

**Volume 15**  
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Edited by

Trudie Aberdeen

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# The IHLA Newsletter



[www.ihla.ca](http://www.ihla.ca) – IHLA winner of the 2016  
UNESCO Linguapax Award!

## Proudly celebrating Mother Language Day for 15 years!



*From left to right: his worship Don Iveson (mayor), the honorable David Eggen (Minster of Education), Antonella Cortese (IHLA President), Thomas Lukaszuk (former Deputy Premier), Trudie Aberdeen (IHLA Coordinator), Hoa Nghiem (Truong Lac Hong School Principal), and Renata Krawczuk (IHLA Vice-President)*



*A special thank you to our wonderful emcees (Ayberk and Maeya) and to all of those who donated special treats*

## MLD 2018

### By Trudie Aberdeen

This year marks IHLA's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother Language Day and we were able to celebrate it in style. We were delighted to share in the festivities with such wonderful guests as the honorable Minister of Education, David Eggen, his worship, Mayor Don Iveson, and former Deputy Premier Thomas Lukaszuk. It is wonderful to know that our leaders in government respect the hard work that IHLA and IHLA member schools do for all Albertans.

Events like Mother Language Day would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of so many wonderful people. First I would like to thank Dr. Antonella Cortese for organizing the Italian Cultural Centre. I would like to continue by thanking Renata Krawczyk and Nedim Istemil for ensuring our special guests felt welcomed. I would like to also thank Mrs. Krystyna Dembowski who diligently keeps IHLA finances in check and makes sure that every penny is accounted for.

MLD 2018 is both by and for IHLA member schools. I would like to thank our charming, charismatic, and well-spoken emcees, Mateya Berezowsky and Ayberk Benli, who lead us through the event. I would like to extend an extra-special thank you to all IHLA volunteers who helped by filling countless important jobs. Again, I would like to thank the students in IHLA member schools who opened our ceremony with a wonderful rendition of a multicultural O Canada.

This year 27 schools participated by setting up a display booth and 21 schools participated by sharing a performance on stage. Your hard work was outstanding. Your teachers and principals did an excellent job preparing you to show your talents and skills.

I would like to close by giving a hearty thank you to the students of IHLA. You have done yourselves, your schools, and your communities proud! You are our leaders of tomorrow and it is with sincere hope that your respect for diversity and multiculturalism remains a stellar example for all to see.

## An Evening with Ahmeed Hussen

By Renata Krawczyk

IHLA's board members and Eritrean community representatives had the great pleasure of attending a meeting with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, the Honorable Ahmeed Hussen. The meeting was hosted by the Edmonton Viets Society on March 12, 2018. The Minister, who is a refugee himself, outlined an immigration policy of the government, listed success stories of uniting family members such as shortening application wait times, and creating new refugee and immigration programs. The Minister patiently answered multiple questions from the audience addressing the issues of backlogs, skilled and temporary workers, student visitors and war refugees. The Minister added that 21.9% of all Canadians are immigrants and 2017 saw a swell up in the number of processed applications from 260,000 to 300,000



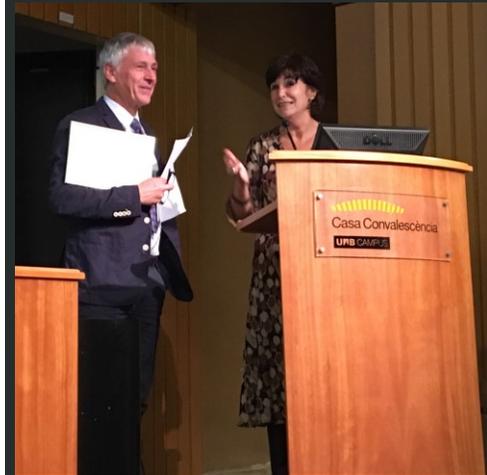
An hour-long event was not only a great opportunity to meet the Minister face to face and but also a great chance to mingle with Vietnamese community members who find issues of immigration dear to their heart. IHLA would like to extend a heart-felt "Thank you" for the invitation to the meeting and warm reception to the President of the Edmonton Viets Association, Lily Thuy Le.



