



CASSA Newsletter - March 2019

Message from Executive Director:

Dear members, friends and supporters,

As we commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination today and witness acts of violence and hate worldwide, I write to you with increased resolve and more determination than ever to continue the crucial work that CASSA does to eliminate all forms of discrimination and oppression from Canada.

It is good to be back home after travelling to western Canada to meet with many social justice and immigrant serving agencies! I met with over 200 staff from over 70 agencies in Vancouver, Surrey, Richmond, Burnaby, Calgary and Edmonton. Some of the agencies that I met included; Richmond Multicultural Community Services, Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC, Progressive Intercultural Community Services, Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies, Calgary Centre for Newcomers, Action Dignity, and Action for Healthy Communities, among many more. The purpose of the trip was to disseminate information about CASSA's Intercultural Collaborative project, to share our training modules on anti-racism and anti-oppression, and to provide information to agencies to replicate the project in their own cities. I met with very passionate, experienced, and determined people who were ready to hit the ground running on anti-racism initiatives. I heard from people about the growing concern of racism, Islamophobia, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, and hate crimes in general. CASSA is continuing to collaborate with these agencies to provide resources such as training content, evaluation reports, project proposals, and work plans. With this being said, there is still much more work to be done in the GTA. Over the next few weeks CASSA will be meeting with community leaders to talk about the rise white supremacy, hate groups, and the impact of this on racialized communities. We are going to discuss practical ways to support each other and create a plan to ensure we can put a stop to the growing environment of hate and division in Canada.

We are also collaborating with many agencies who I met during the tour of the West on our civic engagement campaign around the upcoming federal election. We are hoping to create a national coordinated effort in ensuring communities make informed voting decisions. We will be sending out our civic engagement strategy to our member agencies and networks in the coming weeks. All member agencies and partners are welcome and will be encouraged to use the strategy in full

or in part with your communities, clients, and social media followers.

Finally, I would like to invite experienced senior staff of our member agencies to consider joining CASSA's Board of Directors. CASSA's Board of Directors is an 11-member volunteer community board. We are seeking to fill three (3) board vacancies for a 2-year term and are looking for individuals with skills and experience in any of the following areas: accounting; human resources; non-profit financial management; grant writing & fundraising; and human rights & legal services. Previous board experience is an asset. We strongly encourage applications from individuals active in CASSA's member agencies. If interested, please email Sanga Achakzai with your resume and cover letter: chair@cassa.on.ca.

Together, I look forward to striving to build a more equitable, inclusive, fair and resilient country for our communities!

Best,
Samya Hasan
Executive Director
samya@cassa.on.ca

Rohullah Naderi - Outreach Coordinator:

The IYE initiative was established by Toronto Public Health to support youth engagement work in Toronto communities and provide funding to support community health promotion projects. The project is intended to motivate and create opportunities for youth to develop their leadership skills and engage in and act on health issues within Toronto. This initiative is youth-driven, which means youth are involved in all aspects of the project planning and implementation. The activities to achieve the objectives of the project include organizing training workshops, write and designing flyers, outreach programs, developing and managing social media page, setting up information booths, developing tobacco prevention messages and finally meeting government officials. But the nature and type of activities can be altered as long as the overall objective is achieved. Creativity and initiative are highly welcomed. If any youth are interested in joining this project, please feel free to contact me directly.

Rohullah Naderi,
Outreach Coordinator
rohullah@cassa.on.ca
416 932 1359 ext.12

Madina Ajiz - Acting Membership Coordinator:

I am working on continuing membership renewals with CASSA's 2018 member agencies. We are also working on hiring a full-time Membership Coordinator over the next week to ensure CASSA is frequently updating the membership and finding ways we can provide support. I look forward to hearing from everyone. If there are any questions regarding membership renewals,

please feel free to contact me.

Madina Aijaz
Acting Membership Coordinator
madina@cassa.on.ca
416 932 1359 ext.15

CASSA Welcomes Suprava Basnett - Administrative Assistant

CASSA is delighted to welcome Ms. Suprava Basnett, who will be with CASSA for a 12-week internship as an Administrative Assistant.

Suprava has a graduate degree in sociology from Madras University, India. She brings considerable administration experience to CASSA. For the past couple of years, Suprava has worked in the domain of office management and have acquired valuable skills in administration. She is well-versed with the administrative procedure and rules. Previously, she was working with Ashirwad Pariwar – a non-profit organization located and active in Sikkim, India. The non-profit was providing educational support to the under-privileged sections of Sikkim.

