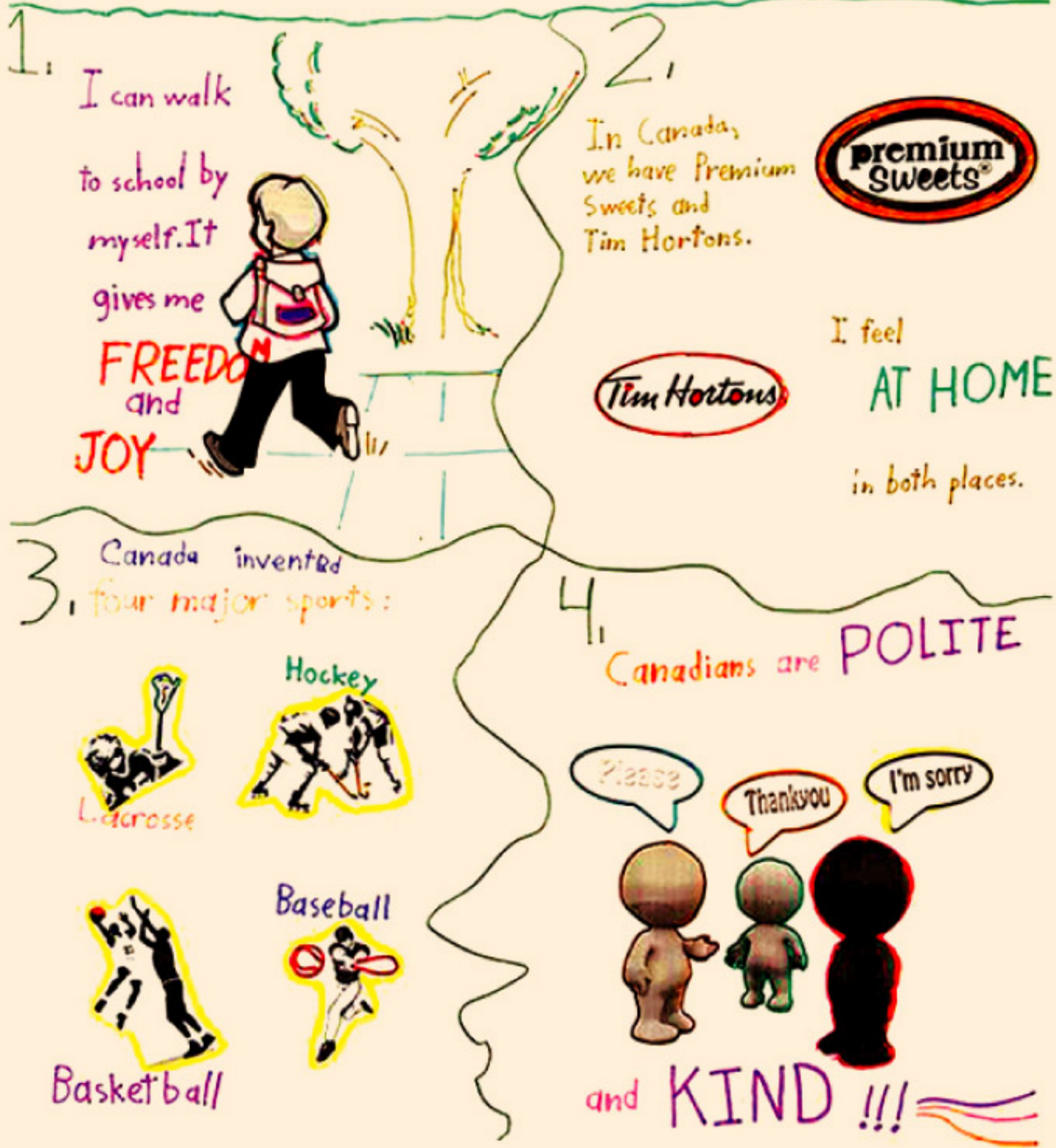


WHY DO I LIKE CANADA?



PACE

2016/2017

Progressive Action for
**Community
Empowerment**



Vision

We envision a society where everyone holds the power to create opportunities for themselves and for others.

