



North Vancouver District
Public Library

Inspiring Stories

July 2015

Inspiring a Network in our Community

With support from Training Innovations, NVDPL's Barbara Kelly, Manager of Community Engagement, and Jacqui Jones-Cox, Librarian at Lynn Valley, hosted the Networking with Local Businesses on June 17. Representatives and leaders from ten local organizations joined forces with the NVDPL to put on this spectacular and informative evening for the local public and our community. An incredibly inspiring event!

The Evening

Delicious appetizers, snacks, and light refreshments were served from 6:00pm-8:00pm

- Welcoming speeches were given by MLA Jane Thorntwaite and MLA Ralph Sultan
- Human Bingo Ice-breaker game
- How to Network 101
- Networking and Mingling
- Poetry from Meharoona Ghani

120
attendees!



Barbara Kelly chats with guests.

The Buzz- Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive!

"The Networking with Local Businesses fair was unbelievably helpful, especially as my first experience in an incredible country and society with such a nice person as you are [Barbara]. When I stood alone in a corner you came and encouraged me to continue speaking with other recruiters. You are an absolutely positive lady, and helped me to feel more courageous in an unfamiliar environment. It was fantastic to have a chance to meet you"

"I wish that other job fairs were done like this, very inspiring for the community...you worked the room and kept everyone involved, the role playing events and ice-breaker games were a real change from other networking events, you could teach others how to do these events."

"This was really helpful, I actually learned something about networking with businesses. You two (Jacqui & Barbara) are so much fun that you made it easy to talk with people about work; you gave me confidence to network and now I have an interview in my field; over and over again, can you please do more community events like this."



Attendees in discussion
during the event.

How it relates to our Framework

- Shows we are inspiring and supporting a community of learning & culture of reading through a dedicated hands-on approach with our patrons
- Illustrates we provide engaging spaces to learn & create knowledge as we offer multi-faceted learning experiences, with specialty programs promoting lifelong learning
- We're fostering a culture of community collaboration by reaching out to our community organizations & working with them to support our citizens
- We're nurturing an engaged organization as our dedicated & passionate staff are committed to the public; imprinting on them very positive & encouraging experiences with the NVDPL



Community Comments

"You're doing almost too good of a job on your book arrangements.

*I've spent a good half hour standing in the lobby like an idiot,
entranced by your "Not Just for Teens" arrangement. Keep up the good work!"*

What our
patrons are
saying about
NVDPL



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“There’s Something Bigger for You”

Poetry by Meharoona Ghani, Community Engagement and Diversity Specialist

Connect with something bigger ...
we are searching, but sometimes
you and I – get a little
nervous, shy.

What's next for us
on this new journey?

We learn more in
ten minutes than we have
searching for an hour.

You are not alone –
Look around you – we are many.
There is power in being together,
there is power in sharing,
there is power in each of us.

Doesn't matter where
we are from,
what matters is
we have courage to try.

I speak –
to job seekers and employers
practice to build positive relationships
practice to build productive relationships
practice to support one another.

Look back at our diverse careers,
you will see the
networking road appear.
In this day and time,
modern libraries and
employers helps to
break the ice – by playing accessible games.



Poetry reading by Meharoona Ghani.

Take a leap of faith,
talk to someone new.
Go ahead dive in –
ask questions, set a goal,
take risks, set a vision,
be courageous,
you never know where
your path will go.

Implement a dream
From accountants to
civil engineers to
project managers to
librarians to MLAs –
anything is possible in Canada!

Share your name,
reach out your hand,
smile, smile, smile.
Put your best self forward,

be a part of the buzz,
share your story – listen
to those who've struggled
from financial barriers to
English barriers to
lack of Canadian experience to
years of job searching –
somewhere in the walls – a light
shines through – even in the dark.

Be a part of something greater –
follow
your heart – but most of all –
don't give up.
Don't give up.
DO NOT GIVE UP!
You never know where you will
go...

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M. GHANI CONSULTNG: “Inspire ideas. Cultivate diversity. Build inclusion.”

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