In addition, for four months she has volunteered with EarlyON Child and Family Centre. The Centre offers free programs to parents/caregivers and their children from birth to six years of age. Suprava also has a certificate from Enhance Language Training (ELT) – a program sponsored by Toronto District School Board. The course gave her training on job searching, resume preparation and improving employability and networking skills.

Report on Raise Our Voices: Teaching Canadian Youth How to Advocate

By Rohullah Naderi - Outreach Coordinator

CASSA attended an event on teaching Canadian youth how to advocate. The event took place on Saturday, March 16th at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

The event started with land acknowledgement followed by the welcoming of the guests which was done by Hana Syed - Vice President External, Scarborough Campus.



Ms. Chemi Lhamo Vice President Equity, Scarborough Campus Student Union, gave a talk. I thought her story was inspiring. She was born in India but originally hail from Tibet. She has lived as a refugee in India and moved to Canada when she was 11. She talked about the challenges of being a refugee, particularly, the systemic barriers such as financial challenges, gender stereotypes, the fact of belonging to a racial minority, having the tag of an outsider and finally the hardships that one has to go through to get adjusted in a new country. What was more difficult for her was the challenges of being student in a developed country. Academically and financially, it is a hard endeavor. She is currently working three jobs to pay tuition fees and sustain herself financially. Despite all these challenges, she is fighting and doing well in her studies and extra-curricular activities. Just recently she was elected as the President of Scarborough Campus Student Union which is a big leap forward and an achievement. Considering the political tension between China and Tibet, her election, however, has had backlash from Chinese students at the Scarborough Campus: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/china-tibet-student-election-1.5019648>

Next on the agenda was the keynote address by Mr. Wisdom Tetthey. He is the Vice-President and Principal of U of T SC. Dr. Tetthey's speech was rich in content. He emphasized a lot on the importance of leadership which has been honed as early as possible. He called on the youth to get involved in civic engagement, skill building, leadership training, community organizing, extra-curricular activities and sports. According to him, all of them would sharpen the youth's leadership skills. The challenge of climate change can be addressed with strong and committed leadership. Early exposure to leadership will ensure that, he added.

The keynote address was followed by a spoken word by poet Wali Shah. He delivered two. The first one was about respect for women. and the second one was about terrorism. In it, he rejected "generalization" or putting a broad brush on a community and a group for the actions of individuals.

The next segment was about health with the focus on the mental health. Here, two people spoke. The first one was Kristen Albano who studies at SC. She became an advocate of mental health

when one of her friends committed suicide. She talked about her involvement and shared the ways and means of addressing mental health and provide help to those who suffer from it.



The second resource person on the topic was Lynn Courey. In 2011 she lost her daughter to suicide. Since then she is running a foundation - Shashbear Foundation - to address the issue of suicide. In her presentation she cited some upsetting figures. For example, one out of 15 people actually receive mental health services, four out of five can get better if they seek help (encouraging), and 552 Canadian youth die due to suicide each year. As a solution, she talked about the importance of shunning the stigma about mental health to make sure people seek help with the suicidal thoughts.

In terms of raising awareness about mental health and advocacy, Lynn had a lot to share such as organizing conferences, workshops, seminars, media advocacy, peer engagement, increasing individual efforts in order to be the agent of change, promoting mental health, acquiring skills in the field, normalizing mental health and finally youth engagement. Be patient, keep the conversation open and progress will be achieved was her main message.

The second segment was on business. Here, three people active in the field talked about their personal journeys and business experience. The speakers included Bill McConkey, Luki, and Hamza Khan.

The last segment was on politics. Here, three people spoke. The first one was David Onley, the second speaker was Prof. Mathew Hoffman, and last speaker of this segment was Stephen Miranda from Canada Fibers which is a recycling company.

The event ended with two songs by Aeda Bhagaloo. The first was Dear World and the second

one was Imagine by John Lennon.

The event was an enriching one. It was jam-packed with experienced and successful resource people from the domains of business, health and politics.

PROJECT UPDATES

Mathura Karunanithy - Research on Employment for South Asian Immigrant Communities in Toronto

The work on the Literature Review and Survey continues. We are receiving feedback and support on the Survey from the University of Toronto (Scarborough).

