



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2016-17 SUNDAY, DECEMBER, 2017 AT 12:00 PM



Art work by YEI

**BANGLADESH CENTRE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (BCCS)**  
2670 Danforth Avenue, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Tele: (416) 901-2121; Email: [bccscanada@hotmail.com](mailto:bccscanada@hotmail.com); Web: <http://www.bangladeshcentre.ca>

*Building Community*

# **AGENDA**

**1.0 WELCOME**

**2.0 INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 23, 2016**

**4.0 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (2016-17)**

**5.0 REPORT ON PROGRAM/ACTIVITIES 2016-2017**

**6.0 REPORTS FROM YEI (YOUTH ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE)**

**7.0 REPORT FROM NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

**8.0 ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**9.0 REMARKS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS**

**10.0 OTHER BUSINESS**

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

# Message from the Chair

## What a tremendous year for BCCS 2016-17!

As we are in our 7<sup>th</sup> year of operation, we are pleased to announce that we have successfully accomplished many of our mandated tasks. Some of the activities included: seniors' integration and empowerment into Canadian society -- through a variety of workshops and field trips; children's art programs; initiatives by the youth group (YEI); and settlement services in partnership with *Rexdale Women's Centre*, benefitting many newcomers during their transition and settlement into a new environment and culture.

Apart from the above programs, BCCS has also been observing: International Mother's Day; Language Day; Canada Day; Bangladeshi Independence Day; and Victory Day. We also participated in Heritage month celebrations through "Pitha Utshob" and "Soup and Sound" to raise funds.

We are very proud of one of our key milestones: taking the leadership role in raising the Bangladeshi flag in front of the Ontario Legislature building.

We recognize that the needs for programs and services continue to grow, and we aim to explore new initiatives and expand partnerships to meet those needs. We have been part of CBON (Canadian Bangladeshi Organization Network) and jointly organized and celebrated multicultural events at Dentonia Park.

There is no doubt that we have had to face many challenges. Changes to the funding landscape have forced us to be creative in our fundraising approaches, especially in the face of access to limited and shrinking resources. Fortunately for us, we have an amazing staff and volunteer force to help us implement our services.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank all of our volunteers, staff, clients, partners, donors, funders and the community members for their support in reaching our goals and strengthening our community.

Finally, a sincere thanks to our Board of Directors for their governance, time, hard work and passion.

Respectfully,

Hasina Quader

Chair, Board of Directors

## About BCCS

Established in March 2010, the Bangladesh Centre and Community Services [BCCS] has emerged as a premiere community organization with a focus on providing settlement services to the South Asian Communities living in Toronto and assist in developing skills to facilitate integration into Canadian society.

BCCS provides dynamic leadership in enhancing our members and the greater community while advancing South Asian culture and understanding. We played a key role in working with our elected officials to have the Bangladesh flag raised at Queens Park by the Ontario Legislature for the first time in history! BCCS has undertaken a wide array of services and programs including; English conversation circles, Senior's Meet & Greet groups, Computer & Mobile Technology classes, Financial Literacy workshops, Sewing lessons, Elder Abuse Awareness development program, Yoga/Meditation sessions, Health and Wellness workshops, intergenerational activities, and Board Governance training among many others.

In addition to our extensive programs, BCCS organizes events and activities observing days of significance to our community such as, International Mother Language Day, Canada Day, Bangladeshi Independence day, Victory Day, and Heritage month celebrations through "Pitha Utshob".

BCCS believes in building communities through partnerships and collaboration. We strive to develop sustainable services and programs for the growing needs of our members and those that we can impact in the community. Alongside our current programming, our goals for the coming year include developing initiatives centered around youth, women, and mental health.