←Renata Krawczyk/ Nedim Istemil→



Professor Brezinger receiving  
the 2017 Linguapax Award



## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Linguapax International Conference: Linguistic Diversity, Peace, and Intercultural Dialogue

By Antonella Cortese

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Linguapax International celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Year with a special conference and the awarding of the 2017 Linguapax International Award to Professor Matthias Brenzinger for his many years of work on the African continent for language preservation and the creation of the Centre for Linguistic Diversity (CALDI) located at the University of Cape Town.

The theme of the conference spoke to the current issues affecting all countries, as people work toward using and developing language to address and solve problems around oppression, diversity politics regarding religion and culture, and the effects of linguistic extinction. As an invited guest, I was proud and honoured to represent IHLA and above all, speak and communicate with a number of individuals at the conference interested in the work that IHLA does and has done over the last 40 years. In particular: The work by Villi Lytra, whose work in *Faith Literacies* addresses how faith shapes and encourages the continued learning and appreciation of heritage languages; Peter Austin, whose work in Poland in the area of Wilamowice and language revitalization from the effects of repression during WWII; and the work by Sinfree Makoni, on adopting a “human linguistics” approach, shifting the “[...] importance *on to the individual* learning the language *not the language* being learned by the individual [...]” an aspect, that as heritage language teachers, we often forget in the name of effective language teaching.

These talks in particular are accessible via

<http://www.linguapax.org/english/publications/linguapax-review-en/linguapax-review-2017> and <http://www.linguapax.org/english/what-we-do/linguapax-30-years-conference-on-languages-and-spiritual-traditions>. In all, this conference permitted IHLA to be part of a larger conversation as the challenges addressed in many of the conference talks reconfirmed the incredible cultural capital heritage languages have and the very important work IHLA has done and continues to do within our diverse and vibrant communities.

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**IHLA was the co-winner of the 2016 Linguapax Award!**

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## The Alberta Association of Multicultural Education (AAME) and our Annual Mother Language Day Book

**By Antonella Cortese**

For the past 3 years IHLA has received \$5,000 year (for a grand total of \$15,000) to go towards the publication of IHLA's Mother Language Day Book. Without these funds, IHLA would not be able to produce the books that we distribute to students. Each book that we pass out costs approximately \$35. AAME is able to sponsor us because of the funding that they receive from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC).

AAME asked that IHLA participate in their Casino Event which will take place on May 31 and June 1 2018(Thursday/Friday). In the past, IHLA members have participated. As president of IHLA, I have already signed up to do a shift on behalf of IHLA. The Casino will be held at the Yellowhead Casino here in Edmonton (across the street from the Costco off the Yellowhead Hwy). If you would please let me know if you are willing to participate for the Casino for AAME, I have the forms with me and also put you in touch with Mr. Larry Ofner, the coordinator of the casino.

## The way we were...The Multilingual Centre

**By Trudie Aberdeen**

One of IHLA's (although then NAHLA's) earliest goals was the establishment of a Multilingual Centre. It was hoped that we could establish a building where schools could come together and share multilingual resources and meet with one another on collaborative projects. The centre was to be a hub for the latest research on multilingualism, multiculturalism, and language promotion. It was envisioned to be the meeting ground for heritage language schools and academics across Canada.

Unfortunately, the Multilingual Centre never came to be. However, as these records from the Provincial Archives of Alberta show, the executive of our organization has always had and will continue to have goals which promote the highest level of professionalism among international and heritage language schools. We will continue to seek out resources which distinguish us as our own field which is unique and distinct from other areas of education such as official language education, English as a second language, and first language education.

## MULTILINGUAL CENTER - Report 10/4/86.

### I. General.

According to the decisions we have made, two meetings were held: 1/ with Mr. Marc Arnall - Secretary of State (March 85).  
2/ with Assistant Deputy Minister Beth Prigent. (April 8)

### II. MULTILINGUAL CENTER

Mr. S. Roncucci, Mr. P.C. George and P. Klivkiotis represented our Association. Our position was that:

