



by LENA FENG

Four years ago, the Canadian Club of Hong Kong started a community service project to provide practical and cultural information to new Canadian visa holders preparing to land in Canada. The programme, a two hour seminar in Cantonese with video, slide and oral presentations along with a question and answer segment, is designed to help the new immigrants successfully integrate into Canadian society, hence the name "Meet With Success".

Lyneita Swanson, Programme Co-ordinator for the last three years says, "I think it is an absolutely essential service. The most successful immigrants are those that integrate, and you can't begin to integrate until you have an understanding of the culture and society you are going to."

Meet With Success provides an introduction to Canadian society, with the focus on culture and lifestyle. "It's somewhat of a "Golden Handshake," says Larry Mills, President of Meet With Success, "providing participants some insights to Canada before leaving Hong Kong." He explains that there are limitations on what can be covered in an evening seminar: "Although the seminar does not delve into details on every aspect of Canadian life, participants do receive an information kit with 20 fact sheets to help them understand key areas such as health care, community service, personal finance, politics (and) education."

"Participants find the kit very useful", says Swanson, "... as well as the question and answer period". Mills adds: "We're always looking at ways to improve the programme... we're now in the process of updating the video presentation."



Lyneita Swanson busy coordinating a full session of the Meet With Success Seminar.

The programme is run as a service from the Canadian Club, with a Meet With Success board, a coordinator, volunteers, seminar speakers, and assistance from the Canadian Commission. Since its inception, the programme has met with its own success. A seminar is held once a week, sometimes twice, with an attendance of 180 to 200 people each session. Swanson says her biggest challenge these days is accommodating the increasing numbers of people who wish to attend, since "every seminar is actually overbooked, and booked two months in advance."

An invitation/application is extended to all principal applicants when their Canadian visa is issued, and a healthy response rate of 65-70 per cent end up attending a seminar before making their move to Canada.

Met With Success was started with funding by a group of founding patrons. Now contributions received from participants at each session help to offset some costs such as the printing of the information kits. The board is currently looking at ways to fund the programme so that it may continue to benefit all new Canadians from Hong Kong. ♦

Seminar speakers Marianna May (pictured above) and Brian Cheng host the weekly seminars with up to 200 people at each session.



Pssst....Pick Up The PHONE,

and dial **594 0158** to experience memories and a dream come true.....**Remember when?**

- ...Hockey Games
- ...A White Christmas
- ...Molson Golden
- ...Clean Air
- ...The Skydome

and **Telephone Answering Services?**

Finally in Hong Kong, a bilingual HUMAN answering service. We operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during Typhoons, Monsoons, and Full Moons. We also offer the ultimate personal communicator with worldwide roaming and the largest paging screen in Hong Kong (4 lines, 160 characters per message AND storage for 40 messages). We answer your phone, take your message and page you – instantly! No faxes. No phones. No problems. Finally, a company you can turn to for quality phone service. Call TAS! **CALL NOW!**

TAS Telephone **A**nswering **S**olutions Ltd

P.S. Who's answering your calls over the holidays. Give us a call on the TAS Open Line at **594 0158** - ask for Roy.