## **Our Board of Directors**

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>1. HASINA QUADER– President</b>            | <b>8. SHEBU CHOWDHURY</b>          |
| <b>2. DR. MAHBUB REZA - Vice President</b>    | <b>9. KAFILUDDIN PARVEZ</b>        |
| <b>3. MOHAMMED ALAMGIR HAKIM</b>              | <b>10. WAHEED ASGHAR</b>           |
| <b>4. DR. A.K.M. ALAMGIR</b>                  | <b>11. SHUMONA SHAFINAZ</b>        |
| <b>5. SERAJUL ISLAM KAZI - Secretary</b>      | <b>12. ENGR. SYED ABDUL GOFFAR</b> |
| <b>6. SYED SHAWKAT MAHMOOD-<br/>Treasurer</b> | <b>13. MOSTOFA AFZAL MOMEN</b>     |
| <b>7. HASINA BEGUM</b>                        | <b>14. ANDREW FLINT</b>            |
|   | <b>15. MAK AZAD</b>                |

## **GOVERNANCE**

Our Board is made up of dedicated, hardworking and passionate volunteers who are committed to the work we are mandated to help the community. Our Board is comprised of 15 members representing the financial, not-profit, public service sectors and the neighbourhood we serve.

The Board is responsible for making policy, setting strategic direction based on our mission, goals and objective of the organization.

New members on the Board can be elected at our Annual General Meeting and all of our eligible members of the organization can participate to run. The Nomination Committee makes the recommendation for new recruitment of the Board members based on requirements.

Board meetings are held at least 11 times of the year. The minutes of the meeting are being filed once is it approved by the Board. The minutes books are kept in the Organization's office, and are accessible to the members.

**WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## **OUR FUNDERS**

1. Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
2. Ministry of Employment and Social Development
3. Ontario Senior Secretariat

### **Partners:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Rexdale Women Centre                              | 2. South Riverdale Health Centre                     |
| 3. Costi Immigrant Services                          | 4. BD Association of Toronto (BAUT)                  |
| 5. Danforth Village BIA                              | 6. Warden Woods Community services                   |
| 7. Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)  | 8. South Asian Women's Rights Organization (SAWRO)   |
| 9. Bangladeshi Canadian Community Services (BCS)     | 10. CBON (Canadian Bangladeshi Organization Network) |
| 11. East End Community Health Centre                 | 12. Greater Dhaka Association (GDA)                  |
| 13. Bengali Information & Employment Services (BIES) | 14. East End Arts                                    |

### **Past partners**

1. Labour Education Centre
2. Wood Green Community Services
3. Quantum Meditation Society Toronto
4. Mennonite New life Centre
5. Asha Bengali girls society
6. Rehma Community Services

### **Thanks to our Special Donors:**

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mohammed Alamgir Hakim | 4. Chayanika Dutta  |
| 2. Maria Minna            | 5. S.M Faruqi Hasan |
| 3. Iqbal Roshd            | 6. Dr. Kamruzzaman  |

## Monthly Donors:

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Hasina Quader            | 13. Md. Mostofa Afzal Momen  |
| 2. Dr. Mahbub Reza          | 14. Andrew Flint             |
| 3. Serajul Islam Kazi       | 15. Mak Azad                 |
| 4. S. Shawkat Mahmood       | 16. A.H.M Ziaul Islam Mollah |
| 5. Shumona Shafinaz         | 17. Sabiha Zia               |
| 6. Shebu Chowdhary          | 18. Mohammad Shamzzoha       |
| 7. Kafil Uddin (Parvez)     | 19. M. Rizuan Rahman         |
| 8. Hasina Begum             | 20. Chayanika Dutta          |
| 9. Mohammed Alamgir Hakim   | 21. Arthur Potts             |
| 10. Dr. AKM Alamgir         | 22. Alimul Chowdhury         |
| 11. M.A. Waheed Asghar      | 23. Jayanta Kumar Singha     |
| 12. Engr. Syed Abdul Goffar | 24. Qualbe Abbas Chowdhury   |

