Sharing Information, Improving Lives

BENGALI INFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

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ABOUT US

BIES vision is a Toronto where everybody lives with dignity and prosperity

BIES' mission is to promote people's well-being by providing them with appropriate information, tools and techniques to navigate through community resources and opportunities, know-how and the courage they need.

OBJECTIVES

- promoting the best interests of the Bengali community generally;
- developing and fostering community spirit;
- establishing educational, informational, recreational and employment programs for the benefit of the community;
- fostering the establishment of adult educational, arts, civic education, social services and other community endeavors;

BIES

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Bengali Information and Employment Services (BIES) is a non-profit organization that provides support to those in need of employment, settlement or other informational and counselling services.
Established in 2011, a group of newcomers with a passion to contribute in a new country created a community-based platform to help each other. At BIES we promote the best interests of the community, develop and foster community spirit, establish educational, informational, recreational and employment programs for the benefit of the community Foster the establishment of education, arts, civics education, social services and other community endeavors.

MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIR

Bengali Information and Employment Services (BIES) envision a community where everybody is successful and thrive. In achieving this vision, BIES will be educating, connecting, and engaging community with resources they need to prosper and thrive.

Bengali speaking community in Toronto is getting larger day by day and their needs have been increased and diversified. Every year, thousands of newcomers are settling in Ontario and choosing Toronto as their new homes. Bengali speaking families from Bangladesh, India and across the world are coming to Canada with great potentials, higher skills, education and hopes for better lives and to make Canada a great country and peaceful home. The needs of Bengali speaking community living in Toronto and neighbouring cities are unique in nature that demand unique strategies and programs to address. They need culturally appropriate services and programs to make their settlement smoother and easier. Bengali Information and Employment Services (BIES) have been tirelessly working to support this community in Greater Toronto Area in culturally appropriate and innovative ways.

BIES being established in December, 2011, has been providing services and programs to address community needs in the areas of settlement, employment, health education for seniors, youth and children. BIES believes that overall wellness and development of a community depend upon the real empowerment, collaboration, resources and leadership. BIES is here to empower the community by raising their voices through education and engagement.

BIES has already proven itself as a community voice and leader in supporting those who are in needs of job, have no Canadian experiences, new to Canada and youth in getting job and employment. In doing so, BIES, has been able to engage enthusiastic community people, business agencies and different tiers of governments who have been supporting BIES in different capacity.

BIES is going to organize its 8th Annual General Meeting in September1st, 2018. On this very day, we are extending our gratefulness to our volunteers, members, board of directors, advisors, governments, partners and individual donors and supporter who have contributed to achieve our mission and vision. On behalf of Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of you who were with BIES for the last year.

Sincerely,
Golam Mostafa

MESSAGES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been anther wonderful year for The Bengali Information and Employment Services (BIES). In 2017/18 BIES truly demonstrated the capacity to respond to emerging community needs. We have helped over thousands service users through different projects.

I have had the privilege of being associated with the BIES since its inception as president. From 2016 I am working as an Honorary Executive Director. I cannot express how it has enriched my life. I strongly believe that volunteering has given me far more in return than I have provided in giving my time. Since the inception of BIES, much of the work done by our volunteers who dedicated themselves to ensuring that programs and services are done according to peoples need. We have only one part-time staff during the fiscal year. Volunteers are still an integral part of what we do.
Thanks to our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, members and partners continue to provide caring, and committed services to all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Imam Uddin
Executive Director

TRESURER' & GENERAL SECRETARY's MESSAGE

We are delighted that we are going to organize BIES's 8th Annual General Meeting on Sepetember1st, 2018 for the year ended 31st March, 2018. The year was robust and extraordinary for BIES in its history. BIES is growing with assistance of our community, volunteer and partners. Last year, BIES implemented five small but full projects and supported a good number of community people including seniors, children, families, women, youth and newcomers. The main program were Chronic Disease Management for Seniors funded by WOODGREEN Community Services, Multicultural Community Grant Program funded by Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. Apart from these programs, BIES provided employment and job connection supports to those who were in need of jobs and career advice.

In implementing all the programs and services, staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to reach the target objectives. Members of the Board of Directors have also contributed their time and efforts to make all the programs successful.

I would like to give whole-hearted thanks to all our staff, volunteers, general members, board members, partners, and representatives of different tiers of government agencies to support BIES and its programs. Together we can make a healthy community in Toronto and achieve our vision and mission easily.

Sincerely,

Dilruba Khanam
Treasurer and General Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS: PROGRAM & SERVICES

THE BIES's dedicated staff and volunteers helped **1035** service users this year.
Bengali Canadian Seniors Making Healthy Community in Toronto project achieved its intended results to its full capacity. During the project time **235** people have attended the workshops and more than 356 were benefited directly and thousands indirectly including seniors though out the project time. The project was funded by Service Canada.

Outreach to Diverse Seniors – Growth & Activation project partnered with WoodGreen Community Services and has successfully conducted six workhops. More than **200** hundreds seniors have attended. They have provided culturally and linguistically accessible services to improve their health and their access to health care services.

