

Mission Statement

The goal of PIRS is to ensure that immigrant women and their young children can participate fully in Canadian community life.

Core Values

We value and promote respect for diversity of culture and experience.

We actively respond to unmet, emerging and changing community needs by reaching out to under-served groups and by sharing our expertise and knowledge with other organizations.

We strive to eliminate barriers to access by offering affordable, community based programs that encourage and support the participation of those most in need.

We provide quality childcare that enables women to participate and, at the same time, provides a positive experience for the children.

We promote personal growth and development and assist participants to articulate and achieve their goals and to find strength, support and friendship.

We provide staff with support and opportunities for professional development and growth.

We value the contributions of volunteers and provide the training and support necessary to enable them to be effective in their roles.

We demonstrate our accountability to the community through fiscal responsibility, open and full disclosure, and meaningful, ongoing evaluation of our programs and services.



A United Way Member Agency



***Celebrating
30 years of
providing services to
immigrant women
and their young
children***



**Annual Report
2004-2005**

#205-2929 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC V5N 4C8

Web: <http://www.pirs.bc.ca> email: info@pirs.bc.ca Tel. 604-298-5888 Fax: 604-298-0747

The PIRS Story

Beginnings

In 1975 Beverly Nann, Carole Anne Soong and other visionaries saw the need for an ESL program with a preschool component to support the settlement needs of isolated immigrant mothers. Thanks to their efforts, and funding from Canadian Heritage, the first PIRS ESL program, for Cantonese speaking moms and preschoolers, met 30 years ago at Strathcona Community Centre.

From those humble beginnings, PIRS has expanded to include ESL classes for women from all over the world. Over the years, our ESL programs have served women from the Italian, Greek, Punjabi, Khmer, Somali, Spanish, Kurdish, Farsi, Vietnamese, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking communities. Women in PIRS ESL classes not only learn English, they also gain support and assistance from bilingual, bicultural support staff who work closely with ESL instructors to facilitate access to other community resources and services.

Moving Forward

In its second decade, PIRS began to look at the needs of immigrant women who had more English language skills but lacked the opportunity to learn about and become involved in the community. Thanks to the expertise of women such as Maryann Bird and Rosemary Rawnsley, the LEAD and Building Bridges programs were developed in 1986 and 1992 respectively. Like PIRS ESL classes, these programs have helped thousands of new Canadian women to gain the knowledge, skills, confidence and friendships needed to feel at home in our community and to open doors to greater participation in Canadian society.

Quality care and education programs for the young children of women participating in programs are important components of the services PIRS offers, enabling young immigrant mothers to participate while at the same time providing the opportunity for ESL children (aged 18 months to 5 years) to develop the language and social skills needed for success in the Canadian school system.

Looking Ahead

More recently, the PIRS Board has turned its attention to developing programs in response to the lack of services and support for immigrant women with children younger than 18 months. With the support of the United Way Success by 6, the Story Time program for immigrant women with children aged 0 to 6 has been a great success in meeting the needs of this client group.

With a committed staff, dedicated volunteers and a dynamic group of women who make up the Board of Directors, PIRS looks forward to the next 30 years.

PACIFIC IMMIGRANT RESOURCES SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____ Phone _____

Fax _____ E mail _____

Yes, I support the goals of PIRS and want to become a member. Enclosed is my annual membership fee.

- \$ 5.00 senior/student/unemployed
 \$ 10.00 regular
 \$ 25.00 non-profit organization
 \$ 50.00 business
 \$150 .00 life membership

Date _____ Signature _____

Please send to PIRS #205-2929 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, V5N 4C8

YES, I want to support PIRS programs!

Name (first) _____ (last) _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Here is my gift of: \$30 \$50 \$100 \$_____

Cheque enclosed Cash

The information you have provided is used by PIRS to assist in the administration and acknowledgement of your gift, to issue tax receipts and to keep you informed of PIRS activities and programs.

A charitable donations receipt will be issued for all contributions. Your gift will be recognized in the PIRS Newsletter. If you wish to remain anonymous, please check here:

I prefer to remain anonymous
 I would like to be on the mailing list (newsletter, special events, etc.)

I would like to talk to someone about volunteer opportunities with PIRS.

