



IMWAH

Immigrant Migrant Women's Association of Halifax

Annual Report

2019

IMMIGRANT MIGRANT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF HALIFAX (IMWAH) ANNUAL REPORT April 2018 - March 2019

Mission

The Immigrant /Migrant Women's Association of Halifax (IMWAH) is a non-profit and culturally diverse organization. Its goal and mission are to respond to the unique concerns of Immigrant and Migrant women and girls and celebrate their contributions to the community. Its gender related mandate is to provide support tailored to female focused initiatives.

Objectives

1. to promote immigrant/migrant women and girls mental and physical health and wellbeing.
2. to facilitate immigrant/migrant women and girls. integration and inclusion in the community
3. to showcase immigrant/migrant women and girls projects, initiatives and contributions to the community.
4. to research and assess situations affecting immigrant/migrant women and girls.
5. to increase awareness into the larger community of immigrant and migrant women and girls concerns and to do advocacy work.
6. to bring the voice of immigrant and migrant women into larger movements.

Board of Directors

Co-Chair:	Maria Jose Yax-Fraser
Co-Chair:	Felicia Eghan
Secretary:	Nadira Al Nasleh
Treasurer:	Joanna Strzelec-Stewart
Director:	Valentina Kenny
Director:	Darshini Shah
Director:	Madhurima Asthana
Director:	Rachel Bosibori Agwata
Director:	Abla Khoury replaced by Nancy Spina

In the past year, from April 2018 to 2019 the Board of Directors benefitted from the experiences of ten immigrant women, who worked hard to carry out one project and one community event that align with the objectives of the association. For personal reasons, one member of the board step down before they completed a year term.

Special resolution

In December 2018 the Board of Directors passed a special resolution to relieve Abla Khoury of her duties as a Board Director. Nancy Spina was appointed a new Director of the Board replacing Abla Khoury.

A note of Appreciation

The association would like to thank Felicia Eghan for the time she volunteered as Co-Chair leading the Board with wisdom and insight. The association will also like to thank Rachel Bosibori Agwata for the time she volunteered arranging a meeting space for Board meetings throughout the year.

Partners & Funders:

African Diaspora Association of Maritimes (ADAMS)
Halifax Refugee Clinic
YMCA Newcomer Programs
Veith House

Nova Scotia Office of immigration (NSOI)
Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women
Halifax and Chebucto West Community Health Boards

Board Development and Strategic Planning

As the association continues to grow, so is the need to strength the Board and to develop a strategic plan with actions that align with our primary objectives. This year, the Board submitted a successful proposal to the Department for Women and Gender Equality (formerly Status of Women Canada) to build IMWAH's Board capacity. Under the project titled ***Igniting, Expanding and Sustaining IMWAH- its Board Performance and Gender + Community Performance***, the Board will engage in a four year program to increase its Board governance and organizational capacity to support gender equality for im/migrant women and girls in Nova Scotia; and to increase IMWAH's emerging leadership capacity to enhance its unique contribution to strengthen Canada's women's movement. This includes a series twelve overarching Board development activities to improve Board governance, development of strategic planning capacity and advocacy strategy, succession planning to ensure sustainability, and capacity for partnership with settlement organizations and organizations serving women. This project has also allowed the opening of an office space, beginning June 1, 2019, to carry out this project and the delivery of projects, events and programs for im/migrant girls, women and their families.

Funding

This year the Board submitted four successful funding proposals. We received a grant from the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration for \$1,600 and a grant of \$500.00 by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women to celebrate the International Day of the Girl. We received a four-year grant from the Department for Women and Gender Equality (formerly Status of Women Canada) for Board Development and Capacity Building as stated above. This four-year grant is offered to IMWAH during a four-year period between March 2019 to March 2023 for a total of \$231,00.00.

Three proposals have been developed and will be submitted in July. These proposals will provide an opportunity to carry out the following programs:

1. Community-Engaged Oral History and International Women’s Day (In partnership with Museum of Immigration)
2. Culture and Community Family Pizza Party
3. Educational Forum
4. Celebrating Girls – IDG
5. Art and Storytelling for im/migrant mothers and children.