To help newcomers and promote diversity and inclusion in Toronto BIES organized series of job search workshops through Multicultural Community Capacity Grant Program of Ontario Government. More than **300** participants attended and gained skills and knowledge about job search process.

Improved healthy behaviours among children related to healthy eating and physical activity and reduced childhood obesity and overweight we have partnered with Boys and Girls Club. Through the Ontario's Healthy Kids Community Challenge project we have reached **250** children and their parents to educate healthy eating.

Around **50** children have participated BIES annual Art Completion celebrating International Mother Language Day.

FINANCIAL

Bengali Information and Employment Services (BIES)
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
For the Year Ended on 31st March, 2018

Revenue

Sources	**2018**	**2017**
Federal Government Grants	3,600.00	24,303.00
Ontario Government Grants	6,080.00	-
Grant from other NGO/Foundation	14,569.00	900.00
BIES's Members Contribution	160.00	1094.00
Individual Donation	210.00	442.00
Federal Government Grants balance forwarded from the previous year (Note.2)	19,880.00	-
In kind contribution(Note: 1)	7,800.00	13,101.00
Grand Total=	**52,299.00**	**39,840.00**

Expenditure

Category	**2018**	**2017**
Salary & Benefits	26,240.00	2,842.00
Program & Services	18,870.00	13,357.00
Administration (Rent, Equipment, supplies etc.)	6,460.00	3,761.00
Grant Total=	**51,570.00**	**19,960.00**
Excess (Deficiency) over expenditure for the period	**729.00**	**19,880.00**

Note1. Members of the Board of Directors contributed their time in carrying out the programs and services of BIES apart from their directors' role and their time was translated into dollar value.

Note.2: The amount was received from the federal government on the 31st March, 2017 for a project for the duration of April1, 2017 to March31st 2018. So this amount was showed as a balance from previous year.

Imam Uddin
Executive Director

Dilruba Khanam
Treasurer

Golam Mostafa
Chairperson

OUR SERVICES AT A GLANCE

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT
Résumé & Cover Letter Writing Assistance
Workshop on Job Search Technique
One-on-Career Counselling
Job Development Support
Supporting Employers in Hiring

NEWCOMERS PROGRAM
Employment Information
Workshop for Newcomer
Settlement Assistance

SENIORS PROGRAM
Health Promotion Workshop
Digital Literacy
Health and wellness activities

WOMEN PROGRAM
Referral Service
Mentorship

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM
Art competition
Photography Competition
Volunteer Services

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Volunteer Opportunities for youth,
Student Placement Opportunity

FUNDERS

BENGALI INFORMATION & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (BIES)
2897 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, ON M4C 1M3
Phone: 647.945.8448, Email: info@bies-canada.org

www.bies-canada.org

FEEDBACKS FROM SERVICE USERS

"Upon first moving to Toronto from Dhaka I was stressed about gaining employment - I had little knowledge of the local job market. After meeting with Mr. Imam of BIES, I was set up with some solid leads and he coached me through the application and interview process, finally culminated with the attainment of a job that I was interested in and one that offered me a career path in a field that I care about! Great help for the community. "

Md. Rashid, Newcomer

"The Bengali Information & Employment Services is truly an amazing resource for those looking for work. They offer mock interviews, counselling and more importantly they provide constant support throughout the job search. I would like to thank the people for all their help and specifically Mr. Imam for his unwavering support and motivating me through the job search. I would highly recommend!"

Abu Zafor, Job Seeker

"BIES officials were very professional, very resourceful, and respond right away. They'll connect you with good quality employment and training within good time."

Aminul Islam, Accountant

"BIES is a great place to go to if you need any help. I have received important career guidance which helped me a lot."

Arpana Roy, Job Seeker

"I'd like to thank all at the BIES, especially Mostafa and Imam. Every person may experience a little different employment process just like any other normal process. I knew what I wanted to do and I was steadfast about it, also I knew my strengths and my weaknesses. Might be a bit unclear at first but it will be worth it, stay motivated and humbled! Thank you BIES you help change/improve many people's lives, keep up the great work!"

Ikram Hossain, Senior

GET INVOLVED

Get Involved with Bengali Information & Employment Services (BIES)

MEMBERSHIP

Our members are the foundation of BIES. We always welcome individuals to be come members and to carry out BIES's mission and objectives. All memberships are subject to approval by the Board of Directors. There are four types of mebe-ships; Individual, Organization, Corporate, Clients/Volunteers Membership. If you are interested in volunteering with BIES, please contact us. Membership forms can be downloaded from BIES's website .

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Volunteers make an incredible difference in our ability to provide effective services to the community and our clients. We are grateful to each individual who devotes his or her time and talents to ameliorate services in the works of BIES.
For interested volunteers, we will set up an interview day in order to discuss and identify their skills, areas of interest and their ability to handle different tasks. Once selected, we provide them with an orientation about our services and mandate. We try to ensure that all of our volunteers gain work experience in their field that inter ests them. If you are interested in volunteering with BIES, please contact us. Volun teers application forms can be downloaded from BIE$'s website.

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