

Cultural Bridging Friends Program August 2010 newsletter

Latest Workshop: Diversity and Human Rights in Canada

A group of 17 participants learned about Human Rights protection in Canada. April McNeil – Student Transitions Officer with UVic’s Equity and Human Rights Office, – was the guest facilitator.

The issues covered included the Charter of Rights, Freedom Act, the protection of rights in different scenarios which participants got a chance to discuss in a safe space.

Next Workshop: Guided tour of the BC Parliament Buildings!

When: Saturday, Aug 28th. 10am-12:30pm
In this tour, we will learn about the institution of Parliament in Canada, B.C. heritage, and have an inside view of the Buildings.

News from the Be Friends Group: Our half-day visit to Moss St. Market and the neighbourhood was a success!!

A group of 13 Be Friends met last Saturday, Aug 21st, to learn about this great market, it’s artisans’, hand-made goods, local food, crafts, and more!!



At noon we visited Fairfield Park, where Transition Victoria held their first site! It brings communities together by embracing positive change in the face of

the challenges of peak oil, climate change and global inequity. The group enjoyed a free yoga class, learned about solar energy, recycling, cedar bark weaving, and more!

Lastly, we walked up to Moss Rocks Park, where we enjoyed a 360 degree view of Victoria.

Group photo, Moss Rocks Point.



Below is Frank's testimonial about his experience and his thoughts on the Be Friends Program:

"I learned about VIRCS one week before coming to Victoria and it has since then become the place where I feel welcomed and supported as a newcomer to Canada.

Thanks to VIRCS I don't feel that lonely as a newcomer to Victoria.

As a participant in VIRCS' Be Friends Program, I joined the group last Saturday, Aug 21st, to visit the Most Street Market. The experience was great!

We walked around the market place, and got to learn about its vendors, products, and crafts. We climbed a small rocky hill called Moss Rocks Point and from there we could see Victoria and the ocean - the sight was really spectacular! This was the best Saturday I have had so far in

Victoria, mostly because I made new friends, volunteers and

immigrants. Thanks to VIRCS and the Be Friends Program.

Experiences like these will always be in our memories!"

~ Frank Ardiles

To learn more about the Friends Program, contact Francina, Program Coordinator, at 250 361-9433, ext 242, or email: francina@vircs.bc.ca. Visit our website: <http://www.vircs.bc.ca/host.php>

FEATURED EVENT: Global Fashion Show!!

A multicultural event in support of the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society, VIRCS.

Catered dinner, door prizes, silent auction, and enjoy viewing fashions and music from all around the world.

When: Sunday, August 29th

6:30pm to 10:00pm,

At the Delta Ocean Pointe Ballroom.

Tickets are available at:

www.globalfashions.org, or Artina's Jewelry, 1002 Government St.

100% of the proceeds go to VIRCS.



Family Friends' Visit to Children's Petting Zoo in Beacon Hill Park.

An afternoon visit to the Petting Zoo in Beacon Hill Park!! Family Friends' children got to play with each other, pet the animals, and experience this great zoo. Photo of children petting baby goats.

Find out about other great services at VIRCS for immigrants and refugees:

Employment, Settlement, Skills connect, Youth, ESL and more.

Call us at 250 361-9433, or visit our website, www.vircs.bc.ca for more information.

Do you want to help VIRCS? Become a member. We need your support.