- 1/ Historically the M.C. was initiated by our Association in cooperation with Alberta Culture and Secretary of State. The infrastructure was based on the needs expressed by the heritage language Schools and in fact the feasibility study reflects that, directly from the people who were surveyed.
- 2/ In order to bring the research on ethnic education close to the ethnic communities maintaining heritage schools we recognize the need for coexistence with the university. Therefore, we support the coexistence of the Resource Center with the Multilingual Center.
- 3/ We recognize the necessity for the advisory board consisted of government agencies representatives.
- 4/ We welcome any skilled person as a volunteer specialist or resource person WITH NO RIGHT TO VOTE.
- 5/ We believe that the ~~administration~~ <sup>Board of Dir. of the M.C.</sup> should consist of 75% by representatives of N.H.L.A. and 25% by university representatives.
- 6/ We are committed to provide our space, as long as it is not occupied by heritage language schools, for activities like E.S.L., F.S.L., daycare, play school, etc. in order to facilitate government programs related with languages and the ethnic Communities.

### III. REACTION FROM GOVERNMENT.

#### a. SECRETARY OF STATE.

Mr. Arnal, Mr. Hai and Mr. D. Lorieau participated in the meeting.

Mr. M. Arnal clearly supported the Multilingual Center and he is willing to make every possible effort to help for the materialization of this concept.

He stated that he has no reason to interfere with the issue of the administration. He does not care who will administer the center as long as it will be administered wisely and prudently.

He also expressed some hesitations with respect our ability to manage the center, which, as he stated, could consist of a central small unit and a network of available spaces for accommodating the heritage language needs.

#### b. ALBERTA CULTURE.

The Assistant Deputy Minister was only attended the meeting.

Mrs. Beth Bryant stated that other parts may be interested in participating in the board of directors. She also indicated that her staff presently is looking for available space in order to make an estimate of the cost of maintenance and operation.

She stated that the priorities set are: space/resources/training, for 4.

She also said that the proposed model it was just an idea and that they will consider Edmonton and Calgary, taking into consideration the different conditions existing in the cities.

She repeatedly decline to get into the specifics with respect the Board of Directors of that M. C.

## And now from IHLA Member Schools



### Learning about Christmas-Ukrainian Style!

The Adult Ukrainian Language classes at St. Andrew's celebrated the Christmas season on January 17, 2018 for the last half hour of class time. Lesia Perritt, Program Coordinator/Principal, reviewed on a participatory PowerPoint, the Ukrainian traditions from St. Nicholas Day, December 19, to Theophany on January 19, according to the Julian calendar. Along with reading relevant vocabulary and sentences from the slides, students sang Christmas carols accompanied on keyboard by Ludvik Marianych, Teacher and Committee Member. It is important to note that carols are sung only after the birth of Christ is proclaimed on Christmas eve, then through the following festive weeks. Each class presented traditional, poetic well-wishes which accompany carol singing and New Year's observances. Guests in attendance were Rodney Mauch, Parish President and Johanna Dzenick, Ladies Auxiliary President, who offered greetings to the staff and students. Everyone enjoyed sampling *kutia* and *makivnyk*, two traditional Christmas Eve dishes provided by the Ladies' Auxiliary, in addition to other snack items set out by Marion Ostapchuk, Committee Chair.

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To learn more about the programs offered at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Language Classes for Adults, please contact us at 780-469-1463, email us at [st.andrews-uocc@telus.net](mailto:st.andrews-uocc@telus.net) or visit 9831-75 Street, Edmonton, AB T6A 2Y8

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## Nebula Academy Class Mother Tea Project

By Fatih Sahin



Being a part of the class is a great opportunity to be involved in the school and to meet other parents. It provides much valued support to our classroom teachers. Teachers' expectations of the parents vary widely. Some rely heavily on volunteers to pull together all events and parties; others have specific ideas and will ask parents to coordinate only certain parts. Either way, it's critical to find out your teacher's preferred way of doing things early on, and stick to it.

Communication is an essential ingredient in parent involvement. Class Mother Tea project of Nebula Academy is to facilitate communication between other parents and the teacher, the school parent group, and occasionally school administration.



## Truong Lac Hong School Feeds the Hungry

By Trudie Aberdeen



Everyone at Truong Lac Hong School knows how fortunate we are and, because of that fortune, we have a responsibility to share with those who have less. To show gratitude, the students of our school decided to create a kindness project. We made bagged lunches which consisted of a yummy sandwich, an apple, and some cookies. To make the lunches even more appealing, we decorated the lunch bags with our school name and the message “Have a nice day!” written in Vietnamese. Once everything was assembled, we took the lunches to the Hope Mission and passed them out to the people who were waiting outside. It was a great learning project for our students and a wonderful way for us to share our fortune!