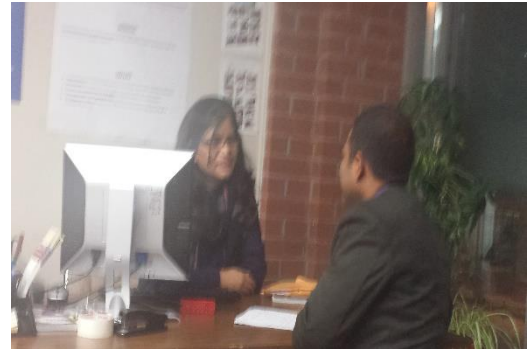
## Lifetime Members:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Maria Minna              | 15. Kanan Barua                               |
| 2. Mohammed Alamgir Hakim   | 16. Prof. Mozammel H. Khan, Ph. D.,<br>P. Eng |
| 3. Joyanta Banik            | 17. Syeda Selina Sarwar                       |
| 4. Shahin Reza Loni         | 18. Tasrina Shikha                            |
| 5. Rummana Chowdhury        | 19. Towhid Noman                              |
| 6. Md. Mostofa Afzal Momen  | 20. Hosneara Ahmed                            |
| 7. Saiful Alam Murtaza      | 21. Khandker Waheed Asghar                    |
| 8. Mohammed Abdul Wahed     | 22. Mahmuda Khan                              |
| 9. Shankar K, Dey           | 23. Md. Amin Miah                             |
| 10. Mohammad Shahabuddin    | 24. Farida Haque                              |
| 11. Monir Islam             | 25. Joynta kumar Singha                       |
| 12. Mohammad A. Quader Melu | 26. Ashabuddin Khan                           |
| 13. Engr. Syed Abdul Goffar | 27. Nahid Akter                               |
| 14. S.M. Faruqi Hasan       |   |

# ACTIVITIES OF 2016-2017

## Settlement Services

BCCS and Rexdale Women Centre (RWC) have been working in partnership for the past four years in providing settlement services to the newcomers. Every Wednesday between 2pm-5pm, an experienced Counsellor from RWC provides settlement service at BCCS office. It is a very popular program as the service is provided in Bengali, allowing for an increased sense of comfort and understanding for newcomers and community members. The total number of individual served last year was approximately 140.



## Intergenerational Project to Integrate South Asian Seniors to Canadian Society



BCCS has been fortunate to receive funding from Ministry of Employment and Social Services Canada under a Program titled **New Horizons for Seniors**. The objectives of the program were to enhance the knowledge of SA seniors in terms of Canadian culture, government



structure/political system, history and nature so that they can integrate to the mainstream contribute to the development of their new country. In doing this BCCS involved their YEI members in most of the activities. This involvement has helped in two ways, the interaction between seniors and youths has helped to minimize the gap between them and leadership of our youths has further developed. The activities included, workshops, field trips (ROM, Ontario Science Centre, CNE), outdoor picnic at centre Island, participation in Canada day parade etc. Over 50 seniors and 15 youth benefitted from this program.



## Empowering seniors for Canada Day Celebration

A grant was received from the Ontario Senior's secretariat aiming to provide information on Canadian history, culture and landscapes, while also providing opportunities to share with and learn from Canada's diverse cultural



communities. Thus it will help to empower our seniors so that they can be prepared to involved in the planning and celebrating Canada 150. A structured plan was made consisting of visits to different historic places including Jaz festival, workshops on how to plan an event, showing of documentary on Canadian history etc. All these activities encouraged our seniors to be active, gain Canadian knowledge in Canadian history, culture leading to empower them to plan a successful Canada Day event. The total number of seniors who benefitted from this program was over 30.

