

"The first time I met you I knew a lot of words but couldn't speak very well. I think this class helped me to improve my speaking and helped me not to be shy and to make friends and so on. I will miss you and all of my friend's" Zahra Goodarzi.

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

- Thinking outside the 2
- A glimpse of Canadian 2
- My life in Canada: A newcomer's 3
- Minister Vic Toews announces funding to protect from hate crimes 3
- Immigrant Centre, how can we help? 4

# Kaleidoscope

2011  
KALEIDOSCOPE: A MOSAIC IN MOTION VOLUME 2

## Award celebrates star IC staff member

On February 17, 2011 at the "Celebrating the Stars" gala dinner at the Norwood Hotel, Immigrant Centre Intake Officer Harouna Samura was honoured by Reaching E-Quality Employment Services (REES) and presented with their Star Individual Award. If you are a client of the centre, it is very likely that you have met with Harouna, as nearly all new clients are sent to his office first to be given an overview of the services available both at the Immigrant Centre, and in the wider Immigrant Serving Community.

As the program to the awards ceremony said "Harouna Samura found his dream job and



Harouna Samura and his Star Individual REES award

ideal employer with Immigrant Centre utilizing of the key values of REES: attitude, self-reliance, determination and continuous development. A refugee from Sierra Leone and a polio survivor, he leads by example to not only persons

with disabilities, but Harouna is a welcome addition to the Immigrant Centre. Linda Lalande, Executive Director, commented, 'he identifies the needs and issues with new clients and can determine what services would be best for them.' As well, she noted that his 'caring attitude, team spirit and ability to think outside the box' were key determinants in their decision to employ Harouna with the immigrants he currently assists.

As an individual whose contributions have supported the vision and values of REES, Harouna is truly deserving of the "Star Individual Award."

## Learn English with CBC Manitoba

EAL students and teachers should visit: [www.cbc.ca/manitoba/eal/](http://www.cbc.ca/manitoba/eal/)

This site is an amazing resource made up of lessons which are based on CBC Manitoba radio stories broadcast on CBC Radio One 89.3 FM and 990 AM. The lessons are designed for intermediate level learners and there is a teachers page which includes advice on how to adapt them for your class.

Each lesson has a version you can study on your own at home or

work together on in a classroom. All of the lessons are available on the website.

It can be hard to follow stories on the radio in a language you are still learning, but this site contains newscasts which are adapted for high beginner / low intermediate EAL learners and are based on CBC news stories. The newscasts and listening lessons change weekly and the

newscasts are also archived on the Learning English with CBC Manitoba website.

All of the lessons provide opportunities for you to improve the communication skills you need to increase your participation in your community or workplace. You will also learn more about the Manitoban culture and the people who live here.



From right to left: Jorge Fernandez, Manager of Settlement Services and his clients Roslyn and Josephine Pamplona at their citizenship ceremony on March 16

*"This newsletter is called Kaleidoscope because we want clients, volunteers, staff, board members, and anyone else interested in our centre to add their voice to it."*

## Thinking outside the box

Now in their second year **Spirit of Winnipeg Awards** were established by the Chamber of Commerce along with BDO to shine a light on the great innovation happening in Winnipeg.

At a ceremony held at the Fairmont Hotel in March, Immigrant Centre was showcased as one of three finalist in 2011 Spirit of Winnipeg Charity category.

There are five categories for the awards: Small business (revenue of less than \$10 million), Medium business (revenue of \$10-\$75 million), Large business (revenue of more than \$75 million), Not-for-profit



organizations and Charities.

Priti Mehta-Shah, senior vice-president of Corporate Finance for BDO, said "It's not just about inventions, but about better approaches and practices that contribute to the vibrancy of our city,"

With an estimated 200 newcomers arriving on the streets of Winnipeg every week, and with that figure

set to double over the next decade, the Immigrant Centre relies on creative partnerships to meet growing needs. The Immigrant Centre currently collaborates with more than 50 organizations across Manitoba to help immigrants integrate within the province and to raise more than \$400,000 in additional funding to cover a \$1.5-million annual budget, that's grown 46 per cent since 2003.

## A glimpse of a Canadian values

**Generally speaking almost everyone in this country knows that the most important values for Canadians are "time" and "personal freedom".**

As a newcomer, I would like to express my own opinion about Canadian culture and needless to say these are my first impressions.

The best description of Canadian culture for me is a "train" (a colourful train with wheels from Ireland, cars from Scotland, locomotive from England, Conductor from Philippines, crew from China, smoke from aboriginals, routing from the States and passengers from every part of the

world) No doubt it will be entertaining to ride this train – ignore its restaurant!

The second strong association of this Culture is certainly "team work".

Team work is almost a phenomenon in the Canadian way of life. Team work doubtlessly has many advantages but sometimes it is exaggerated. For example if you apply this rule in writing the picture you will see is most likely a patchwork rather than an essay.

In the third place there is clothing, surrealism remains a great influence for the Canadian – Winnipeg fashion world and this can be observed especially on

the buses – sheer combination of undershirt/boxer shorts/sport shoes and as an accessory, a briefcase. This enjoyable picture never can be seen in any European country.

Last but not least is definitely "politeness". Canadians, as far as I am concerned, are really polite. One shouldn't say that their smiles are not always sincere. They smile without any hesitation regardless you deserve this smile. I love this very much.

To summarize, cultural diversity is a fact and this fact teaches people to listen, to see, to understand others. Learning is forever.

**Mufit Gunay**

## My life in Canada: A newcomer's journey

**I am a licensed Architect with more than 16 years of professional practice.** I have an accomplished career as Lead Architect, Project Manager and Property Manager. Insecurity in my home government, afraid of a gloomy retirement and losing all that we have when we grow old and sickly, my husband and I turned our back to our comfortable life, took the risk and crossed waters to find a better life in Canada.

