Annual Report

2014-2015

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ANNUAL REPORT 2014

2014 was a great year of achievements for Citizens for a Civil Society.

From completing major province-wide grant initiatives to establishing inaugural celebrations at the Alberta Legislature, our team advanced crucial advocacy for human rights, gender equality, and community action.

As previous grant funding has been fully utilized, our focus moves toward fundraising and strategic partnerships to sustain our ongoing dialogues on Canadian Values through 2017.

VISION, MISSION & WHAT DO WE DO

VISION

A culture of human rights is the foundation of life in a civil society

WHAT DO WE DO?

CCS works to advance a culture of respect for human rights as well as gender equality through community events that celebrate women and foster an inclusive society. With education and advocacy as tools to effect change in society, we seek to cultivate an environment of dialogues and deliberations that strengthen our resolve on freedom from fear and promote the five pillars of civil society – respect, literacy, human rights, the rule of law and meaningful economic opportunity

MISSION

We advocate, share, and celebrate Canadian values and human rights as a way of life by engaging people and communities

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HANDBOOK PROJECT & PUBLICATION

Honouring Women to End Gender Discrimination

Provincial Consultations:

Our organization conducted 18 community consultations across Edmonton and Alberta with diverse women's organizations to address gender discrimination, inequality, and violence against women.

Handbook Launch (June 18, 2014):

The consultation findings culminated in the practical handbook titled "Together, Creating a Better World", launched in June.

Project Completion:

Project coordinator Jim Gurnett successfully led the initiative and submitted the final project report to Alberta's Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund (HREM) at year end.

DAUGHTERS DAY 2014

3rd Annual Celebration (September 6, 2014):

Held at City Hall with 350 attendees featuring a commitment walk, an information fair, and a keynote speech by NorQuest College CEO Judy Abbott.

Daughters of the Year Awards:

Recognized 12 outstanding Daughters of the Year for their leadership and community contributions.

Planning & Jury Panel:

April planning sessions launched the nomination call evaluated by jurors Danielle Campbell (EPS), Karen Leibovici, Danielle Monroe (ACT), Lori Sigurdson (ACSW), and Philomena Okeke-Ihejirika (U of A).

DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD WORKSHOP

Practical Community Workshop (October 18, 2014):

To mark the Day of the Girl Child, a hands-on workshop was held to translate concepts from the "Together, Creating a Better World" handbook into daily actionable practices.

Participant Engagement:

26 women representing various community organizations attended and praised the practical approaches provided.

Event Leadership:

Special thanks to Jim Gurnett and Poushali Mitra for leading the planning and organization of the workshop.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATIONS

Inaugural Legislature Event (December 10, 2014):

For the first time, Human Rights Day was celebrated inside the Legislature of Alberta. Coordinated by Mr. Khehra, ministers and MLAs from all parties delivered statements and formally recognized attending society members.

Community Commemoration (December 11, 2014):

Hosted under the theme "Home for the Holidays". Featured award-winning refugee poet Ahmed Ali sharing his journey from Ethiopia, Jim Gurnett speaking on housing as a human right, and Satya reading from his upcoming book on the concept of home.

AGLC CASINO & SUSTAINABILITY

AGLC Application Approval:

Through persistent efforts by Mr. Bhatia and Mr. Khehra, our AGLC casino application was approved, securing our first casino event for spring 2017.

Fundraising Priorities:

With primary grant funds fully expended, CCS is prioritizing interim fundraising and partner organization outreach to support operations leading into 2017.

Canada 150 Vision:

Funds raised will directly support the multi-year dialogue initiative on "Canadian Values and Canada's Value" leading up to Canada's 150th anniversary.