

**Upcoming  
Family and Be  
Friends group  
social:**

**Indonesian  
Shadow Puppetry  
Workshop!!**

*Have you ever seen shadow puppetry?* Then this is the best opportunity for you and your kids to experience it for the first time!!

Busy Island Gamelan music group led by one of VIRCS' clients!

When: Sunday Sept 19, 11am-2pm

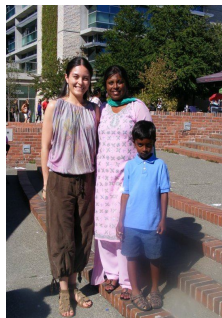
We will meet at VIRCS at 10:30am, head to the workshop location (140 Oswego St) by bus.

**Next Be Friends  
Group Social:  
Indian Cuisine  
demo!**

One of VIRCS' staff, Marian Britto, will show the Be Friends group

how to prepare samosas, pakoras/baji, and taste these delicious Indian dishes!

Date: Oct (tbd).



**Cultural Bridging  
Friends Program  
Sept 2010 newsletter**

**News from the Be  
Friends Group:**

**Our guided tour of  
the Parliament  
Buildings was a  
success!!**

A group of 13 Be Friends met on Saturday, Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, to visit the BC Parliament Buildings!!

The group walked around chambers of the buildings, while listening to the tour guide explain the meaning of the emblems, paintings, heritage stained glass windows and colonial-era central dome. We peeked into the red-carpeted chamber, where the Parliament debates take place.

Photos: In front of Parliament Buildings, and indoors, under central dome.



**Two Be Friends' testimonials about the visit:**

*"My husband, Jon and I loved this Parliament tour! The buildings look grand. The canoe exhibiting in the main hall is beautiful. And the explanation about the history behind the color glass windows, which depict BC emblems, was very interesting."* ~ Sheri, from China.

*"Amy (my buddy) and I were really impressed with the Parliament Buildings visit. I learned more about Canada and I will tell my friends what I learned. Amy was amazed to learn that half the world's jade comes from BC!"*

~ Anita, from Taiwan.

## Next Be Friends Workshop: Chinatown heritage tour

On Wed, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, we will walk around and explore Canada's oldest Chinatown!!



Our walk starts off in market square, continues on to Fan Tan Alley, Fisgard Street, passing through Government Street, and ends at the "Gate of Harmonious Interest". Meet at VIRCS at 3pm.

**Find out about other great services for immigrants and refugees offered at VIRCS:**

**Employment, Settlement, Skills Connect, Youth Programs, ESL, and more.**

**Do you want to help VIRCS? Become a member. We need your support.**

**Call us at 250 361-9433, or visit our website, [www.vircs.bc.ca](http://www.vircs.bc.ca) for more information.**

## Latest Family Friends Workshop: Tenants' Rights and Responsibilities in BC

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, two representatives from the BC Tenancy Branch and one from Ready to Rent spoke to Family Friends about their rights and responsibilities as tenants in Victoria, key information on how to act in different situations, and answered specific questions on individual cases.



Photo: Family group attending workshop (ESL classroom at VIRCS).

This workshop is a great example of how newcomers that participate in the Friendship Program benefit from attending Settlement-specific workshops held at VIRCS.

## Family Friends' Invite: ICE- SKATING FOR FAMILY FRIENDS GROUP!!!



**We have 25 free tickets for newcomer families to go skating with their children on Halloween!!**

Place: Save on Foods Memorial

Date: Sunday, Oct 31st (tbd by Arena)

**To reserve your spot,** Contact Francina Potes by phone, at 250 361-9433, ext 242, or email: [francina@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:francina@vircs.bc.ca). Visit our program website: [www.vircs.bc.ca/host.php](http://www.vircs.bc.ca/host.php)

*Are you looking for an interesting volunteer opportunity? Want to make new friends while helping someone who is new to Canada adapt to Victoria?*

*The Family Friends' Program needs you!*

To find out how to volunteer, contact us for more details.

Join our group on Facebook!

Group name: VIRCS Cultural Bridging Friends Program.