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## Indo-Canadian Community Centre – AGM 2017

# SOCIAL NETWORK OF WOMEN (S.N.O.W.)

### Abbreviated Summary of 2016/17 Activities

Prepared by: Rekha Dogra, Chair S.N.O.W.

#### 1. March 19, 2016 – International Women’s Day Celebration:

- SNOW’s first ever event was a celebration of International Women's Day and raised funds for Interval House of Ottawa-Carleton (Interval House).
- Interval House operates a twenty bed shelter for abused women and their children and offers a variety of services including safe shelter, counseling, referrals, crisis line, a residential program and advocacy.
- The event included a panel discussion by inspiring women, followed by a silent auction and dinner.
  - Panel Topic: “Challenges and Opportunities faced by Diverse Women then and now “
  - *Guest Speakers:*
    - Rush Luther, author and retired academic, Carleton University
    - Alka Sharma (Executive Director, The Ontario Council of Folk Festivals)
    - Neha Chugh (Criminal Defence Lawyer)
- The event was sponsored by several prominent local businesses. In addition, members of the local Indian community donated numerous auction items.
- The event was sold out and attended by more than 80 people. SNOW raised \$5,100 for Interval House from this event.

**2. May 15, 2016 - Interval House Presentation:**

- Guest speaker Kia Rainbow (Executive Director, Interval House) led a discussion about the various programs offered by Interval House, how they help women and how women in challenging situations can reach the shelter.
- SNOW presented a check for \$5,100 to Interval House.
- A member survey was conducted to assist in planning future group activities.

**3. June 22, 2016 – Tips for Healthy Living (Tanglewood Community Centre):**

- SNOW members shared tips for healthy living followed by a wide-ranging group discussion on how to live an active and healthy life in today’s fast paced society.
- Planning survey results were shared with the group.
- A Planning Committee for SNOW’s next marquee event, Charity Gala Bollywood 1960s, was formed.

**4. August 31, 2016 – Talent Showcase (Tanglewood Community Centre):**

- A fun showcase of group talent, including a cooking show, henna application and jewelry making by members.
- Group members enjoyed a variety of delicious potluck snacks.

**5. October 26, 2016 - Diwali Memories and More (at Rekha’s Home):**

- “Flu season” - a discussion led by Dr. Indu Gambhir.
- “Diwali memories” - members shared their Diwali memories and enjoyed delicious sweets and snacks.
- SNOW’s website was launched ([www.socialnetworkofwomen.com](http://www.socialnetworkofwomen.com))

**6. Nov. 12, 2016 – SNOW Charity Gala (“Bollywood in the 1960s”):**

- SNOW’s first ever charity gala with the theme of Bollywood in the 1960s. The goal of the event was to promote and encourage local artists (Indian music) as well as raise funds for Interval House.
- Event was held at Palki Cuisine of India. There were live performances by local artists, live auction, dinner, dancing, and door prizes.

- Local community donated numerous auction items. Local Indian artists were very enthusiastic in their support of the event.
- Keynote Speaker was Mayor Jim Watson. The Mayor welcomed the audience and warmly thanked SNOW for its awareness efforts and bringing together the Indo-Canadian community to raise funds for Interval House. He also thanked the Indo-Canadian community for their significant contributions to the City of Ottawa. Mayor also tweeted his support of the event.
- CTV News was present at the event and covered it in the daily 6 pm news.
- This was sold out event and raised \$3,000 for Interval House.

## 2017

### **7. Feb. 2017 – 2017 Kick-Off Event:**

- SNOW's first 2007 meeting was held at East India Company Restaurant for members and their family/friends.
- The group was updated about the tremendous success of the recent Charity Gala. SNOW policies were discussed and election for SNOW officers for April was confirmed. March 19 was confirmed for International Women's Day event at East India Company.
- Madhu Nagpal (Volunteer, Treasurer) presented financial information for 2016. There were 42 SNOW members in 2016 and SNOW has \$1,600 in bank account after deducting all expenses.

### **8. March 19, 2017: International Women's Day Luncheon (East India Company Restaurant):**

- An informational and lively panel discussion:
  - *Topics:* Education, Girls, Impact and Women who helped change.
  - *Guest Speakers:* Dr. Mira Gambhir, Manju Anand and Megan Paterson.
- SNOW presented a check for \$3,000 to Megan Paterson, Chairperson of Interval House's Board of Directors. Megan warmly thanked the group and spoke about the shelter and her personal account of violence against women.

### **9. April 29, 2017 (Planned) - Officer Elections:**

- Group will meet for brunch at Tanglewood Community Center to elect SNOW's officers.