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That's a Wrap! Green projects wrap up with community celebration of diversity and eco-films

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA – The Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS), The Community Council and MediaNet are hosting an event celebrating diversity and eco-films on March 3rd, 2010 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at Hermann's Jazz Club. This community event will highlight the *Green is for Everyone* Diversity Training Project as well as the "Trailer Trashed" Eco-Film Training Project that have brought together VIRCS' newcomer clients, volunteers and, local environmental organizations.

With over 250,000 newcomers arriving in Canada each year, the Multicultural Environmental Education Program (MEEP) at VIRCS is changing the way environmental education is done in BC. MEEP exists to support newcomers and the multicultural community in making green lifestyle choices. MEEP uses creative strategies, such as media and community partnerships, to engage newcomers and community groups as Victoria's population becomes increasingly diverse. "In a time of funding shortages for many non-profit organizations, it is important that everyone works together to keep up the momentum for environmental action – our partnerships with The Community Council and MediaNet have allowed us to bring together different strengths and offer services we wouldn't have been able to do on our own." says Program Coordinator Gagan Leekha.

The *Green is for Everyone* Diversity Training is a unique initiative funded by the Ministry of Attorney General, Settlement and Multiculturalism Division. In partnership with The Community Council, MEEP has have been working with five local environmental groups (Habitat Acquisition Trust, Sierra Club BC, Victoria Car Share Co-op, Compost Education Centre, and Dogwood Initiative) to highlight concrete way to make their organizations more welcoming and inclusive. The other project, "Trailer Trashed" Film Training, was developed in partnership with MediaNet, who provided training and equipment for participants to create a film about reducing the use of disposable cups. The short films were created for the "Trailer Trashed" film competition hosted by the Recycling Council of BC and will be screened for the first time at Wednesday's event.

That's a Wrap! A Celebration of Diversity and Eco-Films will be held on March 3, 2010 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at Hermann's Jazz Club on 753 View St. Media welcome.

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The Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 by three former refugees. Our mission is to assist in the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees into Canadian society. Our multicultural staff served 3,000 immigrants, refugees, new Canadian citizens, and visible minorities from all over the world in 2009.



The Community Council is an independent community-based organization that brings the community together to create a sustainable quality of life for everyone. They support collaborative partnerships, conduct community-based research and produce communication and educational materials for the general public, community organizations, leaders and policy makers in the BC Capital Region.



MediaNet was founded in 1981 to promote creative collaboration and mutual support among independent media producers, through networking and the provision of a resource pool of information, contacts, equipment and skills. We are committed to encouraging artists from diverse cultural communities, First Nations and other under-served groups to use our services and to ensuring that we facilitate voices from a variety of perspectives.