

## Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program (CSMARI)

### Final Activity Report – Events Component

This final report is an important step in completing your project funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage. In addition to sharing your achievements and challenges with us, and engaging in a useful self-assessment exercise, it will also fulfill your obligation to the Department. We will use the information to:

- evaluate the outcomes of funded projects; and
- monitor the effectiveness and impact of the program.

Submitting a final report is also *a condition for receiving future financial assistance from the Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program*. **You must submit a final report within 60 days of completing your project.**

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Guidelines for the Completion of your Final Report:

- Re-read your original funding application before you prepare your final report. Your responses should reflect the extent to which you exceeded, met, or fell short of the objectives originally articulated in your application.
- **Please complete all sections of this document.** Where precise numbers are not available please estimate to the best of your ability. Where a response is not applicable, mark “N/A”.
- We encourage you to discuss your challenges as well as your successes. Lessons learned are also valuable.
- Once you have completed your report, please submit a signed copy of your report by email to your Program Advisor or to one of the following email addresses depending on where your organization is located:
  - **Ontario:** [csmariontario-scmlcrontario@pch.gc.ca](mailto:csmariontario-scmlcrontario@pch.gc.ca)
  - **Quebec:** [scmlcrregionduquebec-csmariquebecregion@pch.gc.ca](mailto:scmlcrregionduquebec-csmariquebecregion@pch.gc.ca)
  - **Atlantic:** [multiatl-atlmulti@pch.gc.ca](mailto:multiatl-atlmulti@pch.gc.ca)
  - **Prairies and Northern Region:** [rpn-pnr@pch.gc.ca](mailto:rpn-pnr@pch.gc.ca)
  - **West:** [multiwest-multiouest@pch.gc.ca](mailto:multiwest-multiouest@pch.gc.ca)

If you have any questions regarding the completion of this report and the additional documents required, please contact the Program Advisor responsible for your file.

## A. Recipient Information

**Name of your organization:**

Nepalese Community Society of Calgary (NCSC)

**Project Contact name**

First name

Gopal

Last name

Bhatta

Title

Board of Advisor, NCSC

Telephone number

( 403 ) 926- 8882

Alternate telephone number (optional)

( )

E-mail address [manager@nepalisociety.ca](mailto:manager@nepalisociety.ca)

## B. Event Information

**Name of Event:**

Multicultural Showcasing and Workshops (MSW) – Nepali *Mela*

Event start date: YYYY-MM-DD: 2023-06-01

Event end date: YYYY-MM-DD: 2023-07-31

Event location(s) (city, province): Calgary, AB

Project/Event Web Page and Social media pages (Facebook, Twitter etc.) (if applicable):

<https://ncsccalgary.com/nepali-mela>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093151009264>

<https://www.facebook.com/nepaliradiocalgary>

<https://www.facebook.com/100093151009264/videos/597034045818300>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=zY7FZSfRjFw>

More links could be found in the supporting document attached to the email.

## C. Events Activities

### Activities

*List and describe your completed event's activities including dates, location, number of participants. Explain how your event activities helped achieved your event expected results.*

**Anti-racism and multiculturalism quizzes:** 210 participants completed the online session and 16 participants competed in physical session and declared anti-racism and multiculturalism ambassadors. Kids and youth from diverse ethnic communities (Nepal, Bhutan, India, Philippines, China, Germany, etc.) attended either or both sessions. These ambassadors have been given an opportunity in the event to further disseminate what they have learned. Visitors and parents also got an opportunity to ask questions relating to anti-racism and multiculturalism to the ambassadors. This activity has enhanced the knowledge of the participants and their parents in anti-racism and multiculturalism in Canada and motivated them to be role model among their peers.

**Multicultural arts and crafts:** A total of 15 anti-racism and multiculturalism arts and crafts sessions have been concluded prior to the event day with 65 participants and 80 parents attending either awareness and/or skill development sessions. Kids and youth from diverse communities in Calgary participated in the awareness and skill development sessions. The first 30 minutes in each session have been dedicated to enhancing the knowledge of kids, youth, and parents in the areas of anti-racism and multiculturalism followed by an hour of session in preparing arts and crafts instructed by experts from diverse ethnic backgrounds including indigenous culture. The best arts and crafts prepared by the kids and youth have been showcased on the day of the event. Engaging experts from diverse communities helped build relations with these communities and opened the avenues for further collaboration.