Projects and Programs

International Day of The Girl:

2019 marked the third year that IMWAH commemorates the International Day of the Girl. This commemoration brought together women, mothers, girl children and youth to celebrate, learn and promote the empowerment and fulfillment of their human rights. This year the UN focus was on the importance of education to attain skills for employability. The event was held on November 10, 2018. The event opened with the welcoming of a Mi’kmaq artists. It included the participation of Mount Saint Vincent Nancy’s Chair and former Poet Laureate El Jones and Janani Venkat 2017 Discovery Centre Youth Award recipient as our guest speakers. We celebrated the talent of spoken word young artist Danella who did her first spoken word based on the story of Irene Couchie Dupuis, a survivor of the Candain residential schools. We enjoyed cultural dances from Latispanica young girls group and VBeat Dance. Children and adults engaged in a hands-on educational component on the subjects of engineering and chemistry. We also celebrated with light refreshments. We were delighted to welcome approximately 75 participants.

Exchanging Food, Art and Conversation (4 sessions):

This project was implemented between March and April 2019 as a series of five sessions throughout Halifax and Chebucto West. The goal was to provide a space for im/migrant women and their children to overcome social isolation; to learn English Language skills through craft and play; and to explore and become acquainted with the local food products and integrate them to meet their family nutritional needs. This project also provided an opportunity for IMWAH to partner with other community organizations to deliver some of these sessions. Lead by five teams, each made up of two-board members, the sessions took place as follows:

Partners	Geographical Area	Outcomes
Halifax Refugee Clinic Organized by Nancy and Maria Jose	North End Halifax March 29 10 women and their children Artist: Flavia Nasrin Testa	These sessions provided an opportunity for Women to share their stories about health and wellbeing, talk about local food availability, finding food from their home countries at the local stores, and health services available in their area. In some of these sessions two questions guided the discussion: 1) What does health mean to you? 2) What do you do to provide nutritious meals to your family? All sessions included an art activity. For example, in Tantallon participants were guided in a painting session of a still life, where the women and older children followed along, while the younger children played or coloured. Women
Veith House Organized by Valentina and Maria Jose	North End Halifax March 20 30 women and children	
Organized by Joanna and Valentina	Tantallon March 30 10 women and their children attended. Artist:	

Organized by Felicia Eghan and supported by Maria Jose.	West End Halifax April 7 30 women and children participated. Artist: Enas Jawad	also enjoyed food, hot beverages and homemade sweets/cakes, fresh fruit and vegetables. They were provided with printed material like recipes and brochures from Capital Health Community Health. A number of women made arrangements to see each other again and talk about strategies to find their ethnic food in the Halifax area.
50/50 Organized by: Nadira and Madhurima, supported by Maria Jose y Nancy	Spryfield April 14	

Community Involvement

This year the association was represented at the National Metropolis Conference and at the YMCA International Development (IDW) Week Breakfast. Maria Jose Yax-Fraser Chair of the association presented a poster of the project *Mosaic: Identity and Community Connection* during the National Metropolis Conference held in Halifax in March 2019. She also took part in a panel presentation during the Together for Gender Equality Breakfast held by the YCMC on February 2019 during IDW. She was invited to reflect on IMWAH as an organization that promotes gender equality in the community.

Current and Future Projects and Events

This year the Board is working with an overall theme for IMWAH's project and events: ***Advancing Diversity, inclusion and creativity with im/migrant women and girls***. This holistic project will aid our organization to meet its mandate to facilitate the integration and inclusion of immigrant women and girls into our community through programs and events. It features **five activities**

1. Community-Engaged Oral History and International Women's Day (In partnership with Museum of Immigration)
2. Culture and Community Family Pizza Party
3. Educational Forum
4. Celebrating Girls - IDG
5. Art and Storytelling for im/migrant mothers and children.