Mission

We are a non-profit organization with a mission to inspire people for social prosperity.

Values

Inclusive Community, Social Justice, Equality and Diversity, Integrity, Generosity, Excellence, Collaboration and Partnership.

www.pacecan.org

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PACE 2016/2017

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Raising the Bar in the Face of Challenges



Over the past couple of years, I have had the pleasure of watching PACE truly raise the bar for ourselves and for our members. While the fundraising environment and community engagement works within the community remains a very challenging one, I have seen our community and PACE members come together and show determination and a shared sense of purpose, working effectively as a unified voice for change.

With the ongoing support of our advisors, donors, partners, board, volunteers and community members, I believe, PACE is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead.

DIDAR HUSAIN

Advisor



We have been constantly learning through our involvement with other groups and community members. Our success is the community's success. PACE has already demonstrated the collective strength of community organizations, leveraging the involvement of our members to create synergies and address important issues. PACE has worked tirelessly to raise the voice and profile of our community. I want to recognize and thank Emamul Haque, founder president of PACE, for his great stewardship through our time of change and inception.

ABU MOHSIN
President



We are proud to be working with a wide range of dedicated caring individuals and organizations. From community members to the non-profit community, there is a genuine groundswell and focus on seeing an inspired society where everyone holds the power to create opportunities for themselves and others.

We can report many notable successes in these years. Among those, successful contributions in establishing community partnership and giving our community a strong sense of belongingness were leading ones. Through enhancing our community's partnership with other non-profit, PACE organized a number of community meetings and workshops on issues that community members wanted to know about. Through an inspiring effort of board members and supporters, PACE contributed \$2000 to ORBIS Canada to help them serve the poor children in developing countries including Bangladesh.

We have undergone several changes and progressed over the last few years, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our board members and all of our extended family who participated in the key initiatives of PACE in these past years.

As we move forward in 2017 and beyond, I am proud of what PACE has accomplished so far and excited about the future. Our community is strong and vibrant, and together we will continue our efforts to inspire members for social prosperity.

EMAMUL HAQUE

Executive Director

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emamul.haque@gmail.org

PROGRAMS

CONNECT

Empowering community members through interactive meetings

Through a series of interactive community meetings, the 'Connect' program aims to enhance community confidence and inspire community members for nurturing social prosperity.

Under the Connect program PACE successfully organized four seminars/workshops to enhance community understanding and raise awareness related to the following issues:

- ◆ Second Career Options for Immigrants
- ◆ Immigration
- ◆ Child and Spousal Support
- ◆ Canadian Retirement Thoughts - RRSP & Financial Wellness Planning



Attended resource persons and guest speakers

Cornelia Mazgarean, lawyer & faculty, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, Assistant Professor at Ryerson University, Imamuddin, Employment Councillor and Executive Director, BIES

Nicola Holness, Community Outreach Counsellor, CLASP, Adjunct Faculty, Osgoode Hall Law School

Sara Kun, human rights and family lawyers & faculty, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Md. Mahmudul Alam, RBC Royal Bank

ACT (Active Citizens Thread) Inspiring people to act and become responsible citizen

PACE aspires to build a more active community and an engaged civil society. The ACT program aims to increase peoples' awareness of individual rights and responsibilities as a citizen. Through civil participation and civic engagement, ACT is committed to enhance citizens' knowledge of participatory structures and rights.

Under this program six seminars/workshops were organized during the reported period and following topics were discussed.

- ◆ Effective Community Participation in Government Decision Making
- ◆ Municipal Council and Councilors Executive Power
- ◆ Non-profit Board and the Non-profit Sector
- ◆ Tenant Rights
- ◆ Employment Rights
- ◆ Civic Engagement in Democratic Process & Role of Bangladeshi Canadians in the Election Process



Attended resource persons and guest speakers

Matthew Kellway, former MP, Beaches-East York

Janet Davis, City Councillor, Beaches-East York

Mahmudul Anam, Professor, Economics, York University

Heather Laird, Policy Lead at the Ontario, Nonprofit Network

Cathy Winter, Diverse City on Board

Jason Marin, Board Members at the Access Alliance and Wellesley Institute

Anthony Fernando, Public Affairs Professional

Natasha Parsoud, Lawyer and Faculty Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Giovanna Paolucci, Lawyer and Faculty Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

Dr. Kazi Haque, Chairperson, BCS

Shaugat Ali Shagor, Chief Editor, Notundesh



CANADA 150
1867-2017

COLOUR OF JOY

PACE jointly with Radio Metro Mail, celebrated the Bengali new year 1424 and Canada's 150th anniversary on Sunday 23rd April 2017. The event took place at the auditorium of Albert Campbell District Library Toronto. Community members, local dignitaries and public representatives participated in the event.







