

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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LANGFORD COMMUNITY GROUP HOSTS CANADIAN NEWCOMERS EVENT

LANGFORD, B.C. – A Langford based community group has planned a "Canadian Newcomers Information Session" event in Langford on Wednesday August 14th from 7-9 PM at Gordon United Church.

Langford Residents Association (LRAS) is a relatively new registered non-profit society in Langford, with a focus on building community and engaging in projects that foster community connections. The 100% volunteer organization is comprised of community-minded citizens who are keen to work, engage and collaborate with all other community groups and stakeholders, for the betterment of Langford.

"One of our initial projects was to improve and promote the provision of support services in Langford for Canadian newcomers", LRAS president Jeff Byam said. "Most of these support services are located in downtown Victoria. Based on discussions within our community and membership, it became apparent that the challenge of juggling family, work and transportation downtown could potentially impede access to these services for our new Canadian residents within the rapidly growing City of Langford" .

During a late June meeting between LRAS and Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) on planning an August community event in Langford, VIRCS Program Manager Nasim Hamed announced that they had received funding to provide services in Langford with the "BC Newcomer Services Program" (BC NSP). "VIRCS is very excited to launch this new support program in Langford" said Hamed "we realize that our client base is growing in Langford and this is a great opportunity for us to make it easier for Langford residents to get access to support and our services".

"This is such great news for our community and we are thrilled to have been involved in the effort and discussion" said Byam, "so in order to increase exposure and awareness of this new community service, LRAS, in partnership with VIRCS, has organized this community information session".

The "Canadian Newcomers Information Session" will be held in Langford Wednesday 14 August at Gordon United Church (935 Goldstream Ave) from 7 to 9 PM. All members of the public are welcome. In addition to getting information on the new BC Newcomer Services Program for Langford, there will be general information on other available support services for Canadian newcomers. Information tables and staff will be available from multiple agencies including: Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS), Inter-Cultural Association (ICA), Vancouver Island Counselling Centre for Immigrants and Refugees (VICCIR), Construction Foundation of BC (CFBC), Manzouri Immigration Inc., Literacy Victoria and Gordon United Church.

Media Contact:

Jeff Byam, President

lraspresident23@gmail.com