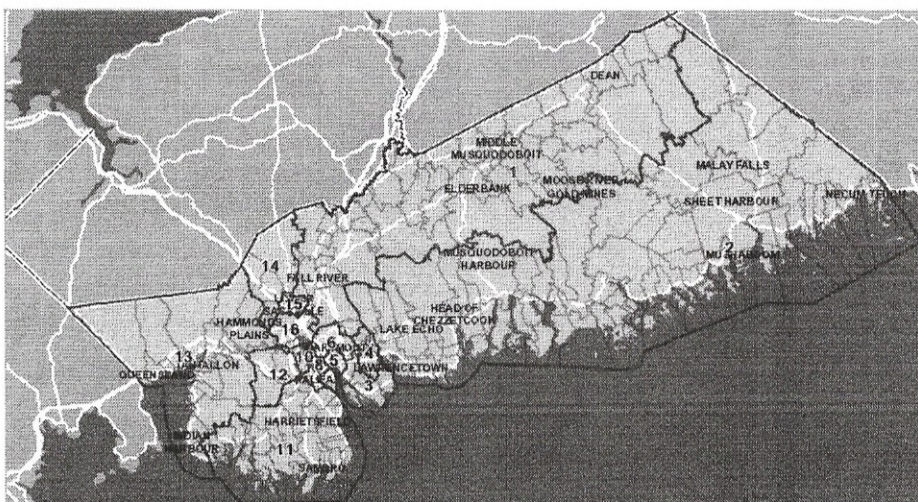
Added to these programs is the Board Capacity project ***Igniting, Expanding and Sustaining IMWAH- its Board Performance and Gender + Community Performance*** outlined above. As part of this project IMWAH's Webpage will be developed. This Webpage has been on the works for some time but will be further developed and implemented through the funding received from the Department for Women and Gender Equality.

Membership

The Board of Directors encourages IMWAH members to join the Board in organizing the various projects and events and to participate in the following subcommittees. Members can support the organization to keep the momentum going on the good work we are doing and bring new ideas for future projects.

- Funding committee
- Social Events
- Art Committee

Members of the organization are immigrant and migrant women and girls and second-generation young women and girls who reside in the Halifax Regional Municipality. However, any im/migrant woman and girl in Nova Scotia can participate in IMWAH's events and programs.



Facebook Page

Our membership has increased as a result of our programming. This year the Board migrated IMWAH's Facebook page to a Community Open Space Group with a membership number of 395 members. This space is for members and collaborators to post relevant information for members.

A connected IMWAH page was created for official information from the Association's Board. It has 125 followers so far. Please spread the word!

Acknowledgement of Funding Support

IMWAH, is grateful for the financial support of \$500.00 received from the Nova Scotia Status of Women to host our AGM this year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019
 April/1/ 2018 - March/31/2019

INCOME	CASH	IN-KIND	COMMENTS
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE APRIL 1, 2018	5 155,72		
Funds carried over from 2016/2017 (before a year long transition period)			\$2,000 from Chebucto West adn Halifax Cummunity Health Board for 5 sessions of Sharing Food Art and Conversation
			\$3,155.72 CCH funding for Mosaic: Identity Community Connection - delivery of the project still pending
GRANTS			
Advisory Council on the Status of Women	500,00		Funding for IDG celebration event
Immigration Canada	1600,00		Funding for IDG celebration event
Status of Women Canada	57750,00		4 year project with a total fund of \$231,000 CAD. Board Development and Capacity Building
DONATIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS			
	31,00		registrsration cost donated by the new board members
	40,00		room rental for the first board meeting
		1000,00	events' administration and execution
		250,00	poster and board announcements design
TOTAL INCOME	65 036,72	1 250,00	
EXPENDITURE			
IDG Event cost	2099,31		
Sharing Art Food and Conversation cost	1146,52		3 sessions of 5 delivered within 2018/2019 fiscal year
Bank Account Charges	60,00		\$3.75/ month and \$1.5/ transfer
Admin Expenses	1046,18		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4352,01		
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018/2019	60684,71		ACCOUNT BALANCE FOR MARCH 31, 2019