Financial Statements at July 31, 2005

Revenue	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Grants received		
BC Anti-Racism & Multiculturalism Program	—	4,800
BC Settlement & Adaptation Program - Stream 1 & 3	114,019	115,793
BC Settlement & Adaptation Program - Stream 3	127,558	99,453
BC Direct Access gaming funds	75,755	8,000
BC Technology Foundation	25,000	25,000
Canadian Heritage	—	21,206
Health Canada	24,392	8,365
United Way allocation	49,421	49,421
United Way designations	2,454	4,964
United Way Success by 6	16,745	20,870
United Way Community Innovations	4,186	—
City of Vancouver	58,782	58,200
Vancouver Foundation	2,000	—
Other income	64,308	38,723
Transfer to deferred revenues	(34,131)	(1,879)
	530,490	452,916
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	417,000	362,682
Rent - program space	41,428	36,855
Rent - office	14,454	13,864
Materials and supplies	10,970	7,827
Student transit subsidy	9,157	6,449
Telephone/fax and Internet	3,886	5,131
Insurance	2,810	5,082
Copying and postage	5,890	4,911
Honoraria	955	3,750
Audit	3,260	3,000
Travel and field trips	5,016	3,302
Staff development	2,004	1,232
Brochures/newsletter	1,171	1,206
Board expenses	1,795	603
Fundraising expenses	9,785	193
Computer expenses	5,981	480
Other	3,088	3,024
	538,649	459,592
Amortization expense	548	422
Revenue under expenses for the year	(8,707)	(7,098)

Complete audited financial statements available on request.

Board Report

2005 marked the 30th anniversary of Pacific Immigrant Resources Society. In April, PIRS held a fundraising dinner in celebration of this significant milestone - 300 people attended, including members, community partners and friends, and past and present Board members, staff and volunteers. The fundraising and public relations committees worked with the Board, staff and volunteers to organize a successful silent auction, develop storyboards, and arrange for wonderful entertainment from the marimba group Nyenyedzi. We raised close to \$9,000, and the night was absolutely delightful!

In the past year, the most significant challenge that PIRS faced was the open tendering process for funding for settlement and language training services through BCSAP (BC Settlement and Adaptation Program), which represents almost 50% of our funding. We were successful in getting funding to continue providing our high quality services. Unfortunately, some other community groups were not successful and are unable to continue with some of their services. PIRS understands that the sector is going through very difficult times. For that reason we have developed stronger relationships with our community partners in order to serve the community better.

In 2005 the Board continued to focus on fulfilling our mandate. As PIRS's mandate was 30 years ago, so it continues to be: **to ensure that immigrant women and their young children can participate fully in Canadian community life.** In each program that we have offered and are offering we reflect our commitment to the community we serve.

The Board also recognizes the importance of emerging needs in the community, and, responding to that importance, will be initiating a strategic planning process in 2006 to ensure that we will have a plan that reflects our goals and is relevant to the community we are serving.

I would like to thank our funders: the Province of BC, the City of Vancouver, the United Way and Health Canada for their ongoing financial support. Thanks also to our donors through the BC Technology and Vancouver Foundations and a number of other private donors for their financial generosity.

In closing, I wish to express my appreciation to the Board members who have volunteered many hours to carry out our work. I also wish to thank the PIRS staff who administer the day to day operations, in particular the Executive Director, Jean Maloney, who prepares the funding applications and provides a great support to the Board in carrying out our responsibilities.

Marcela Mancilla-Fuller, Chairperson

Board Members

2004-2005



Chairperson **Marcela Mancilla-Fuller**
 Secretary **Sukhpal Aulakh**
 Treasurer **Pauline Stock-Pasetka**
 ESL Programs **Dora Fidler**
 LEAD/ Building
 Bridges Programs **Rosanna Santamaria**
 Personnel **Inge Bailey**
 Public Relations **Madeleine Addison**
 Fundraising **Nicole Jeschelnik**
 Members-at-Large **Betty Friesen**
Esaine Mo
Ginny Wong

Committee Members

Kussri Almasjah, Fatima Annane, Vilien Chen, Bonnie Fenton, Maria Luz Fernandez, Ana Vilma Gomez, Jackie Ing, Mihyun Kim, Selveta Kodraliu, Caroline Lau, Christine Lee, Eng Lim, Sabrina Leung, Maryann Martin, Michelle Mentore, Aseefa Merali, Helene Rasmussen, Lesley Richardson, Navi Sohal, Linda Sung, Johanna Tong, Anna Tse, Feli Villamin, Sheila Virdi, Liza Wajong, May Yeh.

