



Annual Report -March 31ST 2019 – September10th 2020

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Indo-Canadian Women's Association

Changing attitudes since 1984

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ICWA's Vision, Mission and Values

Since its' inception 36 years ago, ICWA is amongst the few organizations in Edmonton, Canada, that advocates for the protection of the rights of immigrant women, men and youth alike. Through a holistic approach to service delivery, skill building, community activities and raising awareness about important topics, ICWA ensures that immigrants feel at home in Canada.

Our vision is that all new Canadians will achieve a sense of fulfillment and integration into the Canadian culture and society. Everyone will have an equal opportunity to fully participate in Canadian society.

Our mission is to encourage and promote participation by new Canadians in social, economic, and political life in Canada. We are dedicated to promoting equality, opportunity, and protection of rights for everyone.

Our values are equality, opportunity, and protection of rights for everyone.

Executive Summary:

This past year has brought multiple exciting opportunities to ICWA for serving our community. In the wake of the ongoing pandemic, ICWA team rose up to the challenge and continued serving the community through virtual programming. We have initiated new projects to meet the needs of our community with an innovative approach of program and service delivery.

This year, we upgraded our website, to make it more interactive and useful for our community members. ICWA website address is www.icwaedmonton.org

We also provided supervision support to four practicum students, from Grant MacEwan, Norquest College and Lakeland College.

Amidst these unprecedented times, we take pride in the resilience and generosity demonstrated by our community. We are grateful to our members, board members, clients, staff members, program funders and all our stake holders and community members, for rendering unrelenting support to ICWA. Upward and Onward.

“There is no Exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up”-

John Holmes

Special Events:

- **Fundraising Concert**

On September 22nd, 2019, Indo- Canadian Women’s Association held its second annual fundraising concert at the Festival place in Sherwood Park. The event, a music gala titled—’Gems of Bollywood’ was a Hindi film music concert with live orchestra produced by Image India.

The success of the concert goes to the team of talented vocal singers and their orchestra support; to all the technical staff; to all the donors and sponsors; to the board members and ICWA staff and lastly to all the people that graced the occasion



- **International Day of the Girl Child**

The Indo-Canadian Women’s Association celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child on October 10th, 2019. The ICWA team showcased an award-winning documentary named “Beti”. The documentary skillfully depicted the underlying menace of gender violence and male privilege.

A facilitated discussion followed on the United Nation’s theme for 2019, i.e. “*empowering girls for a better tomorrow*”.

Many ICWA members, board members, staff and distinguished guests attended the event, including former Member of Parliament, Hon Amarjeet Sohi, MLA Rakhi Pancholi and Councilor Moe Banga.



- **Flu Clinic and Diabetes Management Workshop**

On October 27th, 2019, the Indo-Canadian Women’s Association hosted a Flu Clinic and Diabetes Management workshop in conjunction with Rite Choice Pharmacy. The diabetes education workshop was facilitated by Farrah Ghumman, the Pharmacy Manager and Pharmacist at Rite choice pharmacy. The guest speaker extensively discussed evidence -based ways of keep our health in shape and managing diabetes proactively. A flu shot vaccine was administered to interested participants after the session.



- **Volunteer Appreciation event**

The importance of volunteers cannot be overemphasized in every organization, they are the life support who make us thrive as an agency.

On October 31, 2019, Indo- Canadian Women’s Association organized an appreciation luncheon at the **Masala Wok** in Millwoods to appreciate all our volunteers for their contributions, dedications, and unending support. Presently, we have over 35 volunteers including our executives' members, boards of Directors contributing their hours towards the growth of the association.



- **Family Violence Prevention Month**

On November 15, 2019, to mark the family violence prevention month, the Indo- Canadian Women’s Association held a violence prevention workshop presented by Dr. Sujata Warriar at South East Community Room, Edmonton Police Services. The topic of the workshop was: “*Engaging Cultural Differences in a Global World*”. This 4-hour educational workshop was attended by over 30 participants, who identified as professionals from a variety of programs from the social services sector. Additionally, ICWA also collected donations for women and children seeking refuge from domestic violence at WIN House Shelter for Women and Children.



- **Annual Grand Multicultural Celebration**

On December 13th, to mark the annual grand multicultural day and the theme ‘Multiculturalism’, Indo Canadian Women’s Association screened a movie titled ‘7 years in Tibet’ directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud. The president Miriam Thomas thanked the participants for their continued patronage over the years. She urged everyone to continue supporting ICWA and spreading the mission of the organization. MLA Christina Gray was amongst those who participated in the event. The afternoon was full of fun and networking.



Networking and Community Events:

Daughter's Day:

ICWA set up an informational booth on September 14th, 2019 at the annual Daughter's Day event. This annual event recognizes six outstanding women from the local communities for their achievements. Numerous attendees stopped by at the ICWA booth to pick up informational brochures and talk about current ICWA programs and services.

Alberta Social Workers United against Family Violence (ASWUAFV) resource fair:

ICWA set up a display booth at the ASWUAFV resource fair on November 26th, 2019. The ASWUAFV is a member interest group at the Alberta College of Social Workers, and is formed by volunteer social workers. ICWA displayed information about all the initiatives of the association to combat family violence.

