

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed March 21, 2017

### A warm welcome for Nanaimo's new immigrant arrivals

#### Summary

New immigrant residents will be officially welcomed to Nanaimo during a special reception being hosted by the City of Nanaimo on Saturday, March 25 at 2:00 pm. This event is held yearly with Municipal, Federal, Provincial and School District elected officials, Snuneymuxw First Nations, RCMP, staff and board members of the Immigrant Welcome Centre and City of Nanaimo staff all in attendance.

*Strategic Link:* The attraction and retention of immigrants is vital to the economic health and social vitality of the community.

#### Key Points

- The welcome reception will be held in the Newcastle Island Lobby of the Vancouver Island Conference Centre (101 Gordon Street) on Saturday, March 25 at 2:00 pm.
- Invitations were extended to all new residents who arrived in Nanaimo from outside Canada within the last year.

#### Quotes

"It is such an honour to welcome Canada's new arrivals who have chosen Nanaimo to call their home. As a community, we appreciate the cultural vitality new residents bring which enhance the quality of life in this area."

Bill McKay  
Mayor of Nanaimo  
City of Nanaimo

"For the Multicultural Society, the opportunity to support the Welcome Reception is a privilege. Engagement of the Mayor, Council and other elected officials is a reflection of the positive and welcoming forces of goodwill in this community as well conveying the message that we value the contributions that immigrants make to our city. Canada has a proud history of welcoming the world in becoming Canadian. New Canadians bring global riches of knowledge, innovation and perspective to help build our country and our future."

Kelly McBride  
Acting Executive Director  
Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society

#### Quick Facts

- Nanaimo has a birth rate of 0.8, insufficient to maintain or grow the population; as such all our population growth comes from immigration, both from within Canada and from outside the country. Population growth is a key driver of our economy.
- Immigrants contribute significantly to the cultural vitality of Nanaimo; from Chinese New Year to the German Cultural Centre, each wave of immigration has left a cultural mark on the city.

Continued... A warm welcome for Nanaimo's new immigrant arrivals

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