Board and Committee members contributed more than 700 hours of volunteer time

Program Volunteers

ESL Eun-Sook Ahn, Eydie Bernstein, Jennifer Blas, Jessica Carroll, Alberta Celli, Larissa Coser, Olive Chan, James Dennis, Jan Derbyshire, Miriam Dominguez, Louise Fenwick, Anita Fung, Vera Fung, Jaswinder Gill, Anita Gabel, Deirdre Hetherington, Eva Huang, Sibylle Hunziker, Magda Jama, Rita Jekabsons, Violet Kilpatrick, Miyoko Kitamura, Elaine Kwok, Helen Liang, Eng Lim, Allison Louie, Helen May, Monica Meng, Mari Miyamoto, Farnoosh Mohaghegh, Maryan Nazem, Linda Nimmerrichter, Amy Rouen, Alma Salinas, Jeannette Steiner, Ellen van der Hoeven, Michelle von Beckman, Sammi Yang, Onjana Yawnghwe, Naomi Yokata, Cheng Yu, Anne Yumang, Friba Wahed, Jane Whittingham.

Thanks!

Office

Araceli Geron, Tommy Hockin (Events Photographer) Vera Lim, Julia Maldonado, Rocio Lebolo



Children's

Maryam Abbasi, Fahima Ahadi, Kussri Alamsjah, Katayoon Almasi, Vivien Chen, Anne Chu, Stevanny Djundjunan, Daina Dumont, Louise Fenwick, Fanny Fu, Qi Eva Fu, Cecilia Fung, Heather Graham, Rachel Haugh, Elektra Harris, Elaine Hu, Hye Jung Jang, Sherri Lee, Diane Lepawsky, Diana Liang, Carmen Leon, Rocio Lebolo, Joanne Lim, Far Lounsay, Xiao Mei, Monica Meng, Tegan Moss, Etsuko Oikawa, Amie Shea, Patricia Soto, Colleen Spooner, Cori-Lee Stevens, Johanna Tong, Sarah Turner, Grace Yang, Belle Yeh, Helen Yurtsun.

86 volunteers contributed almost 3000 hours to support PIRS programs



PIRS Programs

In the 2004-05 program year, PIRS ran 15 part time group programs for immigrant women and their young children at various community locations in Vancouver:

- 4 beginner level ESL classes
- 2 ESL literacy classes
- 2 intermediate level ESL classes
- 1 ESL parenting program
- 2 family literacy programs (Story Time)
- 3 leadership and development support programs (LEAD)
- 1 group facilitation training program (Building Bridges)

A total of 557 women and 282 children participated in these programs: 218 women and 92 children in beginner level ESL; 84 women and 20 children in ESL literacy; 65 women and 21 children in intermediate level ESL; 29 women and 25 children in ESL parenting; 93 women and 106 children in Story Time; 53 women and 18 children in LEAD; and 15 women in Building Bridges.

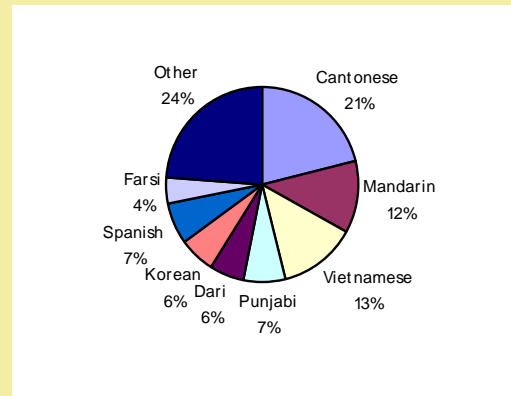
An additional 33 women and 10 children took part in an ESL program at Edmonds Neighbourhood Resource Centre in Burnaby, co-sponsored by PIRS and Burnaby Family Life Institute. The vast majority (91%) were Afghani women.

Our program participants came from 45 different countries of origin and spoke more than 30 different languages.