Community Initiatives Against Family Violence Resource Fair (CIAFV):

On December 18th 2020, CIAFV arranged a resource fair and networking event for service providers offering programs and services in the family violence prevention and intervention sector. ICWA set up a resource table that displayed a variety of resources developed by ICWA pertinent to research on family violence.



Millwoods Resource Fair:



Christina Gray, MLA for Millwoods, invited ICWA to participate in the annual resource fair on January 18th, 2020. This event was well attended by service providers from social services sector and other community service providers.

ICWA Projects

- **Project CASA (Culturally appropriate & safe assistance through home visitation for survivors of violence)**

On March 8, 2019, Indo Canadian Women’s Association in partnership with Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op (MCHB), Institute for the Advancement Of Aboriginal Women (IAAW), Alberta Home Visitation Network Association (AVHNA), Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) and Children services launched a project titled “Culturally appropriate and safe assistance through home visitation for survivors of violence” (CASA) funded by Department for Women and Gender Equality (Formerly Status of Women Canada). ICWA and partners will create and pilot a home visitation protocol for diverse vulnerable mothers coping with the effect of violence in the family. Dr. Amrita Mishra authored the successfully funded project implementation plan and is in charge of the project.

The progress report for CASA to date can be accessed by clicking [here](#)

- **Project GYAN**

ICWA has initiated a one-year educational project for sharing information about a variety of legal topics on a bi-weekly show at Radio Desh Punjab Side Band 104.9 FM. Audience can hear the Project GYAN radio show, every second week on Friday, from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The link to the radio show is : <http://radiodeshpunjab.com>

The project coordinator can be reached at [“projectgyan@gmail.com”](mailto:projectgyan@gmail.com).

We gratefully acknowledge our project funders, “South Asian Bar Association of North America Foundation” for their generous support to ICWA.

- **Steps to Empowerment for Seniors**

This short-term project (for the duration of September,2020 till March 2021) is funded by the “New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) – Ministry of Employment and Social Development, Canada.

The project provides support to isolated South -Asian and immigrant seniors by home visitation. The goal of the project is to empower seniors by reducing their isolation and connecting them with wellness and educational activities in the community. Clients are supported in learning how to use electronic devices and understanding the parameters of cyber security.

- **Financial and Resource Navigation Support Services for Seniors**

The main goal of this project is to provide system navigation assistance to South-Asian (Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and Gujrati speaking) seniors living in Millwoods and surrounding areas. The clients are assisted in connecting with appropriate financial support resources, low- cost and cost-free services in the community. The duration of this project is from August, 2020 to March 2021. This project is generously funded by the Government of Canada.

- **Family Law Pro-Bono Clinics**

The Canadian Women’s Foundation and its’ partners have generously funded this project from September, 2020 till March 2021. A lawyer will be available bi-weekly, for a one time, free and confidential consultation for women about matters related to gender-based violence and family law. Appointments can be made by calling at: 780-490-0477 or emailing:’info@icwaedmonton.org”.

ICWA Programs:

- **ECALA (Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association) funded Program**

The ECALA program served a total of 112 clients last year, through the ESL Functional Literacy, Seniors Conversation Circles and Digital Skills Facilitation classes. In order to ensure seamless service delivery to our clients through the pandemic, all our classes are now facilitated remotely via zoom.

- **Service Canada Summer Students Program**

ICWA had received funding from Service Canada to hire two summer students in 2019. These students did a remarkable job by facilitating groups for youth and organizing an engagement and wellness event for seniors called, “Summer Safari”

ICWA has received funding to hire three summer students this year. Most of the activities for youth this year will be facilitated remotely using online engagement tools.

Upcoming Events:

Online Conference for “Engaging Men as Allies in Stopping Violence Against Women”

In commemoration of the “Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta” this November, ICWA plans to facilitate an online conference for engaging men as allies to stop violence against women. More details about registration will follow soon. This initiative is funded by the Edmonton Community Foundation.

Postponed Event:

The International Women’s Day celebration is one of the ICWA annual fundraising events. This year, the event was scheduled for March 13th, however it was postponed in the wake of the pandemic. ICWA plans to celebrate the successes and achievements of women in our communities soon through an online event. More information will follow soon.

Governance

The list of the 2019 to 2020 ICWA Board Members is noted below:

President – Miriam Thomas

Past- President – Ratna Bassappa

Vice-President – Jagjeet Bhardwaj

Treasurer – Anjali Agarwal

Secretary – Mita Das

Director- Dr. Janki Shankar

Director- Avau Fast

Director- Rashmi Jyoti

Director- Papiya Das

Staff:

Sadia Sameeullah- Executive Director

Dr.Amrita Mishra- Project Director

Esther Omoniyi- Office and Program Coordinator

Komal Sandhu- Project Coordinator and Computer Instructor

Chouaib El-Bouhali- ESL Instructor

Lena Vasilyeva- English Conversation Instructor

Krishnakumari Vaishnav- Financial navigation and Support Coordinator

Acknowledgments:

ICWA sincerely acknowledges the generous support from our funders, donors, and volunteers for their continued support to our association. ICWA programs and projects are funded by:

Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association (ECALA)

South Asian Bar Association of North America (SABA) Foundation

Edmonton Community Foundation

Service Canada

Government of Canada

United Way of Alberta region

Status of Women Canada

Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission

New Horizon for seniors

Canadian Women's Foundation