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*You can learn more about the Hope Mission at <https://hopemission.com/>*

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## Nadia Kryschuk, in Memoriam

~ Respectfully submitted by Lesia Perritt, Coordinator/Principal,  
St. Andrew's Ukrainian Language Classes for Adults



Nadia Kryschuk had a personal commitment and passion for preserving and promoting Ukrainian cultural heritage, especially the Ukrainian language. She was one of the founding members of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Language Classes for Adults located at 9831-75 Street in Edmonton, Alberta. She was the Coordinator/Principal of the program for 28 years since its inception in 1989 until August 2017 when she suffered a fall and passed away from related complications. Nadia served as a board member of the International Heritage and Language Association (IHLA) and on a committee developing criteria for the 'Dr. Olenka Bilash Leadership Award'. The Ukrainian International Bilingual Program in Edmonton Public Schools was enhanced by Nadia's career as a teacher and as a Ukrainian Language Arts Curriculum

writer. Since 1958, she had been an active member of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (UWAC) in Winnipeg, Myrnam and Vegreville and for the last 48 years with Edmonton's St. Andrew's Ladies Auxiliary, UWAC branch. She was the Auxiliary's representative to Edmonton Local Council of Women. While serving on the Provincial UWAC Executive Council, Nadia conceived and activated the Holodomor (death by starvation) Education Project involving the purchase, donation and distribution of Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch's book *Enough*, to 668 Alberta Elementary Schools. The project was to bring awareness of the forced starvation of millions of Ukrainians in 1932-33 during the Stalinist era in the USSR. Nadia supervised the publication of the Canadian Ukrainian Youth Association history book, as well as researched and published her family histories. She was a humble, soft-spoken, recently-widowed Priest's wife, mother, educator, leader, organizer, coordinator, visionary, researcher, writer, editor, historian, translator, author, advisor and resource person. She is sorely missed in the community to which she was devoted.

## Nowruz

By Seyed H Bahmani, President of the Edmonton Iranian School

**Nowruz** is the traditional Iranian festival of spring which starts at the exact moment of the vernal equinox, commencing the start of the spring. It is considered as the start of the New Year among Iranians. The name comes from Avestan meaning "new day/daylight". Noruz is celebrated March 20/21 each year, at the time the sun enters Aries and Spring begins.

Noruz has been celebrated for at least 3,000 years and is deeply rooted in the rituals and traditions of the Zoroastrian religion. Today the festival of Noruz is celebrated in Iran, Iraq, India, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

The Zoroastrian Parsis of India celebrate Noruz twice, firstly in common with their Iranian brethren on the vernal equinox as Jamshedi Navroz (also referred to as the Fasli New Year) and secondly on a day in July or August, depending upon whether they follow the Kadmi or the Shahenshahi calendar. This is because the practice of intercalation in the Zoroastrian calendar was lost on their arrival in India. The Kadmi New Year always precedes the Shahenshahi New Year by 30 days. In 2005, Noruz is celebrated on August 20 (Shahenshahi).

The Baha'i Faith, a religion with its origin in Iran, celebrates this day (spelling it "Naw Ruz") as a religious holiday marking not only the new year according to the Baha'i calendar, but the end of their Nineteen Day Fast. Persian Baha'is still observe many Iranian customs associated with it, but Bahai's all over the world celebrate it as a festive day, according to local custom. American Baha'i communities, for example, may have a potluck dinner, along with prayers and readings from Baha'i scripture. While Naw Ruz, according to scripture, begins on the vernal equinox, Baha'is currently celebrate it on March 21, regardless of what day the equinox falls. Baha'is are required to suspend work and school in observance.

Although the Persian Calendar is very precise about the very moment of turn of the new year, Noruz itself is by definition the very first calendar day of the year, regardless of when the natural turn of the year happens. For instance, in some years, the actual natural moment of turn of the year could happen before the midnight of the first calendar day, but the calendar still starts at 00:00 hours for 24 hours, and those 24 hours constitute the Noruz. Iranians typically observe the exact moment of the turn of the year.