On September 2008, my husband and I landed in Canada with mixed emotions - a bit of excitement but mostly fear – we registered as clients at Entry Program, Employment Projects of Winnipeg, Success Skills and Immigrant Centre.

We are blessed with very supportive and accommodating relatives but it is our nature to be independent. Come high and low, we would take ANY job just to survive! Our objective was in three months' time, we should be standing on our own feet. On a freezing winter December day, we moved to an apartment basement.

It was a very humbling experience, (remember, we were enjoying our pre-Canadian lifestyle. We are not wealthy but at home, we had maids and drivers; and at work, we had people reporting to us). My husband, a licensed Mechanical Engi-

neer took jobs that literally got his hands dirty with manual labour; but I could not even get a job. **Potential Employers were impressed but at the end of the day, it was either I was over qualified or had no Canadian work experience** at all! Rejection was right in front of my face and it was already shredding me to pieces.

I refused to be demoralized, but frustration and desperation started to sink in, learning from the newcomers' workshops, I opened the yellow directory to do my job search using the cold calls technique. Over the phone I was interviewed, apparently I made a good impression to the gentleman on the other line, who happened to be the decision maker himself! Next thing I heard was, "come in tomorrow, bring your resume and my Project Manager will interview you". Then I got the job! I am now on my second year working as Project Manager for the government. I am happy where I am at now; aside from having a job where I get the chance to practice my strongest work backgrounds, I have my fine colleagues to work with and my directors are very supportive mentors whose constant encouragement inspire me to excel on everything I do and to pursue my Architect's license.

To date, I received my certificate from the CACB recognizing my degree in Architecture and also my certificate for Project Management from Red River College.

### In Closing:

Hope and positive attitude are strong words to live by but armed with previous trainings, extensive work experiences and transferable skills, you can find your niche here in Canada. There are many supporting bodies for immigrants and Canada I believe is the most immigrant-friendly country in the world today.

Be innovative, gather as much information as you can, always thrive for improvement, be flexible, and when necessary be ready for a career change. Strategize with your family, this is the best time to bond with loved ones after all, what's better than smelling the sweet success after getting through some sacrifices together?

Our citizenship is now just around the corner. We are enjoying our own home for a year now. We have a mortgage, car loan, credit cards. we, dress in layers, drive on icy roads. and press "1" for English.. What more can we ask for in Winterpeg? So let's enjoy Canada, she's our home now and part of our brighter future, eh!

*"We are blessed with very supportive relatives ... but our objective was in three month's time, we should be standing on our own feet."*

## Minister Vic Toews announces funding to protect against hate crimes

At Immigrant Centre on Friday March 4, The Honourable Vic Toews, Member of Parliament for Provencher and Canada's Minister of Public Safety, announced over \$99,000 in additional support for security infrastructure improvements to protect eight community organizations in western Canada

from threats of violence. These organizations are receiving federal support from the Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Pilot (SIP) Program.

The two organizations approved for funding in Winnipeg are the Immigrant Centre Manitoba Inc and Manitoba Islamic Association .



**Vic Toews at a Press Conference hosted by Immigrant Centre on March 4, 2011**



**Immigrant Centre**

**Immigrant Centre Manitoba Inc.  
Newsletter**

100 Adelaide Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3A 0W2, Canada  
Phone: 204-943-9158  
Fax: 204-949-0734  
[www.icmanitoba.com](http://www.icmanitoba.com)

**THE BETTER THE START, THE  
BETTER THE FUTURE**



**We are Manitoba's community leader in providing immigration and settlement services free of charge. It is our goal to empower newcomers to connect, integrate and fully participate in Canadian society.**

**Our services include:**

- **Intake and Assessment**
- **Manitoba Nominee Application Centre (NAC) Settlement Services**
- **Access English Centre**
- **Adult Education Services**
- **Employment Services**
- **Workplace Entry Program**
- **Computer Lending Library**
- **Language Bank and Translation**
- **Volunteer Services**
- **Community Outreach Services**
- **Nutrition Services**
- **Citizenship Classes**

# “Immigrant Centre, how can we help you?”

**When you come into Immigrant Centre, the first face you see may well be the always smiling one of our receptionist Amy Wang. She spends her working day answering questions about the services available at our Centre, now it's time to ask her a few questions about herself.**

**When did you first come to Winnipeg?**

August 25, 2005, my husband sponsored me as a Permanent Resident. I became a Canadian citizen on January 14, 2010

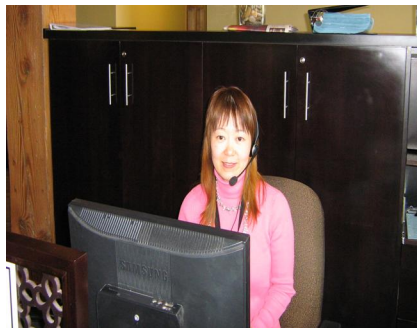
**What did you do to settle into your new home?**

I took EAL classes at Red River College

and worked part time in a grocery store.

**How did you end up working at Immigrant Centre?**

I came as a client in 2006 to get an “Invitation to Visit”. Then in 2007 I came to do a one month volunteer placement as part of my Red River College course.



**Amy Wang busy at the front desk**

I loved volunteering here so much they offered me the evening receptionist job and I said yes! Then when we moved to this new building in 2009 they offered me the full-time day receptionist job and I said yes again straight away!

**What do you like best about working here?**

“I like to deal with the clients and fix the problems, to answer the phone and figure out what the person needs and who to put them with. But the best bit is when you see the client leaving with a smile saying thank you and they are so surprised it is all for free! Also I like it when I can help interpret for Chinese speakers who have just arrived here.”