

Dear Sir/Madam:

February 20th, 2026

Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society (VLMFSS) is a nonprofit organization pioneered to provide culturally responsive, trauma-informed, confidential and free services with immigrant/refugee women and children facing the challenges of family violence in more than 20 languages. For the last 30 years, our agency has provided supportive individual and group counselling, referrals, advocacy and assistance to navigate the social and legal systems. VLMFSS was founded in 1991 by a visionary woman of colour, Shashi Assanand who became the first Executive Director of VLMFSS.

Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society is proud to establish a \$1000 Bursary each for 3 female Grade 12 students to honour our founder Executive Director, Shashi Assanand for her 35 years of self-less service to the settlement and anti-violence sectors in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. Notably, she has been admitted to the Order of BC in 2020 and awarded Honorary doctoral degree in Law by the University of British Columbia. Information about the Bursary and the application form are attached.

The past recipients of the award from 2021 to 2025 are Lara Albahadeli, Ashki Shkur, Dana Te, Kekkeh Trawgaye, Anureet Kaur. Tiffany Shu Wen Yao, Aysan Nia Abbaszadeh and Jasmine Rai.

VLMFSS has been instrumental in developing the Violence is Preventable program (VIP) for reaching students in schools. We are grateful for the collaboration of Elementary and Secondary schools in delivering the VIP presentations with students in various grades. As our valued partners, we are requesting your assistance in disseminating the information to the Grade 12 female graduating students at your school. The deadline for applications is May 15th, 2026.

You are welcome to email lakshmi@vlmfss.ca for further information.

Sincerely,

Harjit Kaur

Dr. Harjit Kaur

Executive Director ed@vlmfss.ca

Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society

Tel: 604-436-1025 Ext 122 | Fax: 604-436-3267

#306 - 4980 Kingsway

Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4K7 www.vlmfss.ca