



Community Services Recovery Fund Announcement

CASSA supporting Canada's South Asian communities through a national expansion

The [Council of Agencies Serving South Asians \(CASSA\)](http://www.cassa.ca) is excited to announce that we are receiving funding from the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund to support our national expansion.

CASSA's mandate is to facilitate the economic, social, political and cultural empowerment of South Asians. We are a resource for training, information, research, mobilization, coordination and leadership on social justice issues affecting South Asian communities. We create social change by building alliances and working collaboratively with those who share a vision of empowering all communities to participate in defining Canada's future.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted many inequities faced by South Asian communities in Canada. These inequities are further exacerbated by systemic racism and discrimination. CASSA is the only social justice advocacy organization representing the interest of over 120 South Asian-serving organizations in Canada. We play the role of advocate and support to build capacity and well-being of South Asians on a national scale. Our work has expanded fourfold over the last 3 years. The need is great for advocacy, research, and policy work. We're already working with partners and in communities across Canada.

This funding enables us to formally implement our National Expansion plan by establishing a National Head Office in Scarborough, Ontario and launching three chapters in British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec. This will allow CASSA to have a sustained presence on a national scale to better support and address the barriers faced by South Asian agencies and communities in provinces with the largest population of South Asians outside of Ontario.

"We are grateful for the resources from the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund to be able to meet the growing demand of our research and advocacy work across the country. We have seen a rapid increase in cases of discrimination, racism, and hatred towards South Asians in Canada over the last three years. We know we have our work cut out for us and this grant will build our capacity to expand our reach", said Samya Hasan, Executive Director of CASSA.

As the long-term recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we welcome the Government of Canada's push for a more inclusive model of economic growth that creates opportunities for everyone in Canada. The Community Services Recovery Fund is a \$400 million investment from the Government of Canada to support community service organizations, including charities, non-profits and Indigenous governing bodies, as they adapt and modernize their organizations.



Now more than ever, community service organizations, including charities, non-profits and Indigenous governing bodies, play a key role in addressing complex social problems faced by many communities across Canada. The Community Services Recovery Fund responded to what community service organizations, including charities, non-profits and Indigenous governing bodies, needed and supports them as they adapt to the long-term.

Jenna Sudds, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, is in full support of this project: “I am continually impressed by the passion, dedication, and creativity of community service organizations, like the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians. And I am equally proud the Government of Canada has supported their important work through the Community Services Recovery Fund. By investing in these organizations and project's like this national expansion, we can help to create a more just and equitable society, where everyone has opportunities to succeed. I look forward to seeing the positive impact of this investment in communities across Canada in the years to come.”

The Community Services Recovery Fund is being delivered through three National Funders - Canadian Red Cross, Community Foundations of Canada, and United Way Centraide Canada.

After the completion of this initial expansion, CASSA's 5-10 year goal is for further expansion into other provinces with sizable South Asian populations and the need for advocating for South Asian-serving agencies. As CASSA establishes a National Head Office, to convene, discuss synergies, strategize, and curate future partnerships between member agencies we continue to build a Canada free of all forms of discrimination, racism, and hate; in which all communities are free from marginalization and are fully empowered to participate in defining Canada's political, economic, social, and cultural future.

For comments, please contact:

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