### History of Noruz

The name of Noruz does not occur until the second century AD in any Persian records. We have reasons to believe that the celebration is much older than that date and was surely celebrated by the people and royalty during the Achaemenid times (555-330 BC). It has often been suggested that the famous Persepolis Complex, or at least the palace of Apadana and Hundred Columns Hall, were built for the specific purpose of celebrating Noruz. However, no mention of the name of Noruz exists in any Achaemenid inscription.

Our oldest records of Noruz go back to the Arsacid/Parthian times (247 BC-224 AD). There are specific references to the celebration of Noruz during the reign of Arsacid Emperor Vologases I (51-78 AD). Unfortunately, the lack of any substantial records about the reign of the Arsacids leaves us with little to explore about the details of Noruz during their times.

After the accession of Ardashir I Pabakan, the founder of the Sasanian Dynasty (224 AD), consistent data for the celebration of Noruz were recorded.

Throughout the Sasanian era (224-650 AD), Noruz was celebrated as the most prominent ritual during the year. Most royal traditions of Noruz such as yearly common audiences, cash gifts, and pardon of prisoners, were established during the Sasanian era and they persisted unchanged until the modern times.

Noruz, along with Sadeh that is celebrated in mid-winter, were the two pre-Islamic celebrations that survived in the Islamic society after 650 AD.

Other celebrations such Gahanbar and Mehragan were eventually side-lined or were only followed by the Zoroastrians who carried them as far as India. Noruz, however, was most honoured even by the early founders of Islam.

There are records of the Four Great Caliphs presiding over Noruz celebrations, and during the Abbasid era, it was adopted as the main royal holiday.



Following the demise of the Caliphate and re-emergence of Persian dynasties such as the Samanids and Buyids, Noruz was elevated into an even more important event. The Buyids revived the ancient traditions of Sasanian times and restored many smaller celebrations that had been eliminated by the Caliphate. Even the Turkish and Mongol invaders of Iran did not attempt to abolish Noruz in favor of any other celebration. Thus, Noruz remained as the main celebration in the Persian lands by both the officials and the people.

During the Noruz holidays people are expected to pay house visits to one another (mostly limited to families, friends and neighbours) in the form of short house visits and the other side will also pay you a visit during the holidays before the 13th day of the spring.

Typically, on the first day of Noruz, family members gather around the table, with the Haft Seen on the table or set next to it, and await the exact moment of the arrival of the spring. At that time gifts are exchanged. Later in the day, on the very first day, the first house visits are paid to the most senior family members.

Typically, the youngsters visit the elders first, and the elders return their visit later. The visits naturally have to be relatively short, otherwise one will not be able to visit everybody on their list. Every family announces in advance to their relatives and friends which days of the holidays are their reception days.

A visit generally lasts around 30 minutes, where you often run into other visiting relatives and friends who happen to be paying a visit to the same house at that time. Because of the house visits, you make sure you have a sufficient supply of pastry, cookies, fresh and dried fruits and special nuts on hand, as you typically serve your visitors with these items plus tea or syrup.

Many Iranians will throw large Noruz parties in a central location as a way of dealing with the long distances between groups of friends and family.

Some Noruz celebrants believe that whatever a person does on Noruz will affect the rest of the year. So, if a person is warm and kind to their relatives, friends and neighbors on Noruz, then the new year will be a good

one. On the other hand, if there are fights and disagreements, the year will be a bad one. Also, many people do a significant amount of "Spring Cleaning" prior to Noruz to rid the house of last year's dirt and germs in preparation for a good new year.

One tradition that may not be very widespread (that is, it may belong to only a few families) is to place something sweet, such as honey or candy, in a safe place outside overnight. On the first morning of the new year, the first person up brings the sweet stuff into the house as another means of attaining a good new year.

The traditional herald of the Noruz season is called Haji Pirooz, or Hadji Firuz. He symbolizes the rebirth of the Sumerian god of sacrifice, Domuzi, who was killed at the end of each year and reborn at the beginning of the New Year. Wearing black make up and a red costume, Haji Pirooz sings and dances through the streets with tambourines and trumpets spreading good cheer and the news of the coming New Year.

