart of this program. We want to support integration of immigrant youth and at the same time offer opportunities for mainstream youth to engage in the learning process that enriches their understanding of the world, multiculturalism and appreciation for newcomers living in this city.

To this end, this publication will guide you through the different experiences young immigrants face integrating into Canada, as well as the benefits mainstream youth experience by virtue of engaging in the process.

I would like to thank CIWA staff, program participants, community supporters and all of you reading this publication for supporting this initiative and attending this event. I can assure you some of the participants in the event are carving their way to become successful community leaders of the future.

# About CIWA

Since 1982, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA) has provided exciting opportunities for immigrant girls and women. CIWA is a place where women from all backgrounds come together and develop skills to succeed in Canadian culture. Through innovative programming including Settlement, Language Training, Employment Skills and Family Services, CIWA has assisted over 60,000 immigrant women. With the collaboration of clients, volunteers, staff and funders, CIWA continues to offer support for immigrant women to make new friends, find acceptance, grow to their greatest ability, learn valuable tools and be an integral part of this diverse and great city.



- Programs and services are offered in over 120 community locations
- There are currently 1,022 volunteers
- CIWA served 15,661 clients through different individual and group services this past year
- CIWA is the winner of Great West Life, London Life and Canada Life Literacy Innovation Award
- CIWA offers 38 programs that use a holistic approach
- Staff speak over 50 different languages
- CIWA's vision: Empower Immigrant Women and Enrich Canadian Society
- CIWA's mission: To Engage and integrate immigrant women and their families in the community
- CIWA's values: Equality, Innovation, Empathy and Collaboration

“ Don't be satisfied with stories, how things have gone with others. Unfold your own myths. ”

**RUMI**



“ As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others. ”

**BILL GATES**

# Youth Mentorship Program

Youth Mentorship Program enhances intercultural understanding and provides youth with opportunities for personal growth and community involvement through one-on-one support and group sessions. The program is available for all immigrant youth ages 12-29, including those who are citizens. Mentors and immigrant mentees engage in weekly activities that focus on meeting the social, personal and academic goals of the mentee. The program includes individual and group activities such as skill building workshops, homework support, field trips, English enhancement and recreational activities. The guidance, information and friendship that the mentors provide help their mentees successfully settle in a new country.



# Statistical overview of YMP

Number of mentors: 59

Number of mentees: 58

**Hours volunteers contributed:** over 1500 hours  
**Mentors and mentees represent:** 33 countries and 39 languages

**Top 5 countries:** Philippines, India, Pakistan, Iran and China

**Top 5 languages:** Spanish, Hindi, Tagalog, Arabic and Farsi

**Number of field trips:** 7 including Motion Art Gallery, Yoga class with Fresh Start Yoga, Women's Centre of Calgary, Glenbow Museum, Youth Race at Heritage Park, Lunch at Old Spaghetti Factory with a 3D Movie at Eau Claire Cineplex, The Nutcracker Ballet at Jubilee Auditorium

**Group sessions:** 12  
**Group orientation and training sessions:** 6



“My mentor and I understand each other and I am glad we can share our thoughts with each other.”  
- *Mentee*

“My mentee and I are very close. She is able to tell me about any problems or issues she has. We are able to laugh and have fun together, and I really do feel like she's my younger sister. Sometimes we text each other in the morning for outfit advice!”  
- *Mentor*

“I like the program. It is wonderful for my daughter.”  
- *Mentee Parent*



# Homeland

By Romissaa Hassan

You see the colors around me  
They swirl in every ground  
With vibrant sounds  
A scene like no other  
Where every being belongs  
With a joy of heritage  
And pride of background  
One will say I come from here

The other with another reply of there  
Both, with eyes of love and belonging to their dear homeland



# Mentee

# Experiences

## Where are you from?

1. Colombia
2. Philippines
3. Philippines
4. Algeria

## What does the fox say?

1. (No answer)
2. The fox wants to play!
3. Ring-ding-ding-dingeringeding!?? Haha!
4. Foxy mama

## If you were to describe yourself as a fruit or vegetable, what would you be and why?

1. Sour-sop, because it is a fruit that almost nobody knows and I think it is unique and special.
2. I would be a fruit with a peel (like a banana) because you need to 'peel' off my layers so I can do things to the best of my abilities.
3. I would be a bitter melon because sometimes I'm sweet, sometimes I'm bitter.
4. Spinach, because it's delicious and because of Popeye.

## Legend:

1. Amadely Morales
2. Sophie Cervera
3. Aira Sadongdong
4. Nina Djebbari



## How long have you been in Canada?

1. 11 months
2. 1 year
3. 2 years
4. 9 years

## How has your mentor made a difference in your life?

1. Helped me discover new things about Canada.
2. My mentor has helped me learn a lot of things about art that I never knew before. I have become more open-minded about it. Whenever we go to art galleries, she interprets the paintings for me, such as explaining the difference between acrylic paint and watercolor.
3. My mentor helps me on my assignments or projects and she's like a big sister to me.
4. She taught me that education isn't everything, there's life outside the textbooks.

