



VLMFSS

Shashi Assanand Bursary

Deadline: May 15th 2026



Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society

www.vlmfss.ca

help@vlmfss.ca

phone: 604 436 1025

fax: (604) 436-3267

VLMFSS acknowledges that we live, work and play on unceded Indigenous land belonging to the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x̱məθkwəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation.



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Brief Background

On October 23, 2018, the Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society (VLMFSS) staff and Board members gathered to honour Shashi Assanand's retirement and announced the Shashi Assanand Bursary of \$1,000 annually. This bursary will be awarded to **3 female Grade 12 graduates planning to pursue a career in the helping profession (see eligibility criteria).**

This award is established to honour Shashi Assanand (1942 – 2021), the founder and pioneer Executive Director of VLMFSS from 1991 to 2018, for her years of service both in the settlement as well as the anti-violence sectors, particularly, to immigrant and refugee women and children who are survivors of various forms of violence. She is a recipient of the Order of British Columbia in 2020 and a Honorary Doctorate degree in Law from the University of British Columbia in 2021.

VLMFSS BOARD CHAIR FIONA YORK STATED THAT:

"When the VLMFSS first opened its doors, domestic violence was a taboo topic in some immigrant communities and openly tolerated in others," "Ms. Assanand's courageous leadership helped bring the issues into the open, educate her own Indo-Canadian community and other ethnic communities and challenge them to work together to end violence. Thanks to her, we are one step closer to ending violence against women in our increasingly multicultural city." Shashi Assanand observed:

"I notice that when we take away the responsibility of protecting their mothers, that usually falls on girls, in a domestic violence situation, the girls can then go and deal with their own lives and grow into better citizens, better human beings, into more assertive and capable human beings. rather than constantly protecting their mothers. So I'm now noticing that two generations of women are benefiting from the work."

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Eligibility Criteria

- Open to female students in the Metro Vancouver schools who are completing grade 12 and are children of refugees or immigrants to Canada.
- Applicants must be interested in pursuing a career in social work, education, psychology, nursing or social service and possess academic grades sufficient to allow admission into their chosen area of study/educational facility and demonstrate financial need.
- Applicants are requested to share their story, in not more than 500 words about their individual and family experiences in Canadian life, how they impacted the lives of others in their community and their plans for the future.
- Applicants must submit 2 reference letters from a school official and a community member representing a community-based organization that highlight the applicant's transition into the life in Canada, aspirations and career goals for the future.
- Applicants are encouraged to discuss their application with the Scholarship Coordinator at their Secondary/High school

Selection & Award of Bursary:

Eligible candidates are invited to apply through the attached application form.

Submit the completed application to the Selection Committee – Shashi Assanand Bursary via email to Selectioncommittee_SAB@vlmfss.ca

Selection of the recipient of the scholarship will be made by the Shashi Assanand Bursary Selection committee.

Payment of the Award will be made to 3 female graduating Grade 12 recipient.

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