

THE C.I.E.S. CHRONICLE

March 1st 2015



“Whether we live together in confidence and cohesion; with more faith and pride in ourselves and less self-doubt and hesitation; strong in the conviction that the destiny of Canada is to unite, not divide; sharing in cooperation, not in separation or in conflict; respecting our past and welcoming our future.”

- Lester Pearson, 14th Prime Minister of Canada, 22 April 1963 to 20 April 1968



A Message From the Executive Director

-Dr. Sally Zhao

Dear Reader,

It is with much joy and anticipation that we move into a new and exciting year and approach our 27th year of operations. I am equally excited at the launch of the Chronicle - the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society's monthly newsletter. On behalf of the entire C.I.E.S. team, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the readership and take this opportunity to thank our authors and contributors, all of whom have volunteered to contribute to its success.

We are delighted to be launching this new format, with great new features, from staff and student biographies, to updates on our latest initiatives. I hope you enjoy the new approach to staying in touch with you, and would appreciate receiving your feedback. Feel free to contact us via email or to comment on our blog, where your opinions and thoughts can contribute to the site's content.

From our humble beginnings, C.I.E.S. has grown from 5 volunteers in a single

office to an employer of over 80 dedicated staff members and 100 volunteers operating in both a 15,000 square foot main office building in Calgary's SE and a 22,000 square foot branch building in Calgary's NE Whitethorn district. Since its inception in 1988, C.I.E.S. has assisted nearly a quarter of million immigrants in strengthening their identities as members of Alberta society, offering services valued at tens of millions of dollars. With a proven legacy of helping newcomers to Canada settle into the great city of Calgary, we now move forward with a renewed vigor.

As we continue onward into our fast approaching future, now 15 years into a new millennium, we have made it a priority here at C.I.E.S. to adapt with the times and modernize our approach. Video productions, our new blog and a shift to more eLearning in the classroom have all come with the onset of 2015 and we are excited at our new direction. With everything going on in today's world further advances in technology

will change the way we live and learn. At C.I.E.S. we want to not only keep up, but, pioneer ways of growing, adapting and serving the needs of newcomers, and by extension the city of Calgary.

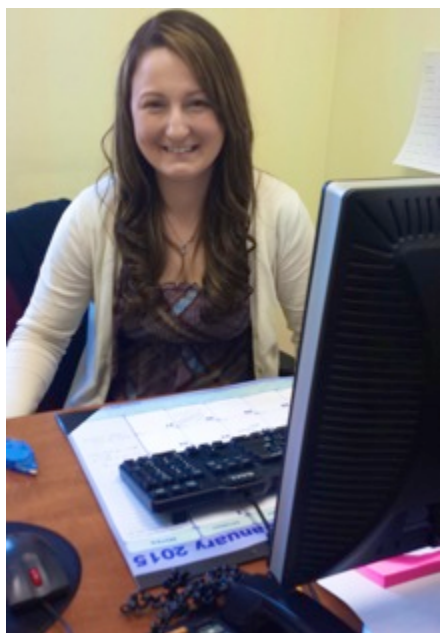
Finally, we wish to encourage contributions from staff, clients and stakeholders to ensure the continued success of the Chronicle. Authors, reviewers and guest editorialists are always welcome. We also welcome comments and suggestions that could improve the quality of the journal. Thank you and we hope you enjoy our inaugural issue of the C.I.E.S. Chronicle.

C.I.E.S. Executive Director

Dr. Sally Zhao

MEET THE C.I.E.S. FAMILY

Melissa McKinnon – ESL and Volunteer Program Manager



Melissa sees the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society being very important to the city of Calgary as it assists many individuals on a daily basis with obtaining an education in whatever it may be they are studying. Not only do we have programs for newcomers to Canada, but we also offer programs for Canadian citizens.

By extension, she sees the Society as making Calgary a better place to live for all Calgarians.

Any questions regarding volunteering or or drop in classes can always be directed to Melissa, a key member of the C.I.E.S. Family.

Melissa is originally from Sussex, New Brunswick, a farming community of few thousand people. She moved to Calgary and began working with C.I.E.S. in March of 2013. After initially working as Senior Coordinator she has since become the Manager of ESL/Volunteer Programs and is very passionate about helping others. Her education background and her time volunteering in Uganda armed her with the skills to greatly contribute to the C.I.E.S. family vision.

Melissa is responsible for organizing and coordinating the Drop-in-ESL program and Literacy classes, assisting teachers and recruiting and scheduling volunteers.

