



Annual Report 2015-2016

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Report *from the Board and ED*

Oh what a year! With a re-organized core team, PIRS began the process of exploring new opportunities and partnerships, many of which started to bear fruit.

With new funding and generous donations, PIRS responded to the Syrian Refugee crisis by delivering a Pop-Up Family program to refugees living in temporary accommodations; we piloted a Community English for Refugees program at Edmonds School in Burnaby; and we delivered English classes to Syrian refugees at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House. The pilot culminated in a Celebration of Learning where the children in pre-school welcomed us with lovely songs; Peter Julien, MP, and Raj Chohan, MLA, presented certificates to our grads; and we heard powerful testimonials from women who spoke about the ways PIRS moved them from isolation to self-confident community engagement.

We focused on strengthening existing programs, providing support to staff in the field and offering a number of training opportunities. Thanks to Valerie Lai, we have a new data collection system which is easier to use and makes reporting to funders much easier. We said goodbye to the HIPPI program this year, but many of our Peer Home Visitors remained connected to PIRS.

This year, volunteers contributed more than 1100 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 grateful for the ongoing support of our funders: City of Vancouver, United Way, BC Direct Access Gaming, Health Canada, some funds from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and DECODA, which ensured that everything kept running smoothly. We also extend a huge thanks to our program partners: MOSAIC, Vancouver School Board, Burnaby School Board, Burnaby, Frog Hollow, South Vancouver, Collingwood and Cedar Cottage Neighborhood Houses, South Vancouver Family Place, Quaker House, the Children's Foundation, ISSofBC, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, and the Muslim Association of Canada.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to Natalia Verand, who served as Secretary for two years, to Chrissy Chen who served as our Treasurer, and Sruthi Sreedhar, member at large; all of whom are stepping off the Board but remain life-long PIRS fans.

In closing, this past year has been exciting and energizing. 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



Board Members

- Chairperson *Gyda Chud*
Treasurer *Chrissy Chen*
Secretary *Natalia Verand*
Director *Cherese Reemaul*
Director *Janice Littler-Finseth*
Director *Joanna Whalley*
Director *Laura Gustafson*
Director *Nicole Stinson*
Director *Sruthi Sreedhar*
Director *Elizabeth Robbins*



Core Staff



- Executive Director
Mariam Bouchoutrouch
- Manager of Programs
Amea Wilbur
- Office Administrator
Maliha Mayeed
- Accountant/Book Keeper
Elizabeth Cruz/Nargis Wardak
- IT Support
Ross Tremblay

Volunteers contributed more than 1100 hours of their time and expertise to the agency.



PIRS Programs

2015-2016 was a busy year for PIRS. 924 individuals (443 immigrant and refugee women and 481 children) attended one or more of our nine programs and services in Vancouver and Burnaby.

Participants came from 36 different countries and spoke 26 different languages. Thanks to generous donations, we supported 236 Syrian refugees living in temporary accommodations during a 3-month Pop-Up Family Program in the spring, which we followed up with an English class in partnership with Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House.

Our programs this year included:

- Blended English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Building Bridges Facilitator training program
- EAL Parenting
- Multicultural Family Literacy program
- Leadership Development program (LEAD)
- HIPPY
- Moving Ahead
- Community English for Refugee Women (pilot)
- Refugee Pop-Up Family program



Program Partners

PIRS depends on generous partner organizations to deliver programs in neighbourhoods close to our participants. We would like to thank the following partners for providing space at low or no cost.



