

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program (WICWP) and EmbraceBC programming - Communiqué**

The new Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development (the Ministry) brought together responsibility for two programs aimed at ensuring that British Columbia is welcoming of immigrants and free of racism and discrimination: WICWP, formerly managed by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, and EmbraceBC, formally part of the Ministry of Citizens' Services.

The Immigrant Integration and Multiculturalism Branch (IIMB) of the Ministry is taking this opportunity to explore linkages, review project evaluations and undertake Ministry-led evaluations with the aim of creating a new strategic approach. While the program review takes place, IIMB intends to issue several funding opportunities under EmbraceBC and to provide an opportunity for current WICWP Demonstration Project providers to apply for an additional year of funding. The following opportunities will be available in the near future:

- New procurement opportunities for EmbraceBC's Arts Engagement program element through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process on BC Bid.
- New procurement opportunities for EmbraceBC's Interfaith Bridging program element through a RFP process on BC Bid.
- Continued support for the current communities under EmbraceBC's Organizing Against Racism and Hate program element who were successful under RFP ON-001927.
- Continued support for the current regional networks under EmbraceBC's Organizing Against Racism and Hate program element through contract extensions.
- An opportunity for WICWP Demonstration Project providers who were successful under the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) ON-001670 and ON-001759 to apply for further funding in accordance to specific criteria for their current projects.
- Continued support for the Safe Harbour Program led by the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC.
- Continued support for the Building Welcoming and Inclusive Neighbourhoods project led by the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC.

The Ministry has posted RFPs for Arts Engagement and Interfaith Bridging projects on the BC Bid website ([www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca)). The four communities funded under the Organizing Against Racism and Hate may proceed to Step 2 of the program through the successful completion of Step 1 by March 31, 2011, as outlined in their Step 1 contract. The Organizing Against Racism and Hate regional networks may submit their project proposals for funding 2011/2012, due March 31, 2011, as outlined in their current contracts. A proposal application for the WICWP Demonstration



projects will be sent to current providers successful under the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) ON-001670 and ON-001759 by late February, 2011.

Information on future funding opportunities in this area will be made available once the program review has been completed, tentatively in the fall of 2011.

If you have any questions about the above, please contact Anneke Van Vliet, Program Manager, at [Anneke.VanVliet@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Anneke.VanVliet@gov.bc.ca)

Sincerely,

Immigrant Integration and WelcomeBC Branch