Traditions of Bangladesh have been showcased in the event through cultural performances and displaying items of heritage including traditional food items. Popular community performers including Chandan, Anup, Intu, Monju, Ratul, Chayan Junayed and Nusrat Swati performed in the cultural segment. Shukonna Nrittangan Dance School led by Aruna Haider performed a fabulous dance piece that demonstrated the traditions of Bangladesh. ORBIS Canada put up a special booth at the event to create greater awareness on how the community can contribute in preventing child blindness in developing countries. Dr. Amit Chakma, President of Western University Ontario, Salma Zahid, Member of Parliament, Scarborough East, Lorenzo Berardenitti, MPP, South Scarborough were present in the event among other dignitaries and social elites.



“It was a pleasure to celebrate the Bengali New Year with my friends and neighbours in the Bengali community. Canada is strong not in spite of our diversity, but because of our diversity, and the Bengali community is a key part of the diversity that makes Canada great. I appreciate the efforts of groups such as PACE and Radio Metro Mail to bring communities together, as we all work to build a better Canada for all our families.”

Salma Zahid
Member of Parliament for
Scarborough Centre



"Canadian women of Bangladeshi origin have demonstrated their strengths, commitment, and positive influence on many occasions. They have shown their resilience against any odds and inspired the community. I had the privilege and honour to participate in a very special community event, organized by PACE in partnership with Radio Metro Mail celebrating Bengali new year and Canada's 150th anniversary where a group of such women who have distinguished themselves through their leadership were recognized.

It's important to recognize personal and professional achievements of individuals through awards. PACE- RMM Women Achievers Award is more special because it's celebrating women's achievements, who are the backbone of the community. I would like to thank and congratulate the PACE and RMM team for recognizing this need and introducing these important awards."

Dr. Amit Chakma
President of Western University
Ontario, Canada



PACE RMM Women Achievers Award 2017

With Radio Metro Mail PACE celebrated the achievements of Canadian Bangladeshi women in April 2017. This award has two categories: Woman of Distinction and Women in Business, Professions & Trades.

Woman of Distinction Award

Recognizes women who have initiated meaningful change in their own community, recognizing a local community need or issue.

For her distinguished contributions to the public and the community, this award has been conferred to Rasheda Nawaz.



Rasheda Nawaz



Women in Business, Professions & Trades

This award recognizes Bangladeshi-Canadian or Canadian-Bangladeshi women for the contributions they make, in their area of expertise, that provides significant and lasting benefit to their community.

This year (2017) the award has been conferred to the following spirited women.

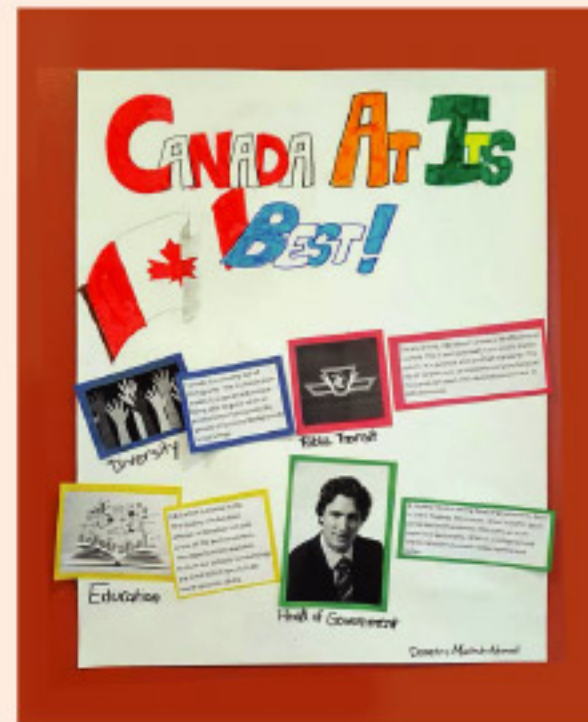
- ◆ Under 'Woman in Law' - Barrister & Solicitor Chayanika Dutta
- ◆ Under 'Woman Entrepreneur in Immigration Practice' - Shahnaz Perveen
- ◆ Under 'Women in Fashion Design' - Rushmita Alam
- ◆ Under 'Woman in Health and Wellness' - Dr. Sheira Haq & Dr. Shahida Sultana

