

## PIRS Partners

We extend a huge thanks to our program partners:

BC Council for Families  
 BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre  
 Burnaby Neighbourhood House  
 Burnaby School District/Edmonds School  
 Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House  
 Champlain Heights Community Centre  
 Collingwood Neighbourhood House  
 Family Services of Greater Vancouver  
 Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House  
 Immigrant Services Society of BC  
 MOSAIC  
 Muslim Association of Canada/Vancouver  
 Quaker Meeting House  
 South Vancouver Family Place  
 South Vancouver Neighbourhood House  
 The Children's Foundation  
 UBC Department of Educational Studies  
 Vancouver Community College  
 Vancouver School Board



# Annual Report 2016-2017

## Mission Statement

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



1874 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC V5M 2S7  
[www.pirs.bc.ca](http://www.pirs.bc.ca) email: [info@pirs.bc.ca](mailto:info@pirs.bc.ca)  
 Tel: 604-298-5888 Fax: 604-298-7115



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada



United Way  
Lower Mainland  
Community Partner



## Chairperson & ED report

2016 was another exciting year for PIRS as the political environment shifted and the Board's and staff's hard work started to pay off. PIRS' budget nearly doubled and we were able to expand programs and pilot new ones.

The Board set and met an ambitious fundraising goal of \$30,000. Thanks to generous donations, we piloted an English for Caring for Persons with Disabilities course. Continued support from a private donor also meant we were able to continue to deliver the Community English for Refugee Women's program.

We were excited to have our Community English for Refugee Women program featured on CBC the National by reporter Bal Brach. In addition PIRS was chosen to produce a short video through the "Play It Forward" non-profit video initiative at the Cineworks Independent Film Society. PIRS was matched with Peruvian-Canadian writer and director, Ana Maria Carrizales.

PIRS was invited to an editorial committee for AMSSA's Cultures West magazine issue, "Immigrant and Refugee Children: The Early Years" which included articles by PIRS' own, Gyda Chud and Ana Machado. In addition, Amea Wilbur was invited to speak on Roundhouse Radio and published an article in the BC Teal Newsletter.

PIRS staff have been sought after to provide training around trauma informed practice in the EAL classroom by settlement service providers and at conferences. Staff presented at conferences such as CIIM-IRW Regional Symposium: Migration and Refuge in Western Canada, Metropolis Conference, BC TEAL Conference and an AMSSA convened E-Symposium. In addition staff delivered professional development through BC Council for Families on Trauma-Informed Practices in the Settlement Sector.

This year, volunteers contributed more than 1,787 hours of their time providing PIRS with expertise and support in areas such as teacher assistant, assistant in the childcare, website development, database management, strategic planning, desktop publishing and office support. The incredible commitment of PIRS' volunteers is a testament to the value of PIRS' work in the community.

We are ever so grateful for the ongoing support of our funders: City of Vancouver, United Way, BC Direct Access Gaming, Health Canada, Seedlings Foundation, some funds from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and DECODA, which allowed us to expand programming to address emerging needs.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to Nicole Marques Stinson and Laura Gustafson; all of whom stepped off the Board but remain life-long PIRS fans.

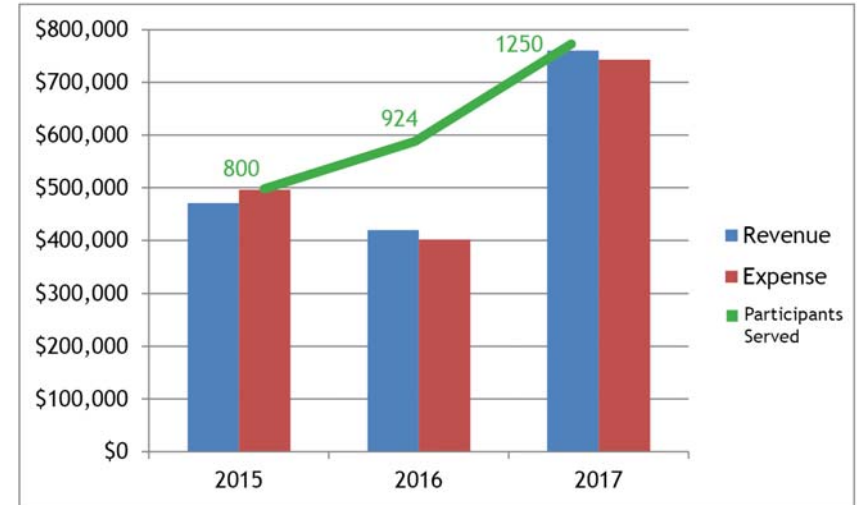
We thank our Core and Program Staff, our Board and the Consultants who opened doors and pathways for us to "answer the call" of our Vision, Mission and Values in ways that improve the quality of our services to participants, partners and the larger community.

