

PRESS RELEASE



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LANGLEY'S INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL KICKS OFF AT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

LANGLEY, BC – Building on the success of last year's inaugural community event, Langley's International Festival (LIF) will be back for a second year August 23, 2008 to ensure that multiculturalism has both a voice and a venue in Langley. Shar Dubas, Coordinator, and a handful of Board Members have formed the LIF Association, a non-profit society with a mission to eliminate racism and promote cultural awareness in Langley and neighboring communities.

To kick off this year's event, LIF has collaborated with community partners to bring the first International Women's Day Celebration to Langley, open to everyone. The event takes place on March 8, 2008, from 1-4 p.m. at Kwantlen University College Theatre, 20901 Langley ByPass. The partners include: Intercultural Network, the Manners Club, Trinity Western University, Langley School District, Kwantlen University College, Langley Arts Council (Group Member), Langley Community Service Society, and Focus on the Family.

Those attending the event will experience a tapestry of cultures including an intercontinental fashion show by JLM Modeling Agency, inspirational speakers, international performing artists such as Mexico Vivo and Tango Ala Portel, followed by light refreshments provided by Starbucks and (Lois's Catering). Dubas says the unique event will promote diversity and inspire unity by recognizing women from around the world despite race, age, status or ability. "This event gives the community a chance to come together to share their experiences and acknowledge women's achievements from all backgrounds and nationalities.

“There has been tremendous support in Langley for the creation of this event. While LIF spearheaded the celebration; it was easy to gather a group of partners who felt the event was long-overdue. Coming together with these community players has given us the ability to heighten cultural awareness and embrace women from all nations.

(ENTER PARTNERS QUOTES HERE)

“It has always been LIF’s mission to encourage respect and maintain our cultural heritage. Our newly formed LIF Society Board members were carefully selected based on their commitment to uphold this mission within the Langley community. The Board consists of seven local professional women from various nationalities who include:

Shar. . . Dubas – Executive Director representing France and Metis
Lois McCann – Assistant Executive Director representing – Ireland
Cleci Blauth – Secretary – representing Brazil
Lori Mallard – Treasurer – representing – Italy
Brenda Sleva – Media Relations – representing – Ukrainian
Sonya Paterson – Media Relations Assistant – representing - Germany
Susan Friesen – Website Developer – representing – Poland
Annette Blenkarn – (get nationality)

The LIF Association has also formed a working committee from different cultures within the region. If interested, check the website:
www.internationalfestival.ca or call 604-530-4661.

“LIF is more than a one-day event. The International Women’s Day Celebration is one of a series of collaborative events that we have planned for this year to encourage cultural awareness on an ongoing basis. Our overall objective is to help people to discover the richness in our diversity and learn to work and live together in harmony in our community -- to inspire peace, unity and respect for all cultures. Regardless of our gender or cultural backgrounds, we are all one people.”