

TZEDECK JUSTICE

A publication of the Canadian Jewish
Congress, Pacific Region

January 2007

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Welcome to *Tzedeck*, the newly revived monthly e-newsletter of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region (CJCPR).

Formerly called Pacific Monthly, *Tzedeck*, which means justice in Hebrew, will be shared with members of the Jewish

community and, more broadly, with all those with an interest in the many issues in which we are involved and the values we represent, such as tolerance and inclusivity. The newsletter will regularly include news, profiles and opinions from and about the Jewish community as well as other ethno-cultural communities in the Lower Mainland.

CJC Pacific Region staff Lena Mcleod, Mira Oreck and Theresa Kan are pictured above (from left to right).

PACIFIC NEWS

New Resources for Diversity

CJC Pacific Region was pleased with the recent initiative sponsored by British Columbia Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism Wally Oppal to provide \$1 million in new funding for the BC Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism Program (BCAMP) (www.ag.gov.bc.ca/sam/bcamp/index.htm). With an infusion of new money, BCAMP will be able to increase efforts aimed at combating racism and promoting diversity and cultural understanding and respect across the province.

The significant budget increase for BCAMP will be devoted to support for welcoming communities for newcomers to the province. In 2005, British Columbia was the destination for 17 per cent of all new immigrants to Canada. Recognizing the importance of increasing awareness about the social and economic benefits of cultural diversity, the \$1 million in funding flows from a new partnership between the federal government (Canada's Action Plan Against Racism) (http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/multi/plan_action_plan/pdf/action_e.pdf) and the province.

Community Security Forum Success

IN PROFILE

Tung Chan



When CJC Pacific Region's old friend and CEO of SUCCESS (www.successbc.ca), Lilian To, passed away, we mourned her passing and reflected on our longstanding work together with the Chinese community. Lilian was a wonderful partner in our ongoing efforts to build a multicultural and diverse British Columbia. Her work is continued by SUCCESS' new CEO, Mr. **Tung Chan**. Mr. Chan came to his position after a very successful career in banking. In addition to his business accomplishments, Mr. Chan also served on Vancouver City Council from 1990 to 1993. In the short time he has been with SUCCESS as CEO he has strongly reaffirmed his organization's commitment to working closely with CJCPR on issues of common cause and concern.

WORTH READING

Vancouver Courier

January 17, 2007

Muslim, Jew work together to mobilize help for Darfur

[www.vancourier.com/
issues07/013107/news/
013107nn5.html](http://www.vancourier.com/issues07/013107/news/013107nn5.html)

By Cheryl Rossi

Port Coquitlam's Nouri Abdalla was a veterinarian, an animal

CJC Pacific Region hosted an information meeting at the Jewish Community Centre last month to discuss how to facilitate and improve security. The well attended session was timely in a climate where hate and bias incidents continue to occur.

While BC's larger social environment is one of tolerance and respect, no hate crime can be ignored. With that in mind, CJCPR brought together police officers from the Vancouver Police Department's Diversity Relations Unit with over 40 security contacts from a wide variety of Jewish institutions across the Lower Mainland for a face-to-face discussion.

The meeting served as an opportunity to enhance understanding of hate and bias incidents and how best to deal with them when they take place. Following the session, many of the attendees expressed their gratitude to CJCPR for holding the forum and, in so doing, contributing to a safer environment for all communities.

VIEW POINTS

Preventing Genocide Through Vigilance and Action

Mark Weintraub, Chair CJC Pacific Region



As a Jewish community, we know that whenever and wherever tyrants call for the destruction of the Jewish people, we must respond with strength and resolve. As citizens of the world, we ought to know that while antisemitism begins with the Jews it does not end with them. Whenever tyrants threaten devastation we must unite across communities and borders to ensure that vulnerable minorities are protected from madness. As Canadians, we know we are blessed to live in a country that celebrates diversity and embraces all

cultures, religious beliefs and ways of being.

And so it is as a Jewish community, as global citizens and as Canadians that we must respond to the growing menace in Iran. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has become the newest and leading member of a shameful international movement of antisemites and would-be destroyers of Israel. When he crowed that Israel would one day be "wiped off the map," Ahmadinejad earned at least one toxic footnote in histories yet to be written. In his call for the destruction of Israel, he was not simply making a profoundly offensive political statement.

He was issuing a call to genocide.

In the heart of the planet's most volatile region, Iran, under the current government, is the leading state sponsor of terrorism. And now, as the most openly and virulently antisemitic government on earth, the eyes of the world are watching Iran.

But watching is not enough. We know this from the grim lessons of Bosnia and Rwanda. And we know this from the fresh hell that continues to unfold in Darfur today.

Our responsibility is to be aware of genocidal impulses wherever they flourish. And we must harness that awareness to the tools of international human rights law, the United Nations, the International Criminal Court and the range of actions available

pharmaceutical company worker and an exporter of pharmaceuticals and information technology to Africa before he found himself involved in peace talks in Darfur. But the Darfuri national felt compelled to get involved when he heard in 2003 that villagers in Western Sudan were being raped and killed by the Arab-dominated Sudanese government's proxy Janjaweed militia. He started a BC chapter of the Toronto-based Darfur Association of Canada in 2004 and sought organizations to help him bring awareness to the atrocities occurring in the homeland he'd left in 1990...

Globe and Mail

January 17, 2007

We speak out against Iran Holocaust denial

www.cjc.ca/template.php?action=oped&Rec=199

By Manuel Pruschi

In less than two weeks, the world will commemorate the Holocaust in accordance with a 2006 resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, which declared Jan. 27 as international Holocaust Remembrance Day. Canada was centrally involved in the resolution's passage. On Jan. 8, however, Alireza Moayeri, Iran's Geneva-based envoy to the UN Human Rights Council, wrote a letter to the Human Rights Council's president defending the Holocaust denial conference organized in Tehran by his government in December. Mr. Moayeri describes the conference as an academic event, to examine and investigate the facts about a historical claim without any prejudice or judgment...

The Tyee

January 8, 2007

Seven Solutions to Homelessness

<http://thetyee.ca/Views/2007/01/08/HomelessSolutions>

By Monte Paulsen

Homelessness is not necessary. Unlike most other urban social problems, homelessness is something policymakers actually

to and incumbent upon signatories to the Genocide Convention. Under the leadership of Member of Parliament Irwin Cotler and Harvard Professor Alan Dershowitz, steps are now being taken to use all available tools to bring President Ahmadinejad and others to justice. We must support the vital work that they are setting in motion.

As a Jewish community, we know too well the horror that lurks in inaction if we fail to act.

It is for this reason that Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region is expanding our work in such areas as Darfur advocacy by establishing an Anti-Genocide Committee to continue finding ways of locally combating statements such as those coming from Iran. The committee will be co-chaired by two CJC PR board members, Robbie Waisman and Steven Schachter. CJC Pacific Region has long strived to a powerful and effective voice for protection of human rights and our efforts must build upon the successes of the past so that those who would sow seeds of genocide find no fertile ground.

We must never again allow the seeds of genocide to take root.

know how to address. The U.S. and Britain have slashed their rates of homelessness during the past decade. But in Canada, homelessness is on the rise; and in the Vancouver region, the official count of homeless persons almost doubled from 1,121 souls in 2002 to 2,174 in 2005. Homelessness is not cheap. Provincial taxpayers spend up to \$40,000 annually per homeless person, according a 2001 study...

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