She loves the student interaction and in 2015 would like to focus more on recruiting volunteers, updating our drop in curriculum and possibly opening a new class.

Volunteer recruitment is ongoing, as is keeping resources up to date. She is also currently planning the income tax clinic that we offer every March.



NEW C.I.E.S. INITIATIVES for 2015

Growing. Learning. Evolving.



C.I.E.S. on FILM

2015 has brought with C.I.E.S. foray in original video production as shooting for three individual series has already begun. Each series is designed to provide learners, teachers and stakeholders with an inside view of Calgary Immigrant Educational Society, a view to best serve the betterment of all involved.

DEMOS with DONNA – one of our most experienced teachers, Donna Clarke, will let us inside her classroom throughout the winter semester.

GROWING with C.I.E.S. – in this series the very reason for the existence of C.I.E.S. is the focal point, as we interview different students and talk to them about their personal journeys.

READY to LAUNCH – a mixed bag of LINC lesson ideas, teachers offer insight to their activities, and lesson plans they have found effective.



BLOGGING @ C.I.E.S.

Effectively reading and writing online are foundational skills in 21st century digital literacy. Learning and even simply communicating with blogs provides the opportunity to engage others in online literacy, and supplies the additional benefit of empowering us to publish our own work easily, sharing with an authentic audience of peers in the process.

Blogs thus become central in a local literacy community, the goal of this C.I.E.S. initiative. Teachers can post assignments, ideas and activities they have used, feedback, questions, journal entries, reflections on the learning process, and details any ideas of research projects in which they are involved.

Anything posted to the blog will instantly be accessible to everyone, whether at home or at one of our two C.I.E.S. campuses. You can find us at www.yyccies.blogspot.ca



PEER-to-PEER OBSERVATION

The C.I.E.S. LINC department is now implementing observations that move into a new area. Beginning the March of 2015, peer-to-peer observation will become a regular part of professional development for the C.I.E.S. LINC Teaching Staff. The ultimate goal is to support the C.I.E.S. LINC program's call for cross level awareness and support. The goal here is an exchange of ideas, fruitful discussions about different ways of working, a comparison of viewpoints, and a search for how to interconnect, assist and support across benchmark levels.