**Anti-racism and multiculturalism essay:** Nepalese youth (12-18 years) were given an opportunity to partake in an essay competition. A total of 70 youths across Canada participated in the essay competition and the top three best essays were awarded on the day of the event. The top essays were printed on flex paper and posted on the tent dedicated to showcasing kids' and youth arts and crafts and essays. Visitors got an opportunity to read the top essays and ask questions to the winners. This activity broadened the knowledge of the participants and their parents in the areas of anti-racism and multiculturalism and enhanced intergenerational and intercultural learning.

**Multiculturalism and anti-racism awareness interviews through ethnic radio:** Five interviews on ethnic radio were aired before the actual event day. Experts from diverse backgrounds were interviewed and panel discussion was encouraged during interview time. The main goal of these interviews and panel discussions was to enhance the knowledge of the viewers and listeners in anti-racism and multiculturalism and how MSW would further foster multiculturalism in Calgary through its one-day outdoor event. These interviews and discussions were made live on NCSC's Facebook page.

**Multicultural Showcasing and Workshop (MSW) event:** A day of outdoor event was held on July 22, 2023, followed by a volunteer appreciation and consular service program on July 23, 2023. There were 32 cultural performances including live

bands from diverse ethnic communities in Calgary including aboriginal. There were 17 ethnic communities who participated in the event as performers and showcased their arts, heritage, and culture. To facilitate meaningful learning and interaction, a tent was provided to the Aboriginal people and 6 tents to other ethnic communities. There was a sound interaction with all ethnic communities including Aboriginals and visitors learned from each other. The ethnic communities also got a chance to observe the rich Nepalese culture, arts, heritage, and cuisine for the first time in the history of the Nepalese community in Calgary. Over 9000 visitors attended the event and the feedback from some of the visitors and ethnic community was astounding (see the separate attachment). The volunteer appreciation and consular service program was attended by over 1000 volunteers, performers, organizers, and sponsors from diverse ethnic communities in Calgary.

**Has your event changed from what was originally planned (refer to your funding application)?**

Yes  / No

If yes, please explain the main changes that took place and the reasons for the changes.

The event was planned for August 2023. We tried our best to stay on the stated date, but we failed to get the outdoor space (park) on Aug 2023 despite our multiple efforts and requests to the City of Calgary. Initially, the event was planned for two days but due to limited financial resources, we had to organize the outdoor event for one day followed by an indoor volunteer appreciation event.

**D. Event Results**

**1. EVENTS COMPONENT EXPECTED RESULTS**

The Events component provides funding to community-based events that promote intercultural or interfaith understanding, promote discussions on multiculturalism, diversity, racism and religious discrimination, or celebrate a community’s history and culture such as heritage months recognized by Parliament. In providing funding for these types of events the expected results are that participants and communities gain knowledge, develop strategies and take action to:

- increase awareness of Canada’s cultural diversity;
- increase awareness of issues affecting full participation in society and the economy, related to culture, ethnicity and/or religion; and
- increase capacity within communities to address racism and discrimination.

**Events are also expected to address one or more of the following priority themes:**

- work toward the elimination of discrimination, racism and prejudice;
- provide opportunities for youth community engagement and involvement; and
- working together to build awareness and change attitudes.

**1.1 Please tell us how your event helped people gain knowledge or awareness, develop strategies and/or take action to achieve one or more of the results mentioned above and address one or more of the priority themes. More specifically, what changed in terms of your participants’ knowledge, attitudes and/or behaviors after you delivered your activities?**

Providing awareness regarding anti-racism and multiculturalism in arts and craft sessions for the kids, youth, and parents (pre-event sessions) increased their knowledge about anti-racism and multiculturalism and ways to navigate resources if they face racial discrimination. Similarly, engaging kids, youth, and parents in innovative ways of learning and broadening their knowledge horizons on anti-racism and multiculturalism through essay competitions and quizzes had increased awareness of Canada’s cultural diversity and increased capacity within the communities to address racism and discrimination. Quizzes related to multiculturalism and anti-racism encouraged participants to know various cultures, value propositions, festivals, and anti-racism while preparing for the quiz competitions and hence it increased their knowledge and empowered them to be multicultural ambassadors while partaking in quiz competitions. These pre-event activities empowered racialized community members to enhance fundamental knowledge and enabled them to raise their voices against racial discrimination. As a matter of fact, the project increased the community’s capacity to address racism and discrimination. Foundational to this was increasing understanding of anti-racism and building the capacity of the participants to apply this lens in their everyday interactions.