## Celebration of International Mother Language Day (IMLD)

Every year, BCCS organizes a program for celebrating IMLD. The activities included Children Art competition (about 70 children participated), discussions and cultural performances. This year, in order to give the event an international appearance, artists

### Children's Art Competition on IMLD, 2017

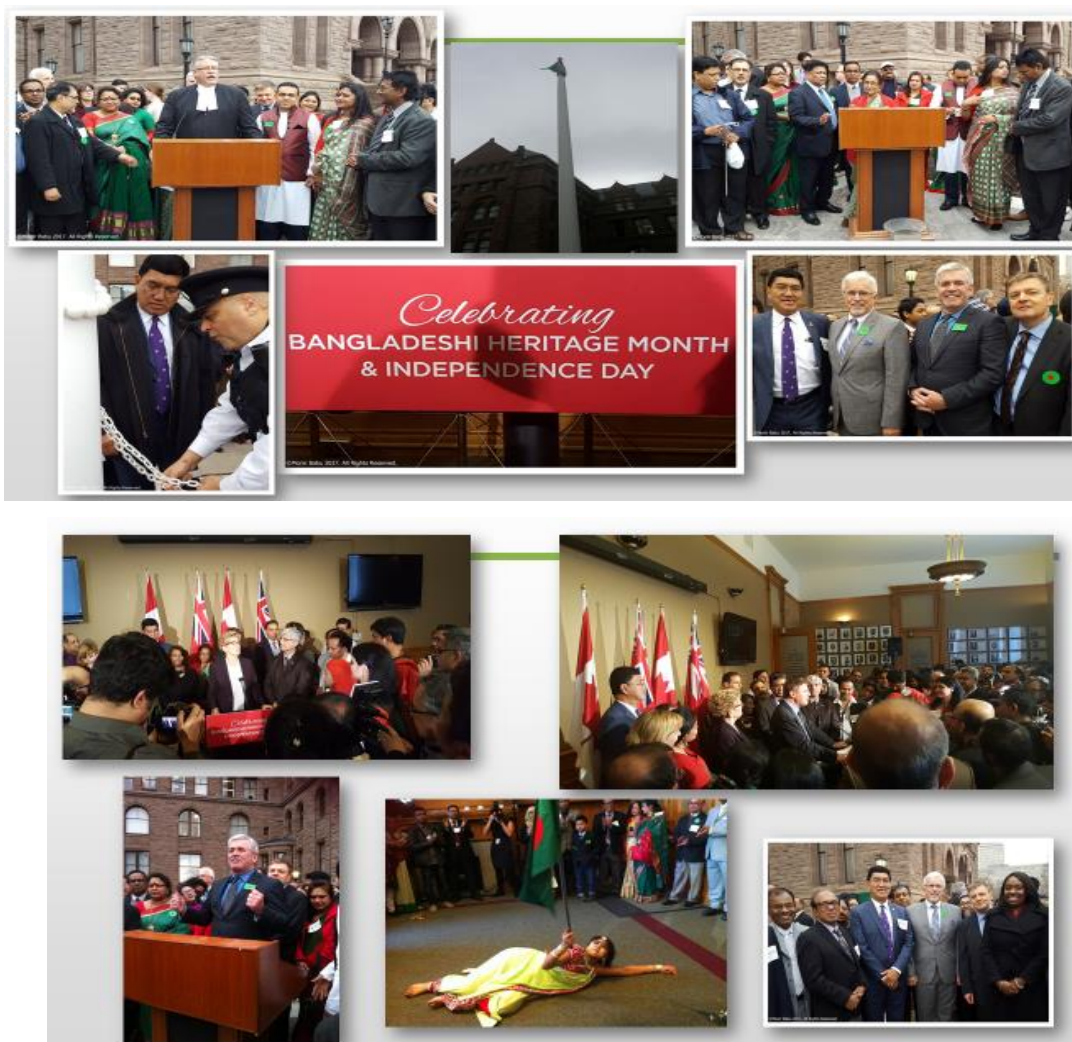


from various countries such as India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Greece, Russia and Yemen were invited. They recited poems in their own languages. A discussion on the significance of IMLD was also organized where various scholars of our community and political arena took part. Hon. Minister of Research Innovation and Science Mr Reza Moridi was also among the dignitaries who gave away the prizes among the winners of Art competition. Among other dignitaries, MP Bill Blair, MPP Arthur Potts, MP Nathaniel E Smith, Councillor Janet Davis, and Hon. Maria Minna (Ex MP) attended the event.