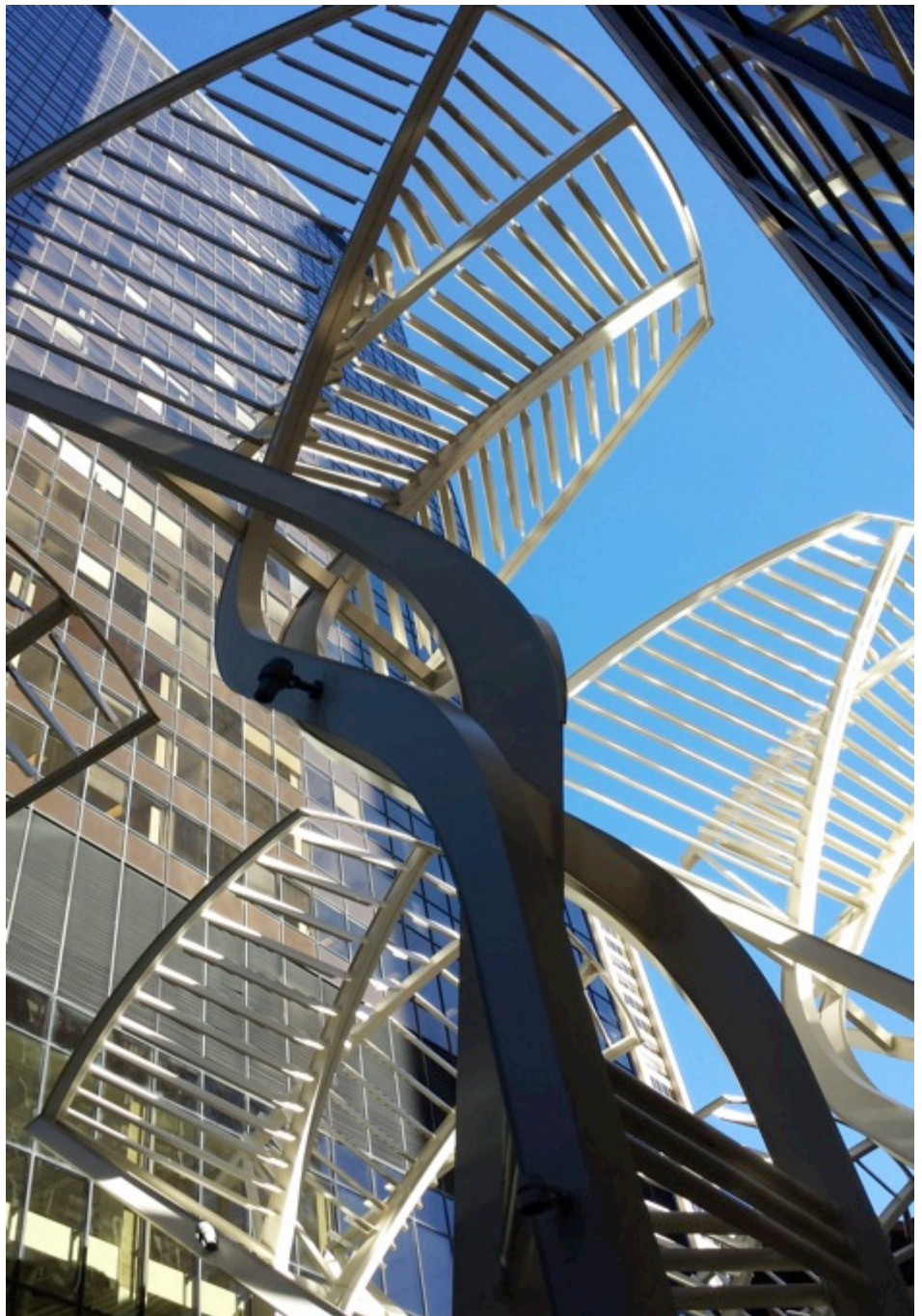
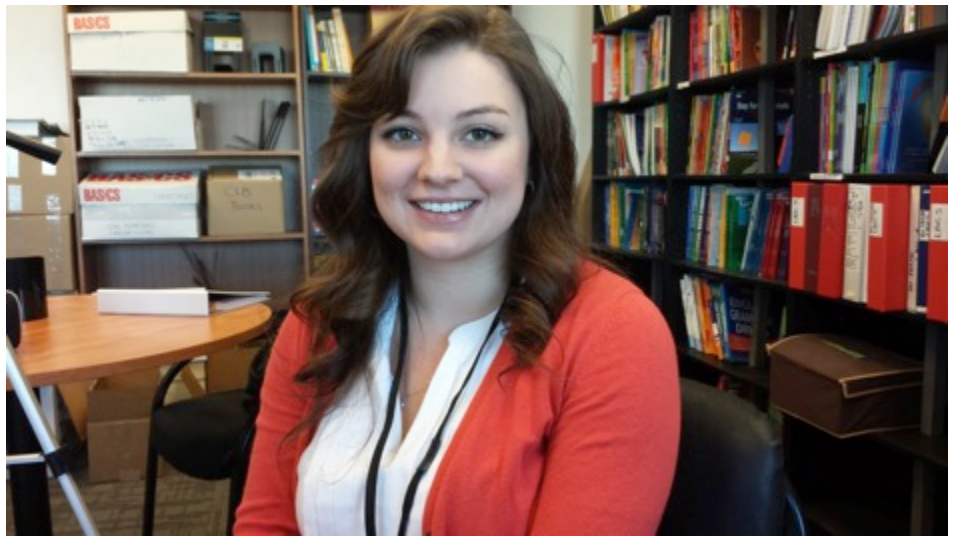
Developing such cross-benchmark connectivity is key to bridging the gap that must be conquered by all students; the gap being the level of knowledge and skill a student holds upon his or her entry into the C.I.E.S. LINC program, and where they are expected to be in terms of those benchmarks upon their exit.

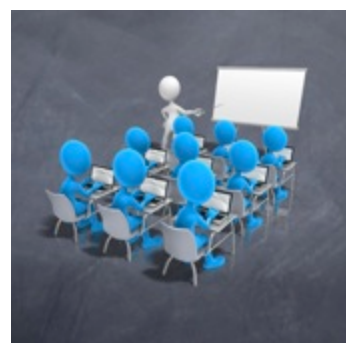
+ VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Calgary Immigrant Educational Society has long worked in partnership with the local community, providing invaluable learning and support. We have continually provided volunteers and postsecondary students with the opportunity to learn through experience and get the unique perspective of working with people from around the world. This month's volunteer in focus is Abbie Bartel, a 3rd year University of Calgary student in pursuit of her education degree. Beginning her two-month stay with us on January 26th, Abbie is working as a Teacher's Assistant in Canadian Level Benchmark class 1 and 2 with one of our most experienced LINC instructors, Donna Clarke. Abbie has joined us here at C.I.E.S as a part of the diversity in learning section of her studies.

