



## COUNCIL OF AGENCIES SERVING SOUTH ASIANS (CASSA)

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CASSA is a social justice umbrella organization working with Ontario's diverse South Asian communities.

### Our mission is:

- to facilitate the economic, social, political and cultural empowerment of South Asians by serving as a resource for information, research, mobilization, coordination and leadership on social justice issues affecting our communities
- to create social change by building alliances and working collaboratively with those who share a vision of empowering all communities to participate in defining Canada's future

**CASSA's Vision:** We envision and strive for a Canada free of all forms of discrimination in which all communities are free from marginalization and are fully empowered to participate in defining Canada's political, economic, social and cultural future.

## Strategic Directions 2008-2010

### Key Community Action Issues

#### 1. Poverty Reduction:

CASSA will promote and contribute to an analysis that recognizes the links between poverty and racialization. CASSA will bring together community stakeholders to collectively create and support strategies emerging from this analysis to reduce poverty in the South Asian and other racialized communities.

Potential areas of impact include education and learning; health and well-being; employment; income levels and social assistance; justice and policing; immigration and newcomer settlement; housing and homelessness; and food (in) security.

#### 2. Coordination of Access to Health and Wellness:

CASSA will promote and contribute to an analysis that is based on the social determinants of health.

CASSA will bring together community stakeholders to collectively create and support strategies that:

- Increase South Asian communities' access to linguistically and culturally appropriate health services;
- Create equitable access to mental and sexual health services by addressing barriers that exist both internally within South Asian communities and externally in the Health Services sector
- Promote health equity and reflective governance structures within Health care institutions.

#### 3. Strengthening the communities' capacity to address inter-generational and family relationship Issues

CASSA will bring together community stakeholders to collectively create and support opportunities for research, collaborations, sharing of best practices, professional development/training and advocacy for resources in order to address inter-generational and family relationship issues.

## **CASSA-Community Stakeholder Relationships**

### **4. Strengthening responsiveness to community stakeholders**

CASSA will expand on its existing consultative structures in order to ensure increased accountability and responsiveness to our community stakeholders.

CASSA will create communications strategies and mechanisms that ensure effective multi-directional communication between CASSA and its community stakeholders as well as amongst the stakeholders.

By becoming a member, you'll support our mission, vision and our three strategic priorities for the next three years. You will also become a supporter of our social justice initiatives and projects. Overall, you will become part of CASSA, a well-recognized and effective social justice umbrella organization working with Ontario's diverse South Asian communities.

In addition to that, when you join CASSA, you receive these and other fine benefits.

Your membership will allow your organization to:

- promote your events through publishing them on our website
- post volunteer opportunities online to expand your volunteer base
- post job openings at your organization
- attend our Annual General Meeting which includes panel discussion, awards, entertainment and dinner
- join CASSA's Board of Directors and other subcommittees
- have enhanced access to various research papers and publications dealing with South Asians in Ontario
- receive a weekly newsletter with information on community events, funding proposals and applications
- network with others in the community who are working for social justice and equity in Ontario.