A day festival brought several racialized communities together and the event was opened to the general public where they enjoyed multicultural foods, learned about arts and crafts, and cultures, interacted with different communities, and exchanged their knowledge. The event also provided a common platform to the local businesses, non-profit organizations, and sponsors and they were given an opportunity to interact with racialized community members. The event helped break the past by enhancing understanding of people from other cultures and their cultural differences. The visitors and participating communities got a chance to get to know each other, an opportunity to ask questions, and share the importance of their cultures. Interaction with the indigenous community helped immigrants understand the contribution of indigenous people in Canada, their culture, and reconciliation and increased their respect towards indigenous people and their culture. At the same time, the indigenous community got an opportunity to learn the culture, arts, and crafts of immigrant communities thereby fostering mutual understanding of each other’s cultural norms and values, an essential component for building community relationships and enhancing a sense of belonging within the community. The MSW event also facilitated intercultural and intergenerational learning and interactions.

In summary, both pre-event activities and the outdoor event expanded the horizon of partnership and collaboration with different ethnocultural and indigenous communities in Calgary. The success of the event as demonstrated by the volume of participation and the diversity of activities has also motivated the non-participating communities and people to be part of the event in the future.

**2. PARTICIPANTS / COMMUNITIES**

**2.1 Did your event involve multiple cultural, religious or ethnocultural communities and establish concrete opportunities for positive interaction among them? If the answer is NO, please go to question 2.2 below.**

Yes  / No

If yes, please name the communities that participated in your event activities and explain how they were involved.

Some of the communities that participated in the event and showcased their cultures are below:

American Indian Movement (AIM): Indigenous community (<https://www.aimovement.org/>) was provided a tent space and they were invited on the stage for a joint inauguration of the event together with the organizer. They did land welcoming and smudging. The visitors and other racialized community members were encouraged to interact with the indigenous community and learn from each other. A series of meetings before the event day was held with this community to make sure they feel comfortable being part of the event.

Dashmesh Culture: One of the biggest philanthropic organizations in Calgary, Dashmesh Culture (<https://dashmesh.ca/>) was provided with a tent in which their seniors volunteered in distributing breakfast, water, and juice to the visitors. The visitors interacted with the seniors in the tent and learned about their great spirit of serving benevolently and gained cultural awareness about the Punjabi community. Several meetings with the Dashmesh Culture were held before the event day to discuss how they could help the event and how they could showcase their culture at the event. Dashmesh culture was an active part of the stage show and parade.

Calgary Chinese Cultural Association Orchestra (<https://www.culturalcentre.ca/>): CCCA has a group of seniors engaged voluntarily to showcase their culture and Chinese instruments and music. They were approached before the event day and a group of 15 seniors showcased their instruments and music on the stage. These seniors participated in the parade and interacted with the visitors throughout the day. A strong collaboration with this community has been established.

Bangladesh Canada Association (<https://bcaoc.ca/>): BCA members actively took part in the cultural parade and cultural performance on the stage.

Baitun Nur Mosque (Largest Mosque/Muslim community in Calgary) (<https://baitunnur.org/>): The community generously provided parking space for visitors, organizers, and dignitaries. They were given a tent space from where they provided free water, showcased their culture, and be part of learning from each other. They also participated in the parade. This was the first time working with this community and a strong partnership was achieved.

Maharika Divas Dance Group Philippines (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/231481105327695/>): The group of young ladies from the Philippines participated in the parade, interacted with the visitors, and took part in cultural performance.

Northwest China Community Association (<https://www.nwcca.org/>): A group of Chinese folks from the association took part in the parade and cultural performance on the stage.

Calgary Vietnamese Women's Association (<https://www.facebook.com/hpncalgary/>): A group of Vietnamese women from the association took part in the parade and cultural performance on the stage.

Rhydrum Group (<https://www.rhydrum.com/>): A group of performers from Indian origin showcased their music on the stage.

Calgary Oriental Dress Qipao Association (<https://www.facebook.com/calgaryQipaoyyc/>): This is the Chinese community and they took part in the cultural performance on the stage.

