

The 'Building Welcoming and Inclusive Neighbourhoods' (BWIN) project is a three year initiative supported under WelcomeBC, a provincial program that unites B.C.'s settlement and integration services and programs under one umbrella. It explores the role of Neighbourhood Houses as leaders in building community capacity by encouraging inclusion and celebrating B.C.'s cultural diversity.

Over the term of the project a consortium of neighbourhood houses serving different communities in the Lower Mainland will assist and support individuals and families to develop community networks, increase personal and educational skills and help people obtain information to improve their health and well-being. It will identify and remove barriers to participation and help communities to learn more about what it takes for neighbourhoods to be inclusive and welcoming, addressing racism in creative ways by building on existing community services.

"We're delighted to be a part of this project," said Association of Neighbourhood Houses executive director Mamie Hutt-Temoana. "The greatest benefit of the project is it will provide a basis for building fair, sustainable and prosperous communities. It will help ensure neighbourhoods are places where social inclusion is a fundamental guiding principle, diversity is appreciated and grassroots leadership is strengthened because participation is the key to community life."

**MISSION:** To facilitate and support full participation of all residents in our community in the social, cultural and economic life of the neighbourhood without discrimination.

**VISION:** A community integration process that drives changes in service provision, social relations and community dynamics.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES & VALUES:** To build a socially just neighbourhood that embodies the values of inclusiveness, equality, empowerment, leadership, engagement, responsibility and innovation.

**OUTCOMES:**

Our neighbourhood welcomes newcomers, immigrants, visible and invisible minorities in all aspects of neighbourhood life.

Our organization reflects the cultural fabric of our neighbourhood in participation, leadership, policies and direction.

Neighbourhood residents play an active role in fostering welcoming environments, policies and institutions.

Immigrants and minorities play a leadership role in all aspects of our community.

In the last year, Crescent Beach Community Services has begun the process with Asset Building, 40 developmental assets that involve the whole community in ensuring that every child acquires the life building blocks they need to help them grow to happy, responsible, respectful adulthood; a hugely successful intergenerational project that used theatre to build bridges between young and old, challenging stereotypes; and Moms and Tots Learning Together, a program for Punjabi speaking moms and children located at the Strawberry Hill Library. We will expand and build on this locally to engage the whole family in our programs and services. School based activities involving young people from a wide range of backgrounds will also help to connect significant visible and

invisible minorities within the community that are not currently engaged.

For more information on Building Welcoming and Inclusive Neighbourhoods go to [www. WelcomeBC.ca](http://www.WelcomeBC.ca)