Abbie's first experience in class left her with the immediate awareness of just how much cultural knowledge is a part of teaching English as a second language. Intercultural communication skills are something rarely assessed and the awareness of the multitude of social norms and customs in our classrooms is a vital part of our success – for both teacher and student.

Abbie looks forward to embracing the opportunities that come from working with our truly global clientele in the coming weeks and we welcome her to the C.I.E.S. family.





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT @ C.I.E.S. Sharing Best Practices

Teachers are lifelong learners. There is little doubt that continuing education is a requirement for teachers of every level and even more so while now being caught in the throes of what is no less than a technological revolution. Commonly referred to as professional development, this type of education assists teachers in staying up to date with new trends, learning strategies, techniques and methods to face classroom challenges. The prevailing notion behind professional development is that increased knowledge will help teachers improve student achievement. This is due to the fact that professional development can be fine-tuned to an individual teacher's progress. That being said, it is the duty of any institution to provide its faculty members with the opportunity to continue their professional development and must exhibit that such development occurs on an ongoing basis. In the realm of education, teachers sit at the very core. Effective teachers are persons who endeavor to excel in their instruction and who seek optimum results from their students. To accomplish this, faculty members need to be goal-oriented.

The Calgary Immigrant Educational Society's Sharing Practices Professional Development Program is designed to support teachers in their selection of goals, and the advancement of strategies and planning, necessary to accomplish these goals. Below are the

objectives of our faculty professional development sessions.

- Raise the quality of learning and teaching
- Support and inform new and reflective practices
- Allow for the accomplishment of faculty teaching and learning stratagems
- Foresee staff development priorities and needs
- Activate what amounts to small-scale research sessions and projecting them into characteristics of C.I.E.S. curriculum and pedagogy
- Enable cross benchmark collaboration



MEET THE C.I.E.S. FAMILY

Hasiba Bengriba - CLB 3-5 Welcome Centre Class



people. The polite and helpful nature of Canadians was something that stood out from her first day in Calgary

As a new immigrant and permanent resident of Canada, she sees the C.I.E.S. as a wonderful opportunity for newcomers to not only learn English, but make friends, network and and get to know the Canadian culture and its people. When asked what was most impressive about C.I.E.S. Hasiba quickly said the teachers. She feels they are among the best she's ever had. One improvement she would like to see, is students being placed in a volunteer practicum in a field of their choosing.

The Calgary Immigrant Educational Society serves clients from all corners of the globe. Each month we will talk to a current student and tell their story. This month we talk to Hasiba Bengriba, a student at the C.I.E.S. NE Welcome Centre for New Immigrants location in Whitethorn.

Born and raised in Algeria and after first visiting our city, Hasiba immigrated to Canada in June of 2013. She chose Calgary as her destination due to the fact that her brother had immigrated to our city a few years earlier.

After nearly two years in Calgary, she considers herself a Calgarian and loves her new home. Although she could do without the cold winters (couldn't we all!) she truly enjoys the city's welcoming nature and most especially the downtown urban lifestyle. Stephen Avenue and TD square are amongst her most enjoyed spots, as a weekend afternoon downtown is amongst her favorite things to do.

When asked what was most surprising or unique about Canada for her when first arriving back in 2013, Hasiba says it was the

A C.I.E.S. client since October 2014, Hasiba's main purpose for attending classes at our NE location is to improve her English so as to be able to take the nursing program at Bow Valley College. All of us here at the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society welcome Hasiba to Canada, and to our city.





OUR PROGRAMS

No matter what your English needs, no matter what your schedule, The Calgary Immigrant Educational Society is sure to be able to assist newcomers with their adjustment to Canada. We're here to help make Calgary your home.



ENGLISH EDUCATION: Whether you are looking to learn English as a beginner, wanting to improve upon your core skills, or need to brush up on an already well establish skill set, we can help. Classes are available at a wide variety of levels and are offered mornings, afternoons, evenings and weekends at locations in both the north and south of Calgary. English training at-a-distance is also available, conducted weekly via phone and computer. All classes are free to permanent residents and refugees. Certified daycare services are provided free of charge to parents, so they can have their children cared for while attending classes.



