

## **ICM Special General Meeting Report;**

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Winnipeg at Fort Garry Church**

The Iranian Community of Manitoba held its Special General Meeting On Sunday December 12, 2010 at The Fort Garry Church on Pembina Highway. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M. There were 26 individuals present including four ICM Board Members.

Mr. Kermani welcomed ICM members and everyone present, and he thanked them for the opportunity given to the Second ICM Board of Directors to serve until 2012. Mr. Kermani gave a report of ICM's activities in the past few months. He indicated that this Board's focus centers on the quality of the work being done rather than quantity. In this way, the Board has asked the individuals with expertise in different fields to join the ICM Committees and work towards more qualitative work. **(See Report Attached)**

After Mr. Kermani's report, the Chair of the Committees gave a brief progress report.

Since Mr. Kamrouz was absent, Mrs. Shooshtari gave a report on the progress of Persian Language Committee, PLC. She indicated that PLC started its work in March 2008 and it has gained a lot of momentum since it was formed. PLC Committee members, as well as the students and parents, are happy with the new location of the Persian classes, which is Kelvin High School. She pointed out that in order to expand the programs and do more qualitative work, more volunteers are always needed.

Mr. Kermani reported for the Events Committee. He referred to the success of the events held to date, including Summer Picnic and Mehregan Celebration. He announced the upcoming events, Yalda Night and Nowruz, and he expressed his hope for the presence of many Iranians in these events.

Mr. Kermani also reported on the, Art, Culture and Education (ACE) Committee's work done thus far. He discussed the two branches of this Committee's activities, which include Seminars and Art and Cultural events. The Seminars are designed to be informative for the general Iranian population. This Committee also promotes Iranian culture by hosting cultural events.

Mr. Saleh-Azad reported on the progress of Settlement Committee. He indicated that this Committee was formed in July 2010. The major goal of this Committee is to facilitate the settlement of Iranian new comers in collaboration with other governing agencies. The objectives of this Committee are set to include giving information about the important aspects of life in Manitoba to new comers. In addition, this Committee will have a referral role to direct the individuals to other governing agencies, and it will not act an agent providing direct services due to the limitations of its scope of resources. For the year 2011, the Settlement Committee

will work on making an information booklet that would include the necessary primary information, such as housing, banking and health care for new Iranians coming to Manitoba.

Mr. Azizkhani reported on the Sports Committee. He said the Committee is into its second year of activities. Due to higher demand to play soccer, this sport has been selected for the time being. However, the Committee is open to start offering other sports, if enough individuals are interested to participate. He also expressed his hope for more Iranians to join both the Committee and its activities.

Mr. Azizkhani also presented the financial report for ICM from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The revenue made is \$942.73 for this time period, and he pointed out that \$6800.00 was carried over from the first Board to the second Board of ICM.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

**We are the pioneers  
We have planted the seeds and prepared the soil  
for ourselves and our future generations**

Dear ICM members,

On behalf of ICM Board of Directors, I am so thankful for the opportunity you've given us to serve our community. I'd like to report on our activities and growth since June 2010. We started by maintaining existing ICM activities such as summer picnic, Yalda, Nowruz, Persian language classes and Sports program. With the help of our talented hard-working volunteers, we have exceeded these responsibilities and have expanded to create a few new programs. Alongside our increased memberships, new programs have been added such as Mehregan event, Award program, seminars, Iran Art & Culture Night, as well as correspondence with various levels of government and other non-profit organizations. Our success in doing all these things is due to our dedicated support groups and amazing volunteers.

Here is a summary of our activities for the past six months

1. Based on the envisioned goals, the ICM Board of Directors started with six members and after few weeks, a seventh member joined the board. Currently ICM Board of Directors consists of five members: Mr. Kermani, Mr. Saleh-Azad, Mr. Azizkhani, Mr. Kamrouz, and Mr. Doustshenas. There are currently openings for two more positions.
2. Board positions were assigned and tasks were started with great enthusiasm
3. During the first few meeting we agreed to divide the responsibilities and avoid getting caught up in small details, so we could properly manage our duties.
4. In order to be more transparent, we added more detail to our meeting minutes and there was a motion passed to allow each ICM members to participate in Board meetings up to two times a year if they requested that in person.
5. In order to improve communication with members of ICM, the Board established a phone number and a physical address.

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6. One of our major goals from this term was House of Iran. We've been looking for a single suitable place to centralize all the programs to better use our resources.
7. We focused on existing programs and events to make sure they got the immediate attention necessary, but based on what we felt was possible we decided to start up a few new programs and expand ICM activities.
8. The existing committees were PLC, Sport and Event, which were in charge of Persian School, Sport activities and celebrating events such as Yalda, Nowruz, and summer picnic.
9. The Board decided to increase ICM committees and start creating sub-committees to better provide services and professionalism. We also start hosting Mehregan celebration for the first time in Winnipeg.
10. The new committees are Settlement (providing essential information for newcomers), ACE (Arts & Culture and Science) which has its own sub-committees totalling over 20 volunteers. They were responsible for these two successful events, 1) Science seminar and 2) Iran Night of Art and Culture. These sub-committees will continue to provide ICM with their expertise and professional programs.

11. One of ICM's success stories was the move to have Winnipeg School Division #1 recognize our Center for Persian Language. We operate every Saturday at Kelvin High school, providing Persian language classes to young people.
12. We approached the City of Winnipeg and Provincial Government to recognize Nowruz as the Iranian spring celebration. We have also kept in touch with the Department of Multiculturalism and received a grant application.
13. Cooperation with other non-profit organizations is also very important to ICM. For the first time, we endeavoured a cooperation program with Winnipeg Harvest food bank. Through our member's involvements and generosity, Winnipeg Harvest collected over 500 pounds of non-perishable items and \$45.00 in cash donations.
14. ICM Board of Directors started an award program. This program recognizes Iranian people who have contributed to their community and Canadian society. In order to engage our community, we have opened this up for community members to nominate an individual for our next year's award.
15. With the help of ICM constitution, we have been guarded from negative outside pressures. The ICM Board of Directors is accountable and responsible to protect and uphold this constitution. Any agendas that aim to tarnish our image as a non-political, non-religious, community-based organization have been dispelled and dealt with.
16. Last but not the least we overhaul our website, As you will find out by visiting [our new website](#), we have worked hard to deliver ICM's latest news and announcements to you, whether it will be an event and celebration, or learning about current exchange rates, Iranian owned businesses under yellow pages button, or just read the Board meeting minutes provided. We have done our best to make the new site as user friendly as possible.

All said and told, ICM and its' committees have participated in over 80 official and unofficial meetings in order to make the best decisions for the organization and the community. I'm also very pleased to report that we have over 50 volunteers actively involved in our organization. Based on their combined effort, they invest roughly 1000 hours per month in this organization. We're inviting you be a part of this magnificent team and experience the rewards of this growing momentum. Thank you for given us the courage and opportunity to continue building this organization. Please remember that we still need two more Directors to get back to being fully functionality. You could be the one to take on that responsibility!

It's my honour and privilege to be ICM Chairperson, and on behalf of ICM I thank you for your continued interest and support with a special word of thanks to our volunteers for their involvement.

Mohsen Kermani

ICM Chairperson