Later, in the early hours of Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, the BCCS team showed respect to the language martyrs of Bangladesh by laying flower wreaths at the base of the temporary (*Shahid Minar*) monument at Danforth.

## Bangladesh Heritage Month and Independence Day

We are excited and proud to tell you that BCCS took the leading role two years in a row to raise Bangladeshi flag in front of the Legislative building. Last year, the Premier of Ontario announced March as the Bangladeshi Heritage Month and organized a special reception at the legislative building. BCCS also played an active role in the implementation of this great event, which was a great success. The event was participated by huge number of Bangladeshi community members. We are thankful to the Hon. Premier.





## Observation of International Day for Older Persons

BCCS has earned a reputation of friends for seniors due to their continuous services towards seniors. Apart from other regular services/programs BCCS organized a get-together on the day for Older persons. The participants generously took part in discussion on issues of elderly people and role of international organizations. They



expressed their hope that more activities will be planned by the international organizations so that an age friendly community can be established all over the world.



## Workshops

At the beginning of 2017 BD community passed through a very hard time. We lost two brilliant youths from our community. They committed suicide due to mental illness. BCCS took this issue very seriously with the help of other community members and organized a discussion session at the Centre. All participants agreed

that time has come to address this issue so that we don't lose any valuable life. BCCS has been working on this issue and tied up with an organization called LIGHT and in the middle of the chalk out a program so that parents and youths are more aware about the seriousness of the problem.



### Mental Health Awareness



BCCS also conducted workshops in partnership with Alzheimer Society in Toronto to address the issue of dementia. Many of the seniors in the community have been suffering from Alzheimers /dementia. . Three workshops were organized at the Centre where experts of ASO came and lectured about various aspects of dementia---why it occurs, how it occurs, symptoms and how we can address the issue. The participants were very happy and showed interests to take part in more workshops of this kind.



**Dementia**

## Pitha Utshob (Traditional Cake Festival)

BCCS organizes this event every year raising funds and for making a good connection with the community people. The cakes are donated by the well-wishers of BCCS.



## Soup with Music



This is also another yearly event to raise funds where community members donate soup and snacks. The volunteers work as sales persons and all money are deposited in the BCCS fund. We are very much thankful to or community members and volunteers



---

# Our Youth Program



## **YEI Activities**

### **Mental Health Workshop**

YEI held a mental health workshop in order to aware people in the community about the different types of mental health issues, faced by people of all ages. The presentation also consisted of potential ways to deal with mental health issues.

### **Youth De-stress workshops**

YEI hosts de-stress workshops on a regular basis where youth from various socio-economic background get together to participate in various creative activities such as music, games, open discussions. At this age of continuous pressure both at school and home, this program greatly aids the youth to maintain good mental health. Aside from that it is also a great opportunity for them to connect with new people and make friends

### **Inter-generation Project**

YEI members have participated and led inter-generational workshops at BCCS. As part of the project, YEI members have volunteered at multiple sight-seeing trips arranged for seniors.

### **Participate/help at BCCS events**

Members of YEI have volunteered at various BCCS events. Apart from volunteering, YEI members have participated through cultural performances.

### **Celebrating Ontario Islamic Heritage Month**

YEI hosted a workshop on Islamophobia and our youth. Participants were mainly youth of our community and from different ethnic and religious background. Participants shared their experience of encountering discriminatory behavior at school or other communal places a

## Christmas gift pack preparation in collaboration with BEY Young liberals

YEI members volunteered by joining the BEY young liberals volunteers in gift pack preparing activities before Christmas.



**Installation Ceremony**



**Celebration of Asian Heritage Month, 2016**



## Youth Art Classes





**Donation from Mr Iqbal Roshd**



## **X-mas Party 2016**



## **Monthly De-Stress Workshops**







## Bengali New Year



Thank you