Immigrant Learning Moms and Canadian Zalmi (Afghanistan community) (<https://canadianzalmi.ca/>): These are the Muslim charitable organizations that were provided a separate tent space to showcase their culture and learn from each other. They took part in the parade and cultural performance on the stage. The visitors got to know the unique Muslim culture and exchanged their knowledge and cultural norms with each other.

Yatri Band: A group of youth (Nepal and Bhutan origin) entertained visitors for half an hour through their live band and the group actively took part in the parade.

Franco Festival Calgary (French Speaking community) (<https://www.francofestcalgary.com/en/>): The French Speaking community actively took part in the parade and cultural performance on the stage.

We and the World Centre, Edmonton (<https://www.weandtheworld.ca/home>): A group of performers along with Panche Baja (five musical instruments unique to Nepalese culture) came all the way from Edmonton and actively took part in the parade. One of the unique and most vibrant parts of the parade on the event day was the play of those five musical instruments that attracted the appeal of all the visitors. It has given an extremely nice musical vibe to the entire event.

Newah Society of Calgary (<https://www.newahcalgary.ca/>): An ethnic group with rich culture and heritage, participated actively in the parade, and cultural performance, showcasing cultural items in Mini-Nepal and offering ethnic food in the event.

On top of these organizations showcasing their culture and raising awareness about multiculturalism, there were several non-profit organizations participating in the event. Some of them were the Centre for Newcomers, CIWA, Action Dignity, ILMs, Kerby Centre, Seniors Resource Society, U-Turn, etc. and these organizations provided an opportunity for the visitors to know about their programming and support services.

**2.2 If your event involved one single cultural, religious or ethnocultural community, please specify which community and explain how the participants were involved.**

The event involved multiple ethnocultural and religious communities from Calgary, Edmonton, and Lethbridge.

**2.3 Total number of direct participants:**

*Note:* This refers to participants who attended your event. Attendance requires live presence either in person and/or virtually (if online activities took place).

≅10,000

**2.4 Total reach of your event:**

*Note:* This refers to the number of attendees, number of individuals who accessed tools and resources, social media views related to the event, downloads etc.

≅15,000

**3. LONG-TERM RESULTS**

**3.1 If your event is recurring:**

3.1.1 How many years/times have you delivered your event?  
This is the first time we have organized an event of this magnitude.

3.1.2 What impacts have you noticed on the community(ies) involved over time? For example, have you noticed any changes in terms of attitudes and awareness in your community?  
Our community members were reluctant initially, especially the success and participation of the people from the Nepalese community and other ethnocultural communities in Calgary. Given the success and the volume of participation and diversity in the event, community folks have strong confidence in us as an organizer and they have been raising their voices to give this event continuity.

*(If your event is non-recurring or you are reporting on its first occurrence, please proceed to question #4 below)*

**4. SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

*(Please note that this information will not be used to assess your project but is used to improve the future delivery of this funding program).*

**4.1 What helped make your event a success?**

Funding support from the Government of Canada along with other levels of government plus our sponsors. The event would not have been possible without funding support from the government.  
The mobilization of the volunteers (220) for the security of the rental items, crowd management, waste and recycling management, information delivery, and greeting visitors also made the event successful.  
The untiring energy from the preparation teams (logistics, health & safety, volunteer management, finance, outreach, programming, and media) and their day-in and day-out engagement in making the dream come true was another factor behind the success.

**4.2 If applicable, describe any major challenges or obstacles and how you would have done something differently?**

Lack of knowledge about an event of this magnitude and robust planning beforehand. The event would have been way better, had we had a robust plan on hand.  
Getting outdoor space was another challenge and the weather condition added another challenge. The event would have more visitors and participation from more ethnocultural communities plus dignitaries had we finalized the space at least 4 months in advance.  
Had we received adequate funding support from the Government and on time, the event would have been planned well in advance leading to a higher level of participation and learning.

**E. Partnerships**

Please list your key partners, if any, and any relevant support provided to the event.

ReD FM: Media Partner, helped disseminate the information about the event and promote the event through its channel, media coverage on the day of the event, and provided time for pre-event interviews related to the event and pre-event activities like awareness about multiculturalism and anti-racism, quizzes, essays, and arts and craft. After seeking the success of the event, ReD FM assured to provide the dedicated time to airing NCSC’s current project activities.