We continue to support the Equity Diversity Inclusion Taskforce at Humber College. We attended the Women Deliver 2019 Mobilization Canada, Roundtable with Minister Monsef. We attended an International Women's Day NDP Luncheon. We participated on a teleconference with the Equal Pay Coalition regarding the Transparency Act. To increase an awareness of policy issues on employment, we attended, "Whither Immigration and Settlement in Ontario? A CERIS Community Panel" by CERIS (Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement) at York University, and "What happened to Ontario's labour law reform? What comes next?" by the Centre for Labour Management Relations at Ryerson University.

Upcoming CASSA Events:

CASSA: Intercultural Collaborative Project - To Be Held in Montreal - March 25th - English Version

The flyer features a grey vertical bar on the left with the CASSA logo at the bottom. The main content is on a white background with a yellow circular graphic on the right. The CSAI logo is at the top center, with the text 'Presents' below it. The event title is in bold black text. The presenter, location, and contact information are listed on the left. The date and time are prominently displayed in the yellow circle, with a note that light lunch will be provided.

CSAI
CENTRE SOCIAL D'AIDE
AUX IMMIGRANTS

Presents

CASSA'S INTERCULTURAL COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Presenter: **Samya Hasan, Executive Director, CASSA**

Where: **6201 rue Laurendeau, Montreal, H4E 3X8**
Centre Social d'aide aux immigrants Head Offices

Registration Contact: **Armin Boroumand**
armin@centrecsai.org

March 25th, 2019
12:00 pm – 2:00pm
Light Lunch will be Provided

CASSA

CASSA: Intercultural Collaborative Project - To Be Held in Montreal - March 25th - French Version



CSAI
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CASSA'S INTERCULTURAL COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Presenter: **Samya Hasan, Executive Director, CASSA**

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CASSA: 8th Annual Health Equity - August 8th @ Ryerson University - Save the Date

SAVE THE DATE

CASSA'S

8TH ANNUAL Health Equity Summit

AUGUST 8th 2019
9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Ted Rogers School of Management,
Ryerson University

THIS YEAR'S THEME
Community Input on Health Equity Strategy
and Engaging Current Government



Job advertisements:

Times Change Women's Employment Service is Hiring Vice President and Members of the Board of Directors



Times Change Women's Employment Service Currently Recruiting: Vice President and/or Members of the Board of Directors 2018-2020

Times Change Women's Employment Service is seeking female board members. The Board operates under a policy governance model with a commitment to the financial and social well-being of the organization and to women's issues overall.

Term:

- Directors are committed to at least two years on a volunteer basis.

The responsibilities of Directors include:

- Governing the organization
- Developing policies which enable the Board to make responsible decisions on fiscal matters

The ideal candidate ideally would have one or more of the following requirements:

- Former client of Times Change
- Previous Board experience
- Woman of Colour

Desired Qualifications:

- Demonstrated interest in the mission and vision of the organization
- Awareness of women's issues and sensitivity to diverse cultures
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to work on a team with like-minded individuals

Time Commitment:

Current Board members dedicate an average of 5-10 hours a month to Board meetings and committees and are expected to attend monthly Board meetings. Daytime availability would be beneficial. All Board members are required to participate in fundraising activities.

If you have any questions, please contact Katie at katie@timeschange.org.

If you are interested in joining the Times Change Board of Directors, please send your resume and a cover letter to the Nominations Committee at: katie@timeschange.org

Recruitment Event: Maple Leaf Foods is Hiring General Labor Positions



RECRUITMENT EVENT



MAPLE LEAF FOODS IS HIRING GENERAL LABOUR POSITIONS



Maple Leaf Foods is expanding their team capacity located at the **100 Ethel Avenue, Toronto**, by adding new team members.

DATE/TIME

MARCH 27th
9:00 AM

LOCATION

30 Weston Road Unit A309 – Upper Level,
Toronto, ON M6N 0A7
Tel: 416-572-0490
eo-west@skillsforchange.org

FREE RSVP

<https://recevent-ml-march.eventbrite.ca>

Messages From Partner Agencies:

Skills for Change: Bridging Program for Internationally Trained Tradespersons



TRADES WIN SUPPORT

**Bridging Program
For Internationally Trained Tradespersons**



INFORMATION SESSION/ INTAKE FOR:

Electricians Millwrights Welders
HRAC Mechanics Plumbers

GET A
**RED SEAL
LICENSE** AND
FIND WORK
IN YOUR
FIELD

ATTEND AND LEARN ABOUT:

- Trades program
- Eligibility criteria
- Benefits
- What we do, how we can help you obtain licensing and find work in trades

NEXT SESSIONS:

Fri, Mar. 22 at 10 am to 12 pm
Fri, Mar. 29 at 2 pm to 4 pm

Please bring proof of your status in Canada.