- Burnaby Neighbourhood House
- Burnaby School District/Edmonds School
- Cedar Cottage Neighborhood House
- Champlain Heights Community Centre
- The Children's Foundation
- Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- Family Services of Greater Vancouver
- Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
- Immigrant Services Society of BC
- MOSAIC
- Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
- Muslim Association of Canada/Vancouver
- South Vancouver Family Place
- Vancouver School Board



2015-2016 at PIRS



Building Bridges
Graduation
Ceremony



Community English for Refugee Women



Building Bridges
Graduation
Ceremony



Pop-Up Refugee Program

Building Bridges

*From ocean to ocean
I bring the seeds of an ancient dynasty
May it grow and flourish
In a land of freedom
With the colorful flowers of other cultures*

*A teacher to the jobless
Like a paper in the air
A candle in the wind
Stay strong, stand still
Hold the hands of you and you*

*Smile in the face, hope in the eyes
Pass the love to here and there
Build a bridge across the oceans
Pray for peace for brothers and sisters
We sing for this land our home together*

Tiffany Zeng



City of Vancouver Award



Scotiabank
Run 2016



Program Staff

Agnes Tsang, Ann Asselstine, Anna Wing Mei Shum, Annabelle Laroco, Arlene Ordonez, Blanca Salvatierra, Carol Anita Bond, Catherine Ross, Celine Yee Man Chung De Hoop, Claudia Diacanu, Consuelo Castillo (Connie), Emily Hunter, Erika Infante Pizarro, Guohong Xia (Anna), Jessie C. Patagan, Joahna Carvallo Salas, Karla Avelar, Kimberly Currie, Malalay Saifi, Margaret Yuk-Ling Leung, Maria Lourdes Marciano, Nadia Taj Khan, Pamela Holley, Puge Li (Vicky), Rasha Moursy, Rong Hua Shi (Shinda), Sammi Yin Chen Yang, Sandra Slind, Shobanadevi Devadoss, Souad Ghomari, Sukhraj Boparai (Ravi), Valeria Mancilla, Valerie Lai, Wendy Kwong, Zarminah Mohammad Ali.

Volunteers

Amy Vozel, Barb Small, Brizeida Saro, Celest Cuthbertson, Chava Glouberman, Damandeep Kaur, Dilraj Boparai, Elenor Kenny, Elizabeth Robbins, Emily Jena Hussein, Giuliana Miranda, Jessica Fionda, Judita Scott, Laurie Grant, Leticia Najera, Loveleen Kour, Madeleine Addison, Mai Khalaf, Marie Badets, Marlene Allard-Lutynski, Mohinder, Nuria Gonzalez Sefchavich, Paula Coughlan, Precious Ile, Ramesh Kalia, Sima Ahmad Parwani, Suad Al-Taie, Susan Pinkham, Tanas, Tracy Falconer, Yasuko Nagasawa.





Statement of Financial Position

as at July 31, 2016

Revenue	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Grants received		
City of Vancouver	114,081	51,469
BC Direct Access gaming funds	94,000	95,453
Vulnerable Immigrant Population Program	-	90,003
United Way Community Partner	84,892	49,656
CIC HIPPY	54,593	75,294
Health Canada	30,054	32,402
Decoda/Raise a Reader	1,620	9,921
Other Income	189,439	38,543
Change in deferred revenue	(149,296)	28,028
Total	419,383	470,769
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	312,194	410,558
Professional fees	27,586	6,000
Rent - office space	12,484	18,745
Rent - program space	7,848	12,322
Materials and supplies	10,508	10,453
Insurance	5,986	6,282
Office and other	4,967	9,798
Telephone/fax and Internet	4,254	5,434
Computer and website	3,922	8,039
Staff development	3,730	328
Copying and postage	3,069	2,266
Travel and field trips	2,581	4,340
Community relations	2,262	83
Amortization	290	579
Honoria	-	610
Total	401,681	495,837
Revenue under expenses for the year	17,702	(25,068)
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year	103,987	129,055
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	121,689	103,987
Complete audited financial statements available on request.		



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 underserved 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 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.

Mission Statement

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

We welcome immigrant women of all ages, from all cultural, social, economic and educational backgrounds.

For more information about our programs, to become a member or to make a donation, please call

604-298-5888



United Way
Lower Mainland
Community Partner



Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

