

February 19th, 1996

Dear Kelly Ip,

Every Monday night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at West Coast Child Resource Centre in Vancouver, you can find a cheerful party - participants of Building Bridges program. I am one of the concerned participants of this program. I came to Canada three months ago, as an independent immigrant from Yugoslavia. To me PIRS and Building Bridges Program represent Canada. Everybody who comes to Canada hopes to make a better life for oneself and the family. I am not different. In order to do that, I need to build many bridges and I need help while building them. Thanks to this program and its enthusiastic trainer and assistant whom I really feel as being my friends, I am able to settle and adapt to living in Canada more quickly. I believe in myself and my family and I believe I will succeed. I learn about group facilitation, working with adults from different cultural background, being responsible for my own learning. I find out more information regarding job opportunities. I get connected with the Neighbourhood house in my community, so I have the feeling of belonging somewhere. But what is more important I learn some facts of life. I have the opportunity to see what "celebrating multicultural diversity" is about. I have the support I need both from the trainers and other participants, I don't feel alone and isolated, I meet new friends, I give and share, become richer in spirit and stronger in determination to achieve my goals. Together with other members of the group I build unbreakable bonds you can't really see, touch or describe but you can feel them.

Immigrants like myself need this program, we need the bridges and PIRS has been there for me and for us.

Sincerely Vana Radivojevic