A final thank you to our friends, fans, members and donors, who contributed to PIRS throughout the year and who generously responded to our appeal to assist new refugee families through the Scotiabank Walk.

*Gyda Chud,*  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

*Mariam Bouchoutrouch,*  
Executive Director

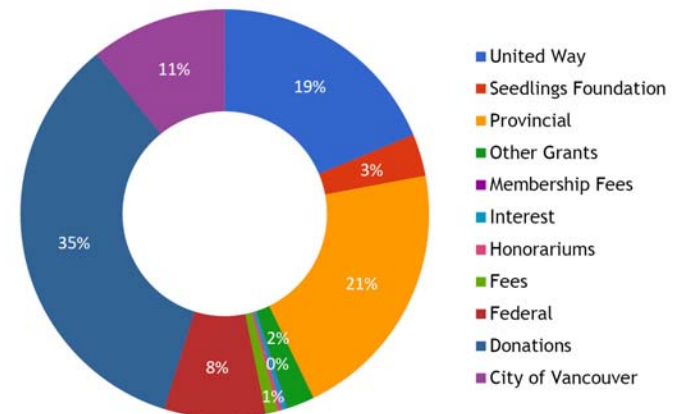
## Financial Report



### Revenues and Expenses 2017

Revenues	760,241.00
Expenses	742,726.00

### Source of revenues



## In the field

*Agnes Tsang, Ann Asselstine, Anna Wing Mei Shum, Arlene Ordonez, Babita Darlami Thapa, Blanca Salvatierra, Candice Leung, Carol Anita Bond, Changme Lee (Grace), Consuelo Castillo (Connie), Diana Jeffries, Emily Hunter, Erika Infante Pizarro, Guohong Xia (Anna), Jessie C. Patagan, Karla Avelar, Kasthuri Sivakannan, Leanna Inokoshi, Loveleen Kour Reen, Mai Khalaf, Malalay Saifi, Margaret Yuk-Ling Leung, Nadia Taj Khan, Nargis Wardak, Orah Chaye, Pamela Holley, Rasha Moursy, Rong Hua Shi (Shinda), Sandra Slind, Shobanadevi Devadoss, Song Hee Choi (Lucy), Soud Ghomari, Suad Al-Taie, Sukhraj (Ravi) Boparai, Valerie Lai, Wendy Kwong, Zahida Rahemtulla, Zarmina Mohammad Ali.*



## Volunteers

*Arzoo Haidary, Ahreum Nam, Alexandra MacKenzie, Alva Guerra, Brizeida Saro, Carmela Austria, Chava Glouberman, Deborah Barnett, Dorris (Xing Dong Sue), Dina Shouhdy, Effie Pow, Eman Abdelatif, Farida, Fatima Al Muwali, Fiera Lo, Fu Mung (Melissa), Hana hamdoun, Haze, Hoa Phan, Honey (Violet), Honey Aujla, Hossain Nazaripour, Judita Scott, Kathy Price, Laurie Grant, Loveleen Kour Reen, Lulu Shen, Martina Holblingova, Melisa Fu, Mahnoor Anwar (Noor), Nadia Rajila, Namira Elshami, Nilapha Khotjak, Noshen Aslam, Nooli Siahmakoon, Noor Anwar, Nosheen Aslam, Nuria Gonzalez Sefchavich, Phan Thuy, Phoebe Qi, Paula Marie Coughlan, Rena Iwasaki, Sarah Rosegard, Sera Horricks, Shugoofa Paikar, Suad Al-Taie, Susan Pinkham, Timothy Mackintosh Turner, Tomas Holbling, Wafa Benreguia, Winnie Huang, Xing Dong Sue (Doris), Yuwang (Milo), Yasera El Sanea, Yu Qing Qi (Phoebe), Yu Wang (Haze), Zainab Obaid.*