COUNSELING SERVICES: Are you a new immigrant? Feeling overwhelmed? Not sure where to go? Sometimes you need help figuring what to do and who to speak with. We want to help point you in the direction that's right for you. The Welcome Resources Information Program (WRIP) is here to help guide you through the maze of different services and programs in Calgary. No more aimless searching to find the answers to your questions. We want to help ease your frustration in the new country you call "home".



TRAINING PROGRAMS: Our employment-related programs are built to help clients develop the fundamental skills needed for the Canadian job market, as well as keep up in the ever-changing world. Money Smart (Financial Literacy Program) helps newcomers and disadvantaged Calgarians access, understand, and manage personal banking services to meet their financial goals and avoid fraud. Our Clerical Training Program, as well as our Essentials Computer Skills Course, improves business skills for administrative support and helps those who want to pursue careers as administrators in the modern office workplace in Canada.



BITS AND BITES

With two locations, more than 80 staff members, and several hundred students, there's always a lot of bits and bites going on at the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society.



PBLA IS COMING: Since its inception, C.I.E.S. has used summative performance based assessments to gauge our client abilities and needs. Under direction from Citizenship and Immigration Canada all LINC providers must now move to PBLA, other wise known as Portfolio Based Language Assessment.

Under PBLA clients work with their instructors to set individual learning goals. These goals could range from "I want to ask my child's teacher some questions," to "I want to write an effective resume," and beyond. Instructors then use these goals to ensure clients are provided with opportunities to develop relevant real-world skills.

Clients, in turn, are responsible for maintaining their own portfolio, which contains evidence of their language skills over time, and serves as a record of progress towards achieving their goals. PBLA ensures that instructors are accountable to their clients' needs, and that clients themselves are accountable for setting, and reflecting on specific goals for meeting those needs.

Look for a detailed story in next month's edition of the C.I.E.S. Chronicle.



CASINO NIGHTS

Working in partnership with the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, C.I.E.S. has a long tradition of volunteer nights at Calgary Casinos. On January 8th and 9th the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society sent more than 35 volunteers to the Elbow River Casino. Serving as bankers, chip runners and even general manager, the C.I.E.S. team put in more than 300 hours of total volunteer service.

An annual tradition at C.I.E.S. non profit organizations around the city are entitled to enter a yearly draw at which time they are assigned a Casino at which to work. Assigned certain areas and tasks, organizations are then given an amount of money based on these tasks and areas. C.I.E.S. would like to take this opportunity to thank the AGLC for their contribution to the Calgary non-profit community and we look forward to further strengthening our relationship. We'll be back!



LAST MONTH IN CANADIAN HISTORY:

February 16, 1967

The Royal Commission on the Status of Women was created by Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. Ottawa-based journalist Florence Bird became the chairwoman. After public hearings were held across Canada, the commission produced a report with 167 recommendations relating to issues such as birth control, family law, equal pay and maternity leave.

February 19, 1897

Born on an Ontario farm, Adelaide Hunter Hoodless founded the world's first Women's Institute in Stoney Creek, Ontario to support the needs of the wives of farmers. More about the organization can be found at the official website of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

February 28, 1998

For the first time in history, a Canadian won four Grammys in one year. Singer and songwriter Alanis Morissette won the awards for Best Rock Song, Best Female Rock Vocal Performance, Best Rock Album and Album of the Year. Alanis was born in Ottawa, Ontario and released her first single at the age of 11.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH – Tunisian Kaftaji

Serves: 4 persons - **Cook Time:** 45 min

Ingredients:

- 2 large potatoes
- plenty of corn oil
- 2 green pepper
- 3 tablespoon of olive oil
- 500g pumpkin, peeled and seeds removed
- 4 eggs
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste



Method:

1. peel potatoes and pumpkin then cut it into small cubes
2. fry the pumpkin cubes into the corn oil for about 10min until it becomes golden brown then take it out the oil and place it on a kitchen paper to drain
3. fry the potatoes for about 15min until it becomes soft then place it on a kitchen paper to drain
4. make a small slot on the surface of peppers then fry it then place it on a kitchen paper to drain
5. pour all the fried vegetables on a large chopping board and chop
6. once all the vegetables are chopped and mixed together ; place the mixture into a large bowl then add salt and black pepper by choice , and pour the olive oil then mix again
7. Finally serve with the 4 slightly fried eggs (an egg per person).

