

Issued: Monday, October 24 2011



**Multicultural Coalition**  
**For Equity in Health and Well Being**  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Community animators to receive president's award**

The President of Edmonton Multicultural Coalition, Tessie Oliva, will reward community animators on Saturday October 29 2011 during this year's Annual general meeting. Community animation is a unique program that has radically transformed the way information is channelled to immigrant and ethnic minorities in Edmonton. Animators use their special talents and skills to mobilise members of their communities to participate in Edmonton's civic, economic and political life. The program which has been running for the last two years has played a crucial role in reaching ethnic and migrant communities with key messages about health, education, jobs and civic duties like elections. This Saturday, animators will receive special awards from the President of Edmonton's Multicultural Coalition in celebration of their unique style of broadcasting messages about vital aspects of life in Canada.

Besides animators, the Coalition's core program, All Together Now, an intercultural and inter-sectoral initiative, brings together members and leaders from ethno-cultural communities to participate meaningfully in the economic and civic life of their neighborhoods and communities. The City of Edmonton and Family and Community Social Services (FCSS) are partners in this program.

The Coalition is running three major projects - Ubuntu, Injera and capacity building. Ubuntu, derived from a South African concept "UBUNTU" brings together ethno-cultural communities so that they can share their experiences and struggles, learn from one another and apply practical learning experiences.

The Injera Project is a grassroots crime prevention initiative in partnership with Edmonton Police Service, REACH Edmonton and the City of Edmonton that seeks to replace barriers of fear and misunderstanding with relationships based on trust and collaboration. This project is absolutely critical in view of the homicide reports especially in Somali community.

Ethnocultural Organizational Capacity Building Support Project aims to increase organizational capacity of emerging community groups through broad linkages with mainstream institutions, processes and resources including City of Edmonton, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, Edmonton Mennonite Center for New Comers and Action for Healthy Communities.

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The AGM will take place this Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 from 11.00 am to 3.00pm with lunch at 12.00 noon at Central Lions Seniors Association, 11113 – 113 Street, Edmonton, AB T5G 2V1

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS**

The Multicultural Coalition is a not-for-profit society of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Edmonton. We work with community leaders, the voluntary sector and public institutions so that individuals and groups from multicultural communities experience equitable access to resources and opportunities, facilitate integration into their new homeland and improve quality of their lives.

For further information about all programs and projects, contact the Coalition's Coordinator, Dianna Fondo at: [diannafondo@gmail.com](mailto:diannafondo@gmail.com) or telephone: [7807601973](tel:7807601973)

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