## In one word, describe your experience with CIWA overall?

1. Fun
2. Awesome
3. Amazing
4. Exotic



# Mentor

## Where are you from?

1. Bolivia
2. Canada
3. Canada, but family is from India
4. Born and raised in Calgary

## Legend:

1. Andrea Terceros
2. Tara Leschyshyn
3. Anindita Bhattacharya
4. Marie Kopp-van Egteren



## What does the fox say?

1. Ring-ding-ding-ding-dingeringeding
2. (No answer)
3. Woooooh!
4. Hat-ee hat-ee hat-ee ho

## If you were to describe yourself as a fruit or vegetable, what would you be and why?

1. Mango because it is sweet and bright.
2. Strawberry, because it was my Grandma's favourite fruit and it is sweet and sour at the same time.
3. I would be a pineapple because I am so sweet!
4. Okra, because you don't hear about it much but when cooked (treated) right, it's fantastic.



# Experiences



## In one word, describe your experience with CIWA overall?

1. Enlightening
2. Unique
3. Wonderful
4. Uplifting

## How long have you been in Canada?

1. Whole life
2. 2 years
3. Whole life
4. Whole life

## How has your mentor made a difference in your life?

1. My mentee has given me a new perspective on life in Canada and she helps me to keep learning and stay motivated.
2. She has helped me to develop leadership skills, understand the feeling of having a little sister and I have become more confident.
3. It has been great having her in my life. She gets me out there doing things I would normally not do on my own. She is also helping me grow as a person.
4. It's wonderful to have someone to share my love of Calgary and area with and just get out once a week without my husband and bond with another woman.

# Youth Forum 2014, Culture Fest



Welcome to Youth Forum 2014! Participants of the Youth Mentorship Program at CIWA have been working hard over the past few months to bring you our best talent for this special and exciting day. Mentors and mentees have prepared presentations, committees and booths to share their stories about what it means to be involved with such a positive organization. You are encouraged to ask questions and share your stories too. Today, there is only one rule: Have as much fun as possible! So, go ahead; check out the speakers and performers, explore the interactive booths, be a part of our community partner booths and create awesome memories with CIWA.

# Youth Forum Committees

**Main stage Committee:** The main stage committee has been working hard to provide a series of speakers and performers that will inform and entertain, including a “Girls Runway” Cultural Fashion Show. Check your schedule for times of performances.

**Publication Committee:** From gathering ideas to organizing poems and shared experiences of mentees and mentors, the Publication Committee is proud to present a piece of Youth Forum that you can take home and read. Take a look at the Youth Forum booths and committees, while also learning about the services offered by CIWA.

**Promotions Committee:** The promotions team has created pamphlets, posters and ads in order to reach out to the community about Youth Forum and how to participate. Make sure to spread the word about CIWA!



# Youth Forum Booths

**Photo Booth:** Step right up, don't be shy! Everybody wants to be a little silly sometimes. The girls from the Photo Booth have provided you with costumes, cultural clothing, and props so you can take home some great memories. Please check out CIWA's Facebook page for pictures following the Youth Forum (<https://www.facebook.com/CiwaYouthZone>).

**Games Booth:** Take part in two exciting games!

**Heads Up:** A cultural guess *who* game where you will be asked a series of questions regarding famous people that you will need to answer.

**Scavenger Hunt:** This consists of four fun games that you will need to complete in order to win a prize! If you love a fun challenge, drop by the games booth and say "hi".

**Wheel of Culture Booth:** Answer trivia questions about people, places and things from all over the world. Test out your cultural knowledge or learn something new. You will have the chance to win an extra entry for one of the raffle prizes. Also, don't forget to come by and put a pin on the map to share where you are from.

**Art From Around the World Booth:** Visit this booth in order to learn new and fun cultural crafts that you can take home and show to your friends and family. Some crafts include dream catchers, bracelets, origami, clay making, painting and henna. Let your creative side shine!

**Youth Mentorship Booth:** Do you want to learn about Canada? Do you want to interact with girls from other cultures? Do you want to make new friends? The Youth Mentorship Program is for you! Come to this booth to learn more about the Youth Mentorship opportunity and enter your name at the booth for one of several raffle prizes.

# Tonight

By Sree Nair

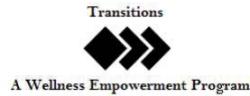
Tonight I move  
From the land that held my roots  
From the land that held my past  
From the only land that I knew  
From the land that gave me hope  
From the land I called home  
Tonight I move  
To the land of opportunity  
To the land of new dreams  
To the land I will explore  
To a new land of hope  
To the land I will call home



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