BACK FOR MORE – An Editorial

From David Anthony Hohol / Senior Program Coordinator

After a brief hiatus from the world of Academia, writing, and the glorious pontification of life's philosophical undertows, the start of 2014 produced my return to the fold. My turn back to a blue-collar life during my short, but rewarding working vacation in construction was very much needed however. I had not done physical labor for more than twenty years and grinding it out with the boys at the job site once again grounded me to my humble beginnings. It also reminded me of why people from around the world line up outside the gates of Canada for the chance at living out the human experience amongst us Canucks. While awaiting for my position to begin, I busted my butt, worked 11 hours a day, until I was stiff and sore, and at the end of my first month I had enough to pay my mortgage, pay the bills, put gas in the car and put food on the table. It was good, honest and decent hard work and would provide anyone willing to put in the time, with the ability to put a roof over their heads and take care of their families.

That's something us Canadians take very much for granted as many are ignorant to the fact that most of the world's population lives either in or at near poverty levels. That's right - of the 7 billion human beings out there in our great wide world, the vast majority will never experience the simple satisfactions that come with Canadian life. On top of a simple willingness to work hard, one also gets treated with respect, has equal rights, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, free education and healthcare, and can live life, for the most part, as he or she sees fit, without fear of repercussion, and with pride and hope for the future. Most of our fellow brethren simply will never know these things. We don't think about that here in Canada much, but it's the cold hard truth of life here on our planet. Yes, indeed... grinding it out with the boys from D&B Lumber for a few weeks and seeing the yield of my labour was good for the soul.

After first having joined Calgary's Bow Valley College and their Centre of Excellence in Immigrant and Intercultural Advancement, the onset of 2015, one year later sees me as Senior Program Coordinator at the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society. Among my several duties, I am being charged with developing a program designed to assist newcomers to Canada assimilate to the Canadian workforce. With C.I.E.S. being a nonprofit organization, unlike the profit driven and corporate Bow Valley College, I have also been asked to research and develop funding for the organization, so that we can continue assisting those newcomers who need us most. Looking back at my life that was, it seems a befitting position. At the same time, I don't exactly know how I got here. I started out in small town Alberta, on a farm out on the prairies. And then things changed. I spent the last nine years working in the cosmopolitan melting pot of Dubai, the previous three years plus to that in Tokyo, and somehow managed to pass through nearly 50 countries along the way. I have worked and or studied in North American, Asian, European and Middle Eastern Circles of Education and traveled extensively throughout Africa, finding it one of the most fascinating parts of the world. It was on this quest for soul and purpose that I discovered I truly love working with people to help them reach their maximum potential and it is this that takes us back to the present... and back for more.

Faced with the rather prodigious task of helping newcomers to Canada succeed, one year later my academic and creative juices are once again flowing. Soon after, a fellow by the name of Abraham Maslow woke me from my dogmatic slumber. If Bloom gears educators towards being better teachers and Socrates better mentors, Maslow points us in the direction of being better counselors. In the end, if my years in this field have taught me

anything, it's that educators are inevitably part-time counselors and psychologists, as well as teachers – from this reality there is no escape. It is important to always keep in mind that we are in fact very parental figures and learners can often look to us, not only for examples of what is right and wrong, but also for support, acceptance and care at a time in their lives when they are in the midst a grandiose odyssey towards purpose and identity, place and self; and in today's fast-paced, mechanically organic, gig-a-minute world the challenge to do so is greater than ever. The immigrants that come to Canada no doubt bring their steadfastly forged identities that have been continually developed since birth, but as a newcomer to a new and foreign culture the pressure to commit to an identity becomes overwhelming. As educators, we should never lose sight of this fact. Immigration forces the demanding and often unpredictable synthesis of one's former nodal points of self and meaning and his or her freshly forming new world identity, after which they must be downloaded upon the ever-expanding hard drive of the mind. Then, like new-found applications, they apply them, and thus themselves, to their own personal and very dynamic network of their slowly recognizable daily life. By profound extension, newcomers are greatly influenced by what the Canadian workplace and our learning environments both allow and embolden.

And therein lays our responsibility. I surely hope I can help them, in some small way, through their journey, these so called newcomers, into the culture that has been my own forever so long. They are indeed worthy of my assistance. In the end, they've chosen my home to call their own and for that alone, they are deserving of both our help and hospitality.



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Calgary Immigrant Educational Society

C.I.E.S. SE Location – Calgary Immigrant Educational Society
1723 – 40th street SE, T2A 7Y3 * 403 - 235- 3666 * www.immigrant-education.ca

C.I.E.S. NE Location - Welcome Centre For New Immigrants
3820 – 32nd street NE, T1Y 7L9 * 403-291-0002 * www.welcomeimmigrants-calgary.ca

*You can also find us at www.yccies.blogspot.ca