



HOST PROGRAM NEWS

CultureLink HOST

Volume1 Issue 2

December 2009

Call for nominations - Welcoming Community Champions, CultureLink

Dear Staff, Volunteer and New-comer Participants:

CultureLink envisions a welcoming community where all stakeholders are united in supporting the successful settlement and empowerment of newcomers in Canada through pertinent information, employment preparation, education, training and friendship. Building such a welcoming community requires efforts from everyone in our community. Particularly, our public figures, given their public influence, should be championing this movement and mobiliz-

ing the entire population to truly embrace newcomers. These people are what we call “**Welcoming Community Champions**”.

Through leading by example and their relentless advocacy for newcomers, these **Welcoming Community Champions** sensitize the population to immigrant and refugee issues; encourage general public to attune to newcomers’ needs and tirelessly promote diversity and multiculturalism. They have rallied people - newcomers as well as established citizens for a better future – the welcoming community.

CultureLink Host Program is now calling for nomination of the “**Welcoming Community Champions**”. Cheri DeNovo, MPP for Parkdale-High Park, is the first who has accepted the nomination. Please nominate your deserved candidates and provide your rationales (see the table below for hints). The Host Program will contact your nominees. If the person whom you nominated accepts the nomination and officially becomes a “**Welcoming Community Champion**”, you will receive a wonderful prize from the program!

Please email your nomination to rbhardwaj@culturelink.net

Name and Contact of the Nominee	Profile	Rationales behind the Nomination	Nominated by
Olivia Chow, Member of Parliament House Of Commons 362 West Block Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6	Member of Parliament (New Democratic Party) and former city councillor (1991–2005) in Toronto.	Immigrant background (Olivia Chow was born in Hong Kong, and immigrated to Canada with her family in 1970 at the age of 13.) Her leadership and dedication to strengthening social services and improving services for newcomers is well known. Her riding is in our catchment area. She knows CultureLink’s work very well	Rakesh Bhardwaj
Senator Vivienne Poy The Senate of Canada Suite 205, Victoria Building, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4	An author, entrepreneur, fashion designer, and historian, Vivienne Poy is the first Canadian of Asian descent to be appointed to the Senate of Canada. She served as Chancellor of the University of Toronto from 2003 until 2006.	As a Senator, she is committed to help build a more inclusive society based on respect, equality and the full participation of all citizens, regardless of race, ethnic origin, language or religion. As a visible minority, who immigrated to Canada from Asia, she has a personal commitment to ensuring equality for all peoples, regardless of race or ethnic background.	Fei Tang
Send us your nomination	Who is the person?	What has s/he done qualifies him/her for the nomination	Your Name and Contact





Updates and Initiatives

The Development of “Change Agents for Welcoming Communities” (CAWC) Training Series

Traditionally, Host training sessions were only provided to people who were registered as Host Volunteers and willing to be matched with newcomers. Starting from November, the Host training sessions are open to general public that include staff members and volunteers from community partner agencies and people who are simply interested in the topics of building welcoming community, but are not necessary willing or able to become a Host program volunteer.

Led by Host Worker Victor Gomes, the team collectively laid out a core curriculum for “Change Agents for Welcoming Communities” training series. The training series will consist of three progressive sessions:

- **Building Welcoming Communities (BWC)**
- **Cross Cultural Communication (CCC)**
- **Leadership for Welcoming Communities (LWC)**

By end of November, the traditional Host Orientation Session had been revamped as BWC session. In November, in addition to 18 program volunteers, 8 staff members from community partner agencies and 2 college students attended the BWC session. It was thoroughly evaluated and the trainers are committed to ongoing modification of the session. For Host program volunteers, attending BWC training is still mandatory before they can be matched.

It is decided, like the BWC session, the two other subsequent training sessions should be also designed as two integral parts with the first part focusing on

general concepts and the second part focusing on hands-on approaches with more Host program specific contents. All three sessions will be fully rolled out by end of March 2010. Upon completion of all three sessions, participants can expect to receive a “Change Agents for Welcoming Communities” certificate. This change was very well received by the community. Many people have expressed interest in the upcoming training sessions.

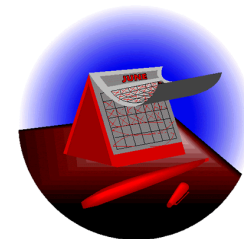
Until Next Time Robert W. Iveniuk

This is just a reminder that the CultureLink offices will be closed from the twenty-fourth of December to the fourth of January. You are free to meet with your volunteers and clients, but be aware that we will not be open to provide assistance

between that period of time. Mark your Calendars, friends of Host! Happy Holidays, and see you in the new year! •

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Mark us in the 2010 calendar



PAST EVENTS

CultureLink Seasonal Celebration - November 27th 2009

Robert Iveniuk

The story begins one dark and cold November night, at the Lithuanian House on Dundas West., where CultureLink hosted a dinner party with live music to celebrate the changing of the seasons. This was the annual CultureLink Seasonal Celebration Dinner, a night of music, free food, and fun .