All recipients shared their stories on the Radio Metro Mail.



VOICE

VOICE invites students of schools and universities to submit their creative works. Students lives in Canada can include any positive aspect of their life in Canada and their concerns, challenges, dreams, and thoughts to make Canada the best country in the world. Through a poster competition in April 2017 adolescents and youths of the community shared their thoughts and perspectives on life.



GAON SWAPNA

PACE joins hand with MRDI (www.mrdibd.org) to support vulnerable women in Bangladesh who produce hand-stitched fancy items for a living. These items are available in Canada. All proceeds from the sale of these items go to "GaonSwapna" project in Bangladesh to support the vulnerable poor women working under this project.





PARTNERSHIPS

Since its inception, PACE has been actively working closely with other non-profit & community organizations including corporations. In various occasions, PACE has partnered with following organizations.





International Mother Language Day

Jointly with partners, PACE celebrated the International Mother Language Day 2015. The event included a discussion program, arts and poster competition for children and youth, and a cultural program.



Free Legal Education Workshops

With Community & Legal Aid Services Programme (CLASP), Osgoode Hall Law School, Radio Metro Mail and Access Alliance, four free legal education workshops were organized during January to May 2017 in Toronto.



“We have partnered with PACE in organizing a series of free legal education workshops. Through professional attitude and effective community outreach efforts, PACE has successfully engaged community members and provided them with an educational opportunity to gain an understanding on many important legal issues and get expert opinions. I’m impressed with their organizational capacity and promotional ideas and we would be happy to partner with PACE in the future if there is a call for such work.”

Nicola Holness, MSW

Community Outreach Counsellor,
CLASP, Adjunct Faculty,
Osgoode Hall Law School



Orbis Canada was very pleased to participate in the Colour of Joy program organized by PACE in partnership with Radio Metro Mail. We really enjoyed hearing the children and teens speak about their impressions of Canada. Everyone was welcoming - and the food was great! Additionally, Orbis Canada was thrilled to welcome our first team to represent the Bangladeshi community, "Team Bengal Tiger", powered by PACE and RMM, at the 9th Annual Plane Pull for Sight on May 28, 2017. The team not only competed against other teams to pull a 60-tonne airplane, they raised funds that will partially fund the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital scheduled to be in Chittagong in November 2017. Plane Pull for Sight raises funds to prevent and treat avoidable blindness in developing countries. Orbis looks forward to working with PACE and RMM as a partner in raising funds and awareness to help eradicate avoidable blindness in children and adults in developing nations.

Gina Eisler, MA, CFRE
Interim CEO, Orbis Canada

ORBIS Partnership and Community Awareness to Prevent Child Blindness

For the first time in the history of ORBIS Canada, a team consisting of Bangladeshi Canadians participated in the Plane Pull event, the annual fundraising event of ORBIS Canada. The 'Team Bengal Tiger' led by PACE partially contributed in raising CAN\$ 158,000 in 2017. The amount would help ORBIS to prevent child blindness amongst poor children in the developing countries including Bangladesh. PACE jointly with the RMM through a single event raised CAN \$ 2,000 from the community for the event in 2017.

PACE also launched a month-long social campaign on Radio Metro Mail to create greater awareness in the community on issues related to eye care and how the community can help prevent child blindness in the developing countries. A number of world-class ophthalmologist from Canada and Bangladesh took part in the radio program.





