



Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 23, 2014





Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association (CAIWA)

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CAIWA'S VISION

The vision of CAIWA is to insure that immigrant women and their families are empowered to achieve their full potential as members of Canadian society.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

We value and respect the knowledge, experience and skills of immigrant women and believe that by sharing their wisdom and solutions to the challenges of adapting to a new country, a strong support network will be built, benefiting all those who participate and our community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of CAIWA is to provide a network of support to enable immigrant women and their families to attain a satisfying and secure life in Canada. We will achieve our mission by providing opportunities for growth, through education, training, employment skills and leadership.

President Report for 2013-2014

Thanks to our Executive Director, Halima Ali, her staff, volunteers and the funders of our programs, we have very proudly completed another successful year of assisting immigrant women and their families. It is with pleasure that I have witnessed the incredible work and dedication put forth by all our workers in CAIWA. We are maintaining excellent results in various aspects of training, leadership, health programs, economic security study, computer skills, etc. A new program "Financial Literacy" has been added this year and is progressing well.

Our funders seem pleased with our results and we trust that they will continue to provide funding so these successful programs can continue and expand. We are very appreciative of their financial support which is the base of our accomplishments.

The community at large is showing confidence in the work and outcome of the progress that CAIWA is making through our beneficial programs, this is evident in the response we are getting from individuals and businesses wanting to access our end product. We appreciate and thank Halima Ali, all her staff and invaluable volunteers for their dedicated work in making our association what it has become.

It is exciting to look forward to new things in the coming year, expansions of existing programs as well as additional new ideas.

It is a delightful experience for me to visit the office of CAIWA, I credit this to the leadership as well as all individual staff members/volunteers.

Helen Andrew

President-Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association

Executive Directors' Report

CAIWA had again another successful year in 2013/14. We have added a new program focusing on Financial Literacy to the array of services we offer to our growing clientele. We also improved the capacity of the ever more popular HIPPY program by increasing the delivery personnel from the original five to seven Home Visitors. Also, Service Canada has re-committed to the YESS program by renewing its funding. All other programs have remained the same as the previous year, with continuous commitments from their individual sponsors.

All delivery oriented programs like the HIPPY and YESS programs have increased waiting lists with many immigrant clients willing to wait for more than cycle. In addition, the Women's Economic Security (WES) program is proving very successful at the community level, with active participation in its various committees from members of the local and provincial institutions, and support from members of the business as well as immigrant community. A summary of the accomplishments of each program is presented below.

The number of full time staff is nine employees now, with a further eight employed as part-time employees.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge that CAIWA's growth and development could not have been possible without the support of our funders and the hard work and dedication of our tireless directors, volunteers and staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders and each of our directors, volunteers and staff for their commitment to CAIWA and the immigrant community of Central Alberta.

Halima Ali

Executive Director

CAIWA Programs

CAIWA's programs are intended to improve the opportunities of immigrant women and their families in Central Alberta by developing their skills and wellbeing and providing community connections when they are required.

- **Home Instruction for Parents and Preschool Youngsters (H.I.P.P.Y) program.....115 enrolled**

The Home Instruction for Parents and Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program is a community-based initiative designed to overcome the literacy needs of newcomer parents and help them have the skills to support their preschoolers success in the the Canadian school system by preparing them for Kindergarten. 100 children from age 3 to age 5 graduated from the program last school year. Currently we have 115 children registered for this year (2014-2015).. The program is so popular that we have a long waiting list.The program is funded by CIC

- **YESS program- Youth Employment Success Strategy.....62 enrolled**

YESS is a group-based, employability skills program for newcomer youth, between the ages of 15 and 30. There is 12 weeks of life skills and employment training followed by 10 weeks of work placement. The object of the project is to provide newcomer youth with the skills necessary to find and retain full time employment.. To date 80% are working in full time positions or have returned to school.....Funded by Service Canada, the Alberta Ministry of Human Services (Alberta Works), and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

- **Immigrant Women's Economic Security Project**

The project's objective is to work together with area community partners to develop and implement a plan to promote the Central Alberta immigrant women's economic security and prosperity. We have identified and responded to the specific economic needs of immigrant women in this area, and built partnerships and collaborations with community stakeholders. We are in the last year of the project to address the needs identified by the community consultations..... Funded by Status of Women

- **Financial literacy85 attended**

The Financial Literacy program is a pilot project to provide financial literacy information to new immigrants, while helping them to overcome the cultural and language barriers that may hinder their understanding Canadian financial system. Information sessions and workshops with handouts, help immigrant women & their families (including the HIPPY program participants) learn about financial management including: budgeting; bill payment, banking, finding insurance, using credit, savings & planning for the future.

Making smart financial decisions even on a small scale will help immigrant families make best use of the money available, avoid problems with credit, avoid financial scams, be financially responsible, contribute to the economy of the country, and teach their children to do the same.....Funded by Citizenship & Immigration Canada

- **Breast Cancer Screening Program.....168 served**

The Breast Cancer Screening Program is designed to educate immigrant women on their breast health, and help them to participate in screening programs, by booking clinic appointments at doctor's offices and the imaging centre. 96 newcomers attended workshops this year and 72 had appointments booked and transportation and interpretation services provided.Funded by Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

- **Computer classes....110 clients**

Computer classes are open to everyone at CAIWA .. Classes are designed to eliminate language barriers and are taught by a certified computer instructor who makes learning easy and fun.

Funded by Life Long Learning and Alberta Works.

- **Collective Kitchen....12 participants**

The intent of this project is to provide immigrant women with social time in a familiar environment (a kitchen) where they can learn new recipes, practice their language skills and make new friends. Although they have only met twice, the response has been positive.....Food is provided by the Red Deer Food Bank and the venue is provided by the Adventist Community Service Centre.

- **Food Bank**

The CAIWA Food Bank has been in operation 3 days a week, since Sept 1, to help the newcomers of the community , with food security in a culturally sensitive environment. . We have received donations from community members as well as the Red Deer Food Bank. Registration is require. ...Food provided by the Red Deer food Bank.