The thirteenth day of the New Year festival is called Sizdah Bedar (meaning "thirteen outdoors"). It often falls on or very close to April Fool's Day, as it is celebrated in some countries. People go out in the nature in groups and spend all day outdoors in the nature in form of family picnics. It is a day of festivity in the nature, where children play and music and dancing is abundant. On this day, people throw their sabzeh away in the nature as a symbolic act of making the nature greener, and to dispose of the bad luck that the sprouts are said to have been collecting from the household.

The thirteenth day celebrations, Seezdah Bedar, stem from the belief of the ancient Persians that the twelve constellations in the Zodiac controlled the months of the year, and each ruled the earth for a thousand years. At the end of which, the sky and the earth collapsed in chaos.

Hence, Noe-Rooz lasts twelve days and the thirteenth day represents the time of chaos when families put order aside and avoid the bad luck associated with the number thirteen by going outdoors and having picnics and parties.

At the end of the celebrations on this day, the sabzeh grown for the Haft Seen spread (which has symbolically collected all the sickness and bad luck) is thrown away into running water to exorcise the demons (divs) and evil eyes from the house hold. It is also customary for young single women to tie the leaves of the sabzeh, prior to discarding it, symbolizing their wish to be married before the next year's Seezdah Bedar. When tying the leaves, they whisper

**And, our celebration this year 2018 for NOWRUZ is on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March and we are as Edmonton Iranian School have a party for our parents, teachers, and all Iranians who live in our city of Edmonton or Albertan cities can come and are always welcome,**

**Happy New year and NOWRUZ Mubarak!**

## Becoming a member of a not-for-profit board

By Trudie Aberdeen

The decision to join a not-for-profit organization as a member of the board can be a complex decision. There are many factors to consider such as time commitments, willingness to attend meetings, and desire to be a team player. However there are many benefits, both personal and professional that one should take into account when making this important choice.

1. Being a member of the board provides opportunities to develop both personally and professionally.

*Participation in events from multiple perspectives-* From the outside, it is hard to imagine how such a small team makes something so wonderful possible. Planning big events such as Tet, Tet Trung Thu, Heritage Days, Volunteer Appreciation Days, and the Fundraising Casino requires special skills. In order to make these events possible, decisions need to be made at the beginning of an idea, planning and organizing, setting up and taking down, and the final reflection. Members of the board are knowledgeable and skilled at all the stages of planning an event. Being a member of this team allows you to see the work that multiple volunteers do to make it all possible.

*Professional connections-* As a member of the board I have had the chance to work with people I might not otherwise come into contact, young business professionals, nurses, and university students.

*Participation in democracy in its most fundamental ways-* Democracy is a core value for Vietnamese Canadians. While to some it may mean voting in elections and paying taxes, for others it means dedication to the well-being and health of others. It means shaping the world that we want to live in. The members of the board of Hoi Nguoi Viet fall into the latter category. They are trusted individuals who want to create a language and cultural community for themselves, the children, and newcomers to Canada. They know that making a better society takes work and that is what drives them to do fundraisers, create spaces for others, and to help wherever there is a need.

2. Being a member of the board provides me with opportunities to help direct the course of events.

*Language development-* As many of you may know, I completed my PhD in 2016 in the area of heritage language development. One of the most important findings of my dissertation was something

obvious—one cannot keep a language and culture alive without others. Therefore it is essential to have meeting spaces and events where people can come together and be a part of a community. Events such as our annual Tet celebration are possible because of the hard work and dedication of the members of Hoi Nguoi Viet who plan for months in advance to make this possible.

*A community for young children-* A community without new members and their ideas becomes stagnant. It is important to continually welcome new people into our community. While this might mean inviting newcomers from overseas or welcoming back adults who stopped celebrating with us, it also means creating spaces where children belong.

*Connections to the Canadian Multicultural Mosaic-* While it is always important to stay true to the values of ancestors and family members who sacrificed so that we could be in Canada, it is also important to stay true to the values of democracy and multiculturalism. Hoi Nguoi Viet participates in events such as Heritage Days. My family and I have volunteered to work at the booth for the past few years. While we are sharing our culture, food, and

dance with others, we are also displaying our dedication to Canadian values of remaining true to ourselves and simultaneously creating a sense of togetherness.

