



## Statement of Release

May 2011

The Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA) is pleased to present the report, **“Regional Consultations on Services to Newcomer & Ethno-Cultural Minority Children, Youth and Families.”** AMSSA thanks the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) for supporting the consultation process and report.

The term “newcomer” describes children and youth living in Canada who were either born outside of Canada, or born in Canada to one or both parents of immigrant, refugee or temporary resident status. “Ethno-cultural minority” is used to describe individuals who belong to minority ethnic communities in Canada.

An average of 40,000 immigrants arrive in BC each year. While much attention is focused on the needs of adult immigrants, only very recently have service providers, academics, educators and policy makers begun to look at the specialized settlement and integration needs of their children. For statistics on child immigration in BC go to [Immigrant and Temporary Resident Children in British Columbia](#).

In 2010, AMSSA and the RCY held a series of regional meetings with immigrant service provider staff working with newcomer children and youth across British Columbia. They discussed the issues facing newcomer and ethno-cultural minority children, youth, and families and explored ideas to better meet the needs of this population. This report documents and outlines these professionals’ observations and summarizes their recommendations for improved policies and service delivery.

AMSSA’s “Regional Consultations on Services to Newcomer & Ethno-Cultural Minority Children, Youth and Families” explores the following:

- Adaptation/Integration
- Language
- Family Structure
- Mental Health Concerns
- School
- Support Services
- Service Gaps
- Recommendations

AMSSA would like to thank all of the immigrant service professionals who participated in our consultations and took the time to share their knowledge and experience with us.

This report may be accessed [here](#) and at the ANCIE website [www.amssa.org/ancie](http://www.amssa.org/ancie).

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Rishima Bahadoorsingh, AMSSA Newcomer Children’s Advocate at [newcomerchildren@amssa.org](mailto:newcomerchildren@amssa.org).



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