

# Persian Shab-e Yalda Celebrated By WEConnect

TORONTO: WEConnect Community Services celebrated Yalda night on December 17, 2018 at 121 Parkway Forest Drive, Toronto. The gathering was attended by WEConnect Directors, Community Members who have settled in the neighbourhood. Sejal G., Vice-President, congratulated staff and volunteers for organising Shab-e Yalda for the first time at WEConnect Office.

This gathering exemplified the successful implementation of the programs focussing on the integration of diverse communities at WEConnect CS, showcasing a rich heritage of the Persian Community Shab-e Yalda, which is being practised for centuries and perhaps millennia.

Attendees were touched by the dedication of the young and old generation Canadians of Indo – Iranian origin who actively participated in this 5000-years-old Iranian traditional celebration.

Shivang, Youth Coordinator, introduced the agenda for the evening and invited the audience to participate in an ice-breaking activity based on Iranian music and dance movements.

Dr. Shokrullah, our Iranian member then spoke on the history of Shab-e Yalda and why we celebrate it, followed by its interpretation by Mr. Hariharan who also highlighted the similarities between this celebration to Diwali festivities as both symbolized



the triumph of ( LIGHT) the Sun God over the powers of darkness.

Shahla Jahany was invited to read a Hafez Poem followed by a beautiful dance performance by Bhavya Pareek

Jayashree thanked all volunteers for their efforts to showcase cultural diversity as our shared heritage. She expressed how cultural practices were an very important source of identity and strength to people for sustainable development and integration.

Guests spent the evening enjoying Iranian music, dances, poetry followed by games and prizes and were served a variety of food pertaining to the celebration of Yalda.



## Employers Can Apply For Canada Summer Jobs Funding

Hiring a young Canadian brings new life, energy and ideas into an organization and employers are asked to apply for Canada Summer Jobs funding.

Employment and Social Development Canada recently welcomed Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce, and Labour, to Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute in Scarborough for the official launch of

the employer application phase of the 2019 program, where officials heard from past employers and students how the program has benefited them.

Canada Summer Jobs is an initiative of the Youth Employment Strategy, which is the Government of Canada's commitment to help young people between the ages of 15 and 30, particularly those facing barriers to employ-

ment, get the information and gain the skills, work experience and abilities they need to transition successfully into the labour market.

The program provides wage subsidies to employers from not-for-profit organizations, the public-sector, and private sector organizations with 50 or fewer full-time employees, to create quality summer work experi-

ences for young people aged 15 to 30 years.

In delivering on these objectives, the Government of Canada aims to ensure that youth job opportunities funded by the program take place in an environment that respects the rights of all Canadians.

These youth summer work experiences represent important pathways facilitating future tran-

sitions to the workforce.

Among the changes for 2019: youth aged 15 to 30 can now apply for jobs funded through the CSJ program, all CSJ-funded jobs will be posted to an online job bank, and clarification has been provided around eligible positions.

The application phase for employers is open until January 25, 2019.



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