Our MCs for the evening were the prestigious J Victor Gomes of the Host Program and the lovely Laura Labonte-Smith from the Job Search Workshop Program, who expertly orchestrated the event.

That night was fabulous for us all. Not only was the food exceptional and the performances astounding, but the turnout was impressive: an estimated 250 people attended our dinner party!

Live performances for the evening were provided by the Bishop-Marrocco/Thomas Mer-

ton Choir, the Chinese Seniors Tai Chi group, and the Polish Senior Choir "The Singing Bird". Lovers of spectacle were also treated to a series of martial arts exhibitions by a student Gong Fu club. A remarkable performance was also provided by the Polish musicians Teresa Klimuszko, Tadeusz Tomczuk and Jan Kornel.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of all was the appearance of Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy, who gave a special speech about the importance of our work in Canada. It was an honour to have a local politician speak at one of our events; we hope to have such luck in the future.

We at CultureLink would like to thank everyone for coming to the party, from our established

guests to our participants, and their families. Special thanks goes out to Eman El Atawy and her little ad-hoc event planning team who worked in and out weeks to organize and prepare for this event.

A big "thank you" goes to all of the small children of our guests, who came to the centre of the room and gave little performances of their own. They sure will take centre stage in ten years time, eh? •

"Strange to see how a good dinner and feasting reconciles everybody."

- Samuel Pepys



Vocalist Teresa
Klimuszko



Master of Ceremony— Laura Labonte-Smith, JSW with
Claudia Montoya, LSP both CultureLink workers



Tadeusz Tomczuk.



Hosts with the Most



Tibet-related ClipArt!
- RWI

From Tibet with Love An Open Letter to Eman El Atawy

Dear Eman:

Tashi Delek! (It is a very useful word for greeting Tibetan at any occasion, and it implies some sort of praying for wishing successful and good luck in their day to day lives)

I'm very thrilled to inform you that I have been receiving splendid guidance to open my eyes to broader horizons from my mentor, Mr. Martin. We are meeting every Sunday for more than two hours and constantly talking on the phone with my mentor. This host program is very helpful in improving my English speaking skill to a large extent as my mentor is very dedicated to make the necessary corrections to my mistakes. Apart from that I could learn several things of Canadian culture, which may make im-

mense difference to acclimatize my transition life. I must express that I understand that my mentor might have many other important commitments during the weekend, but he never reveals even a faint of gesture to chase up his other commitments. In this connection, my gratitude goes to person like you, who have relentlessly toiled hard to find a compassionate person like him.

In the end of November, I will start my computerized accounts software classes for every Saturday for 6 Hrs and I've also enrolled at Centre for Internationally Trained Professional and Trades people (CITPIT) for 4 weeks workshop at COSTI. I've full faith that I could upgrade my software skills so that I may explore more employment opportunities. In the meantime, I'm eagerly awaiting two important calls for interviewing

In the wake of this scenario, I'm very optimistic that I would get a permanent job in which I can give my both heart and soul to live up to expectation reposed from my employer.

Last, but not certainly the least, I'm here to convey my heartfelt of indebted to all the members of Culture Link, who are doing fabulous social services to new immigrant like me, of course to Canadian Government for funding to move smoothly all the benevolent activities.

With much respect,

Sincerely Yours

Dawa

The warm story from a family comes from Taiwan An open letter to Barbora Gomezova



A joyous leap for joyous things!
- RWI

Friends make people feel warm and safe.

Friends in here make people feel like being home country.

It is the key to open the new world to the newcomers.

Also the new support power for the newcomers to face the new challenges.

As the newcomers, even though we open our mind to the new homeland.

We need the chance, the opportunity.

The HOST program give us the successful opportunity.

The match not only give us a volunteer.

It give us real friends.

Show the different culture, share the life experience with us.

Introduce her family members to us.

Like your neighbour, your

classmate.

Like the friends in my native country.

Special thanks for the HOST program and CultureLink.

Your hard work made it happen.

Andy •Chen



CultureLink HOST



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**VOLUNTEERS, NEWCOMERS
FILL OUT OUR ONLINE REGIS-
TRATION FORM, AT:**

<http://www.culturelink.net>

CultureLink is a settlement agency located at Bloor and Dundas West in downtown Toronto. For twenty-one years, we have upheld our mission: **CultureLink is** dedicated to facilitating the independence and full participation of newcomers in Toronto's diverse community. CultureLink works within an anti-discriminatory framework to ensure a respectful, safe and inclusive environment.

We hope you have enjoyed Volume One, Issue One of our CultureLink Host Newsletter, and that you will enjoy future issues.

**KNOW SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO JOIN
CULTURELINK'S HOST COMMUNITY?**

HAVE THEM SIGN UP!

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The Host Newsletter invites you, the members of the CultureLink Community to share your story with us. Please send your story, comments and thoughts to:

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