
ALBERTA NETWORK OF IMMIGRANT WOMEN

Fall Issue2005

Suite 205, 1409, Edmonton Trail NE, Calgary -Alberta T2E 3K8Tel: (403) 262-8040

From Editor's Desk

Here we are- back with ANIW newsletter! I am glad to bring this issue to you as this is a great way of exchanging news, views and perspectives on the subjects that matter to us all- All of us who are working towards a common goal of better opportunities for immigrant women.

"We- the immigrant women" come to Canada for reasons as varied as search of livelihood to a safer and stable future for our children. Whatever the reason we come for, we bring along our individual talents, strengths and skills which can enrich the Canadian society provided we get the opportunities to contribute.

The challenges that face immigrant women are wide-ranging and there can be cultural, financial as well as physical deterrents. That is why the variety of work done by all the immigrant women organizations is so crucial. To achieve best results it is important that we work together. This newsletter is an attempt at creating a common platform for ANIW and all its member agencies. To make it even more constructive your feedback is important. So please do send in your suggestions and ideas for what you want to see in our next issue by November 15th!

So start mailing in all the events and project updates for our next issue to the editor: Shazia Javed
shaziajaved@yahoo.com



IN THIS ISSUE

- 1. Editors Note**
- 2. Access to Licensure for International Medical Graduates-Phase II**
- 3. Access to Licensure for Foreign Trained Nurses**
- 4. Working Conditions of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women in the Non Profit Sector**
- 5. Immigrant Access Fund**
- 6. Capacity Alberta**
- 7. Strengthening Immigrant Women's Capacity for Civic Participation**
- 8. Immigration Policies Of The Canadian Government- An Update**
- 9. \$ 75 Million Initiative Expected To Assist More Than 2,000 Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals- An Analysis**
- 10. Well Said!**
- 11. We thank!**

Access to Licensure for International Medical Graduates- Phase II.

Through this project ANIW has been able to continue providing support to International Medical Graduates (IMGs).

Through this project the members of Alberta Medical Graduate Association have met with many stakeholders to discuss issues pertaining to licensure of IMGs.

A total of 22 residencies were made available to IMGs in 2004-05 through this program. ANIW successfully completed a pilot communication course with 30 IMGs. The success of this course led to further funding from Alberta Advance Education to deliver an expanded communication course in 2005. This course is currently being delivered in Calgary and Edmonton.

Through this program a handbook of pre-residence observerships is being developed. The book, currently in its second draft, will allow IMGs to set learning goals during observerships.

Access to Licensure for Foreign Trained Nurses

In 2002 ANIW completed a research project that identified issues pertaining access to licensure of foreign trained nurses and made recommendations to address the barriers. In 2005, we received funds from Alberta Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund to do a follow up study to determine what progress has been made on 2002 recommendations. The study will be available on the website of network: www.aniw.ca

Working Conditions of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women in the Non Profit Sector

The second phase of this research has been funded by Status of Women Canada to identify how best the Alberta based agencies of immigrant women are prepared to serve the diversity our demographics indicate.

Immigrant Access Fund

ANIW is a founding member for the new loans program for internationally trained immigrants. The purpose is to provide small loans (\$5,000) to individuals solely for the purpose of upgrading their qualifications. The program is structured such that the Calgary Foundation receives donor funds and the Mennonite Central Committee Employment Development administers the loans program.

The fund has made its first loan.

Capacity Alberta

This project has been funded by Capacity Canada to build the capacity of internationally trained immigrant professional associations in Alberta.

Rosanna Quintieri has been hired as the Communications Coordinator and is conducting a needs assessment. She is contacting various organizations and then working with internationally trained professionals to develop a plan of action.

Strengthening Immigrant Women's Capacity for Civic Participation

This project aims to strengthen immigrant/ethno-cultural women's

organization's capacity to provide support and services to immigrant/ethno-cultural women and their families. It is envisioned that these increased capacities will enable these organizations to sustain their formal participation in the voluntary and non-profit sector of Alberta.

Workshops for needs assessment of organization capacity building and development opportunities are being organized as a part of this ongoing project with participation of various learning and organization associations of immigrant/ethno-cultural women in Alberta.

Funds have been provided by Wild Rose Foundation for this project.

Immigration Policies Of The Canadian Government- An Update

Ministry of Citizenship and immigration has announced a series of measures aimed at improving service delivery and efficiency of Canada's immigration and citizenship programs.

An investment of \$69 million over two years to restore, by 2007-08, processing times to an average of 12 months for a grant of citizenship and four months for a proof of citizenship is being made.

Citizenship applicants will now be exempted from undergoing language ability and knowledge-of-Canada tests at 55 rather than 60 years of age.

The number of parents and grandparents immigrating to Canada will triple in 2005. It is expected that in both 2005 and 2006, the number of parents and grandparents immigrating to Canada will increase by an additional 12,000 each year. This triples the original 6,000 forecasted for 2005

CIC is expanding two pilot initiatives for international students to enhance the competitiveness of Canada's education industry. The first will allow international students across Canada to work off-campus while completing their studies and the second will allow them to work for a second year after graduation. This second initiative will apply outside of Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver to help spread the benefits of immigration to more regions in Canada. The Government of Canada is investing \$10 million a year for five years to support this "strategy".

\$ 75 Million Initiative Expected To Assist More Than 2,000 Internationally Educated Health Care Professionals- An Analysis

ANIW has been long committed to the cause of access to licensure to international medical graduates and internationally trained nurses. Thus the announcement from Health Ministry of \$75 million federal initiative that is expected to assist more than 2,000 internationally educated health care professionals to put their skills to work in Canada's health care system is well received.

Considering the current state of Canadian health care system this step is not only welcome for the immigrant health care professionals but also the Canadians at large. As in a recent survey conducted by a leading magazine forty-six percent of Canadians complained of shortage of family doctors and wanted an increase in the number of doctors. Other improvements desired by the Canadians in the health care system include quicker access to specialists, shorter wait times and faster emergency care. To all those who have been to the emergency department of the hospital only to wait long hours

before being attended or those who have waited weeks before getting an appointment with their family doctor it is only rational that the skills of foreign This initiative is long expected and one also hopes that it will step up in scale with time. Many of these professionals are vigorously trained and immigrate to Canada on the basis of their merits so it's high time that the process of their integration into the Canadian health care work force is made less complicated and time consuming.

trained professionals be used to over-come under-staffing.

Well said:

“In the long run, there is not much discrimination against superior talent”
- Carter G. Woodson

ANIW thanks the following for making this communication possible:

- Alberta Advance Education
- Alberta Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Education Fund
- Capacity Canada
- Canadian Heritage
- Status of Women Canada
- Wild Rose Foundation

Till next,

Don't forget to keep us posted!