Dashmesh Culture: Provided water, juice, and volunteer food on the day of the event, helped manage critical logistics. With multiple meetings prior to the event date and having seen the enthusiasm of NCSC to foster multiculturalism in Calgary, and the success of the event, Dashmesh Culture assured to provide more services including free lunch to all visitors in next year’s event. There was a discussion going on to have a partnership in NCSC’s current project activities.

Baitun Nur Mosque: Provided parking space for the visitors, volunteers, and organizers, and provided water free of cost on the day of the event. The event helped establish working relations with the Muslim community, particularly providing services to its vulnerable members and they are also ready to provide their indoor basketball court to initiate kids and youth basketball program benefiting NCSC and the Muslim community. NCSC will be running basketball sessions in the winter season making use of the Mosque basketball court.

CRESS Centre: A non-profit organization that provided volunteers and experts, helped plan the event and run pre-event sessions like multicultural arts and crafts fortified with awareness/education. An MOU has been signed with the CRESS Centre to have collaborative project activities in the coming days.

TOSS: A non-profit organization that took a lead role in managing seniors’ corner, a tent dedicated to entertaining seniors and differently-abled visitors on the day of the event

Sagarmatha Social Club: A non-profit organization that helped managed kids’ corner, a tent space dedicated to engaging kids in learning and fun activities like showcasing arts and crafts, anti-racism and multiculturalism ambassadors mobilization, etc. on the day of the event

**F. Publicity and Promotion**

**Please explain how you promoted your event (For example, by using Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok etc.):**

Following promotional materials have been prepared and actions taken to promote the event:

Brochure: 5000 copies of the brochures printed and supplied to the ethnocultural communities, Nepalese people in and around Calgary, key business hubs, community centres, etc.

Email communication: E-copy of the brochure along with the event day activities sent to the dignitaries, workplaces of the community members, ethnocultural communities, politicians, and community leaders.

Door poster: 200 copies of door posters highlighting the event were printed and posted in key locations that have a higher flow

of customers such as restaurants, merchandise shops, community centres, and public places.

Car stickers: 500 copies of car stickers printed and posted on the rear glass of the cars of the community members.

Promotional audio and videos: Audio video materials highlighting what the event is all about were prepared and promoted via NCSC’s website, Facebook channel, FM radio, and the website of the partner organizations.

Interviews: Local FM (ReD FM) was utilized to promote the event, highlighting the key attractions, mela logistics, finance, plan, etc. A total of 8 interviews were done prior to the event date and components of anti-racism and multiculturalism were highlighted in each interview by engaging the experts. The event was also promoted through Sabrang Radio and ONMI TV.

Yard signs: Yard signs with information about the event were placed on the property of the community members. Big posters were placed on the key intersections leading to the event location.

*Note: If applicable, you may submit copies of promotional material you have developed for this event, photos of the event and examples of media coverage, along with your final report.*

## G. Acknowledgement of Government of Canada’s Support and Official Languages Requirements

Did you publicly acknowledge Government of Canada’s support as per [the guide on the public acknowledgement of financial support](#) ?

Yes  / No

If yes, please explain how and when you acknowledged the Government of Canada’s support and provide specific examples:

Government Logo was placed on all promotional materials. Acknowledgment was made in all interviews done on ReD FM. Note of thanks and acknowledgment was also made at each meeting held with the ethnocultural communities and the members of the organizing committee. Stage banners were made, and funders' logos were posted on each banner. The volunteer certificates and special plaques have funders' logos. Shortly after the event's inauguration, the event Chairperson gave a special note of thanks to the funders.

If not, please explain:

English and French are the two official languages of Canada and the Government of Canada is committed to promoting both languages. **If your target audience or the communities involved in your event included both English-speaking and French-speaking people, please indicate what measures you undertook to communicate with both groups and to encourage each to participate in your project.**

Given the limitation of time and the lack of French-speaking community members, we could not promote our event in the French language. However, the Government of Canada’s logo has both English and French.

*Note: If applicable, you may submit copies of your bilingual resources or material you have developed for this event along with your final report.*

Name and signature (required)



Authorized Signature\*

Shreekanta Aryal, President  
Name (please print)

2023-08-11  
Date (YYYY-MM-DD)

**\*Note:** The authorized signatory must be the same person, or hold the same authorization to sign official documents, as the person who signed the application form.