Countries of Origin:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, China, El Salvador, England, Eritrea, Fiji, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Japan, Korea, Kosovo, Kyrgystan, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Phillipines, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Somalia, Sri-Lanka, Sudan, Taiwan, Thailand, Venezuela, Vietnam.

First Languages:



Program Highlights

- **A new ESL parenting program** made possible through funding from Health Canada CAPC Program (Community Action Program for Children) and the support of MOSAIC and South Vancouver Family Place.
- **A new ESL program for Korean speaking women** and children at Champlain Heights Elementary School, in partnership with the school, the community centre and Rainbow Magic Preschool.
- **A new partnership with South Vancouver Neighbourhood House** to start an ESL program in the south Vancouver area.
- **A new arrangement with Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre** to provide play materials for families participating in the Story Time program through bi-weekly visits of their Mobile Lending Library.
- **The donation of Literacy Boxes** for participants in the Story Time program by the Rotary Club.
- **The expansion of the Intermediate ESL program** to a second location (the Warehouse Centre).
- **A new partnership with Burnaby Family Life Institute (BFLI)** to develop and deliver an ESL Literacy/Low Beginner program for Afghan women and children in Burnaby.
- **A new westside location for the LEAD program** at Shaughnessy Heights Church Hall.
- **The development of a cost recovery ESL class** at Kerrisdale Elementary School.
- **The celebration of International Women's Day** (March 8) by program participants, staff and volunteers at Hycroft House, thanks to the support of the University Women's Club and the contributions of so many volunteers.
- **The participation of so many friends, program participants, staff and volunteers** in our 30th anniversary celebration at the Floata Seafood Restaurant.

Program Partners

ESL

- ◆ Burnaby Family Life (Edmonds Neighbourhood Resource Centre)
- ◆ Champlain Heights Elementary School
- ◆ Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- ◆ Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
- ◆ Nightingale Elementary School
- ◆ Queen Alexandra Elementary School
- ◆ South Vancouver Neighbourhood House
- ◆ Thunderbird Community Centre

Intermediate ESL

- ◆ Trout Lake Community Centre
- ◆ The Warehouse Centre

Story Time

- ◆ Pierre Trudeau Elementary School

Parenting

- ◆ South Vancouver Family Place

ELSA

- ◆ Little Mountain Neighbourhood House
- ◆ Sunset Community Centre
- ◆ The Warehouse Centre

LEAD

- ◆ Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- ◆ Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
- ◆ Richmond Multicultural Society
- ◆ Shaughnessy Heights United Church Hall

Thanks!

Staff Members 2004-2005



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Executive Director | Jean Maloney |
| Account Administrator | Greta Ho |
| Office Administrator | Carmen Contreras |
| ESL Program Coordinator | Patricia Steiner |
| Children's Program Coordinator | Pola Baca |
| LEAD/Building Bridges Coordinator | Sylvia Hesby |
| Coordinator of Volunteers | Cathi Moss/
Mary-Anne Malcolm |

Program Staff

Lida Amiri, Maria Cristina Chavez, Vivian Chen, Anne Chu, Kim Dang, Dianne Dixon, Susan Ellis, Ramzia Faiz, Kim Farrell, Luciana Frustaci, Heather Graham, Susana Raquel Haugh, Hilda Henry, Liliana Hernandez, Sylvia Hesby, Jinny Hong, Mireya Hyvarinen, Rebecca Huang, Angela Jeoung, Junghwa Kim, Wendy Kwong, Jackie Leung, Margaret Leung, Maggie Liu, Irene Lui, Simmi Mann, Gloria Martin, Aseefa Merali, Janet Morrison, Cathi Moss, Rosanna Ng, Hai Thi Nguyen, Ivonne Ortiz, Angela Sasso (Consultant), Patricia Steiner, Carolyn Sullivan, Chung Tran, Khan Tran, Agnes Tsang, Anna Tse, Maureen Urquhart, Cuc Van, Ellen van der Hoeven, Sheila Virdi, Minh Vu, Liza Wajong, Elsa Wattenyad, Diane Wilmann (Consultant), Darcy Wong, Christine Wu, Anna Guohong Xia, Colleen Xiang.



PIRS Outreach Workers and Teacher's Assistants