## Board Members

Chairperson	Gyda Chud
Vice Chairperson	Joanna Whalley
Co-Treasurer	Suzanne Saatchi
Co-Treasurer	Michelle Chen
Secretary	Audrey Wong
Director	Cherese Reemaul
Director	Janice Littler-Finseth
Director	Jes Simkin
Director	Laura Gustafson
Director	Nicole Marques Stinson



## In the office



Executive Director	Mariam Bouchoutrouch
Manager of Programs	Amea Wilbur
Office Administrator	Maliha Mayeed
Volunteer Coordinator	Mai Khalaf
Accountant/Book Keeper	Nargis Wardak/Jeremy Ingoldby, Pace Accounting
IT Support	Ross Tremblay

## Volunteers

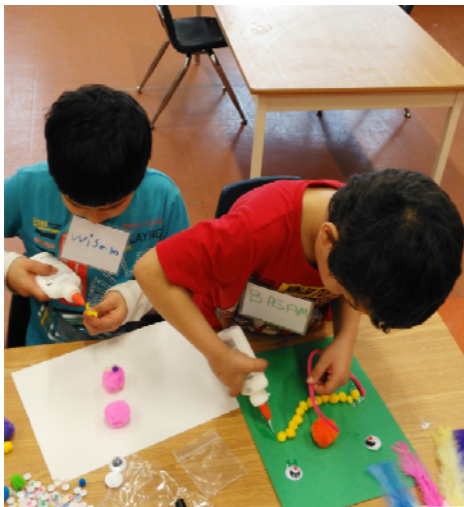
*Volunteers contributed more than 1787 hours of their time and expertise to the agency.*

## PIRS Programs

### English Language Learning

With an infusion of a significant donation from a private donor, PIRS was able to expand and enhance delivery of English Language learning opportunities to immigrant and refugee women. We increased delivery from three multi-level Blended English as Additional Language classes in Vancouver to seven classes in Burnaby and Vancouver.

*1250 participants served: 552 women and 698 children.*



The Community English for Refugee Women program expanded last year into one new site at Burnaby Neighbourhood House. The program uses our trauma-informed curriculum to help women build control, connection and meaning in their new lives in Canada. Last summer, with the help of our generous donor, 68 refugee women and children from our Edmonds program had the opportunity to visit our provincial capital (Victoria).

### Early Years Refugee Program

PIRS started to deliver the Vancouver Early Years Refugee Program in fall of 2016. Funded by United Way of the Lower Mainland, this program is a partnership with the Vancouver School Board's StrongStart program. The program includes a home visitor program and a refugee focused StrongStart program. 141 children from 100 families were served in 2016. With funding from DECODA, we were able to enhance this program by delivering an adapted IPALS program focused on Syrian refugees in partnership with the Muslim Association of Canada and Vancouver School Board.

### Women's Development & Pre-Employment

With new funding from Seedlings Foundation we expanded the Building Bridges program into Burnaby and revived the International Women's Networking Table (IWNT), a mini-conference initially conceived and implemented by Building Bridges graduate and former Board member, Natalia Verand. This year's IWNT brought over 70 women together to discuss health, leadership and positive communication. As one participant said "The best part was how we were all getting together every Saturday to present our work. This was exciting and made us all proud."

Our new program, Entry to Hospitality Careers for Women (in partnership with VCC) ran 2 cohorts in the 2016-2017 year: beginning in fall (Oct '16) and winter (Jan '17). In each 12-week cohort, a total of 33 immigrant and refugee women were trained for entry-level positions in senior homes, kitchens, and hotels, and 11 children joined in the children's program set up so that mothers could attend. Around half of the women enrolled found work or went on to pursue further studies after completing the program.

*Participants came from 32 different countries, speaking 24 different languages.*

### Early Childhood Development & Children's Programs

PIRS offers children's programs attached to most of our programs. Staffed by early childhood educators, these programs meant that immigrant and refugee women could participate in learning opportunities while their children were learning through play in a safe environment.

PIRS offers two early literacy programs for parents and caregivers and their young children at Tecumseh Elementary and Trudeau Elementary. The program continues to be a favourite with high attendance in both programs. Last year, we had 74 adults attend and 80 children.