Onsite intake for eligible participants.

LOCATION:

675 Cochrane Drive
East Tower, 6th Floor, Unit # 624
Markham, Ontario, L3R 0B8

CONTACT US TO REGISTER:

416-509-2578 ext.0

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[skillsforchange.org/skilled-trades/
tradeswin@skillsforchange.org](https://skillsforchange.org/skilled-trades/tradeswin@skillsforchange.org)

University of Toronto Invites South Asian Women Aged 55+ to Talk about Their Life in Canada

DO YOU KNOW A SOUTH ASIAN WOMAN AGED 55+?

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

-DO YOU KNOW A SOUTH ASIAN MUSLIM WOMAN WHO CAME TO CANADA WHEN SHE WAS 55+ YEARS? (e.g. mother, grandmother, aunt, relative, friend, neighbour)

SHARE THIS FLYER!

THIS RESEARCH PROJECT INVITES SENIOR WOMEN TO TALK ABOUT THEIR LIFE IN CANADA!

This voluntary research study involves an in-person interview at the University of Toronto or a another convenient location.

A \$30 cash honorarium and coffee shop gift card will be provided for participating in this study.



For more information:
Email: olderwomenstories@gmail.com
Phone: 647-891-7629

FACTOR-INWENTASH
 FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF
 TORONTO

Youth Success Data Knowledge: Open to Those Working to Serve Youth in KGO Community

Let's come together to **CONNECT** and **EXPLORE** **YOUTH FOCUSED DATA** to better Support our KGO Youth!

YOUTH SUCCESS DATA KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Open to those **WORKING TO SERVE YOUTH** in the **KGO COMMUNITY**

SPOTS are LIMITED, register now: **WED MAR 27th**
<https://goo.gl/forms/rZH8xQMhU0C1mqBy2> 10 AM - 4 PM

Questions? Email: 4331 Lawrence Ave E
usharafali@connectedcommunities.ca 43 Division Police Station

Skills for Change: Working in Series Entrepreneurship and Small Business



Skills for Change
Building Welcoming and Equitable Communities

WORKING IN SERIES

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP &
SMALL BUSINESS**

March 28, 2019
11:00 AM - 12:00PM
791 St. Clair Ave, Toronto,
Ontario, room 310/314

FREE ADMISSION:
wis_march.eventbrite.ca

SPEAKER

CHRIS DUFF
Founder & President,
Inspired Initiatives Inc.

Chris will share how to turn social problems as business opportunities, and create and market solutions.

The Local Magazine: Photo Series - How We Eat Now

PCHS: 17th Annual International Women's Gala



THE LOCAL

Photo Series: How We Eat Now

Looking for South Asian families or persons in the GTA willing to be photographed eating a typical evening meal in their home.

- Expose the beautiful South Asian diversity in the GTA
- Capture mealtimes for different culture, whether it be alone or with friends and family,

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT JEN RECKNAGEL AT JENRECKNAGEL@GMAIL.COM OR 416 524 2480

17th Annual International Women's Day Gala



Anubha Mehta
Keynote Speaker



Dilshad Burman
Emcee

**Rising
Up**

FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2019 @6:30PM

Sagan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall
7180 Edwards Blvd, Mississauga ON L5S 1Z1

TICKETS

\$125/each

\$1150/table for 10

silent auction, prizes, & cash bar

PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL
GO TOWARDS THE **YOUTH
SERVICES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
LANGAR ON WHEELS AND
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS** AND
TO SERVE THE UNDERSERVED.

905-677-0889 | zayba@pchs4u.org | www.pchs-foundation.com | eventbrite.com 

In the News:

1. [MEDIA RELEASE: New Fact Sheets Show Growing Racial Disparities in Canada](#)
2. [New immigration program entices entrepreneurs to Northern B.C. — but is it enough to make them stay?](#)
3. [Canada Can't Wait Any Longer To Advance Fight To End Islamophobia](#)
4. [Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council calls for crackdown on Canadian alt-right groups](#)

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