Partnership in Theatre Theatre and Playwriting Workshop

With a view to inspiring new theatre and playwriting enthusiasts from within the community, a 5-day interactive theatre workshop was organized in July 2016. Representatives from community theatre groups participated in the initiative. Masum Reza, a UK based renowned theatre activist, popular TV scriptwriter and Bangla Academy Award winner playwright along with two more resource persons from UK conducted the workshop. The workshop was organized by PACE in partnership with Theatre Folks UK, Theatre Folks Toronto, Radio Metro Mail and MAK Entertainment.

PACE in partnership with Theatre Folks Toronto plans to stage English plays on social issues, written by community playwrights. The performances will be showcased in different cities in North America.



Enter Educate Drama

In partnership with community performers PACE designed and staged a drama skit focusing on issues related to immigration. 'SHUBHAKANKHI' -a social satire was developed focusing different situations and challenges that a new immigrant often faces. Emamul Haque conceptualized the theme and directed the drama while Mak Azad developed the script. Manik Chanda, Rini Shakhawat and Mak Azad acted in the piece.



PACE Community Surveys

PACE conducted two rapid surveys in the community to understand the status of the civic engagement of Bangladeshi Canadians living in the GTA and the status of adult health in the community. The first survey was launched prior to Canada's federal election 2015, in the months of September and October. The 2nd survey was launched in June 2016. The survey findings are available on PACE website.





AGMs, Appreciation Dinner and Board Retreats

Two annual general meetings have been organized during the reporting period where general members discussed the previous years' program activities and financial reports. In December 2015 PACE invited all members, volunteers, supporters and well wishers to the appreciation dinner. Over 70 guests attended the event which included a cultural performance by local artists followed by a comedy skit.

To remain relevant in the community, enhance the program capacity and setting up the program priorities board members including resource persons participated in the board retreats in 2015 & 2017. The retreat meeting discussed issues from the various perspective and finalize the program focus and priorities.





We love our Volunteers

Our following volunteers made a big difference to our work by contributing their time, energy, and talents.

Shudda Shucismita

Rezwana Faiza

Nadia Mohsin

Md. Rakibul Islam

Shaian Arif

Nusaibah Farah Mahbub

Zaemah Farah Mahbub

Ananya Riddha

Parsa Khan

Ajmain Khan

Faraz Ali

Gibran E Haque

Munaiba Nusheena

Saniya Niyoosha

Zarif Chowdhury

Manhah Fatima

Safwan Muntaqim Ahmed

Murto Hilali

Samah Abedin

Samiha Abedin

Sofia Bondarenko

Julia Knott

Workshop on Effective Communication and Conflict Resolution

PACE organized a workshop on “Effective Communication and Conflict Resolution” on Saturday, October 14, 2017, facilitated by Fawzia Noor, a licensed paralegal, community mediator and conflict coach. The workshop was followed by the AGM. Volunteers and participants of Voice, a project of PACE, received certificates in the event. Certificates were handed over to the volunteers by musician Chandan and music teacher and life member of PACE Arifa Farhat.





NGO Fundraising Workshop in Dhaka

PACE in partnership with Manusher Jonno Foundation, PSTC and EcoFab, organized a day-long workshop on fundraising for NGOs in Dhaka on Wednesday, 22nd November 2017. The workshop discussed fundraising best practices in Bangladesh and basic fundraising concepts and plans, including best practices of developed countries and northern NGOs. Over 35 NGO professionals participated in the workshop. Resource persons from corporations and non-profit sector from Canada, Australia and Bangladesh offered sessions in the workshop. Emamul Haque, executive director, PACE, facilitated the workshop.



“When the conventional donors’ are leaving and/or changing their priorities, we need to come out of the conventional way of mobilizing resources. Considering our economic growth and enhanced ability, perhaps it’s time now to explore and encourage individual giving, and impact investment fund.”

Faruque Ahmed
Executive Director, BRAC International.

Executive Leadership



Abu Mohsin
President



Ghulam Hilali
Vice-president



Emamul Haque
Founder President/Executive Director



Mustafa Mahkmud PhD
Director



Rezwan Ahmed
Director



Priyanka Debnath PhD
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