

Community Connections Volunteer Newsletter, Spring 2017



To our dearest volunteers at NSMS.

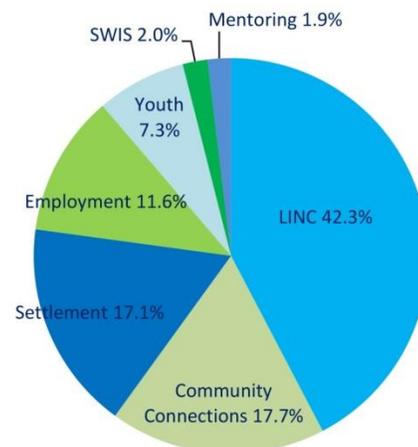
We hope that you have been staying warm and enjoying the unusual amount of snow in Vancouver this winter. At Community Connections, we have been busy planning our events for 2017, but also we have decided to begin this newsletter for NSMS volunteers because you are an essential part in our programs. We want to keep you informed of what is happening and the great impact of your contribution to our programs. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support in being a volunteer at NSMS. Your services has been invaluable to us.

In 2016, a total of 6,411 clients accessed our services at NSMS. This number includes both newcomer immigrants, youth and adults who received NEONology workshops, and NSMS volunteers. This is a HUGE number. From this grand total, the Community Connections Department directly served 452 newcomer immigrants and volunteers who participated in 40 Community Connections activities such as educational activities like tours at community libraries or recreation centres; or social activities such as Club Cafés or intercultural potlucks; or volunteer activities like volunteer diversity training or the meet and greet recognition event.

Overall in 2016, NSMS had 170 volunteers contributed 1,131 hours of volunteering time in different departments.

Here are the **Top Volunteers** who contributed the most number of hours in 2016!

Volunteering Hours per Dept. at NSMS, 2016



- LINC: Judith Bickart
- Community Connections: Yasmin Cooper
- Employment: Zohreh Shabani
- Settlement Program: Anahita Zahedi
- SWIS: Sheng Nan (Stella) Wang
- Mentoring: Anahita Zahedi
- Youth Program: Donna Bozorgebrahimi

Congratulations to the Top Volunteers! If you are the 2016 Top Volunteer, please give Sohell a call to set up a time and claim your appreciation prize next time you are at NSMS.

We truly appreciate all of our volunteers' commitment and dedication to support the new members of our community.

On March 28th, we will be hosting a **Diversity Training for those NSMS volunteers** who have not taken this training with us. The purpose of this training will be for you to understand what diversity means in your context as volunteers, including the successes and barriers of people from diverse backgrounds, and explore what we can do when there are intercultural challenges.

This is **compulsory** training for all the volunteers at NSMS. If you have not taken this training, please RSVP with Sohell (sohellr@nsms.ca) to participate.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and hope to see you soon.

Sohell, Minori and Meharoona
Community Connections, NSMS