3. Being a member of the board allows me to give back to the community that has given me so much.

*A place for our school which offers lessons for both children and their parents-* I am grateful to be able to give back to an organization which has helped me so much. Our Vietnamese School, Truong Lac Hong School, is able to operate in great part because Hoi Nguoi Viet has provided us with a place for classes and a space where we can store our resources. Having our school in Hoi Nguoi Viet is more important than just a building; it is a place where our children are welcomed into the Vietnamese community.

*A place where I feel like I can belong and participate even though I am only “Vietnamese” through familial association-* It is a great honour for me to serve on this board as the first non-Vietnamese person. I have been welcomed with open arms. I am so glad to be part of such a warm, and hospitable group of dedicated volunteers. Happy New Year! Chuc Mung Nam Moi!

## Upcoming workshops and Events

### The IHLA Professional Documentation Committee

As discussed at the last principals' meeting, IHLA will be forming a committee to work on writing documents/templates that impact international and heritage language school success. This is envisioned to be a long-term project that looks at the creation of school documentation from both legal and educational angles. This project is expected to run over this school year as well as the 2018/2019 school year. The long-term goal is a document which helps guide new school in their formation as well as provides current information for longer-standing schools.

Since many of the topics that we will be discussing may or may not be of interest to you, we have decided to create more of a "drop-in" group. We will be announcing the topics in advance and requesting your participation. We will begin this year with three pressing topics which will help us to make a better start to the 2018/2019 school year: **(1) Non-disclosure and teaching contracts, (2) FOIP, school registration forms, and confidentiality of school information (3) Student evaluation documents and report cards.** If you have comments or documents that are relevant and can be helpful to our working group, we kindly request that you send them to us.

We will be hosting our first meeting on **Non-disclosure and teaching contracts** on **Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018** at Gabriela Mistral School from 6-9 PM. One of our IHLA members is gathering information about the legality of teacher contracts. We are especially looking for samples that you may have for your teachers. If you are interested in joining us or in sharing your school contracts, please email Trudie at [edmontonihla2@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonihla2@gmail.com) or call at 80-691-4172.

### IHLA Professional Standards

Information is available about the current and proposed IHLA Professional Standards document on the IHLA website at <http://www.ihla.ca/ihla-professional-standards.html>. This document is scheduled for a completed review during the 2017-2018 school year. As IHLA members you are requested to look at the documents and make comments about them. These can be through the submissions form or emailed to me at [edmontonihla2@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonihla2@gmail.com)

We will be meeting to discuss the IHLA Professional Standards on **Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018** from 6-9 PM (location to be determined) This group will be discussing and reviewing comments about the professional standards documents and suggesting revisions which will be voted on at the 2018 Annual General Meeting. Please email or call (780-691-4172) for more information.

# Making Music, Movement, & Literacy Fun for the Little Ones

Come and join Christie Noble and Tracy Stener for a fun evening of Music, Movement, and Literacy! Topics covered will be Mother's Day, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, dinosaurs, early letter and word recognition, the farm, the ocean, and more! Learn how to take a story that the children enjoy, incorporate music, teach foundational literacy, and explore rhythm and dance at the same time. This is a fun and interactive workshop, so be prepared to get involved and have fun!

Who? Heritage Language Teachers of children aged 4-10 years

Where? 10534-109 Street (The Edmonton Viets Association)

When? April 3, 2018 (6-9 PM)

Christie Noble, BEd, is a retired music specialist. She implemented a music/literacy program for the early education PUF program at Mayfield Public School in Edmonton for over 20 years. She is dedicated to providing the best musical experiences for the students, with a dominant interest in Early Literacy.

Tracy Stenner, BMus, MEd, is a music specialist with Edmonton Public, who completed her Masters Education focusing on music, literacy, and movement for young learners. She is presently at Bannerman Public School in Edmonton.



Christie and Tracy have written 4 books in the area of music and literacy, and do numerous presentations and workshops with children, educators, and parents for children throughout the Early Childhood spectrum in Canada and the United States. Books published include: Making Music Fun: Book 1, Making Music Fun: Book 2, Stories and Nursery Rhymes to Sing, Rap, and Read, and Stories and SO MUCH MORE!