



President's Report

Annual General Meeting 2019

September 14, 2019

I am delighted to report that the Iranian Heritage Society of Edmonton (IHSE) delivered seven successful events in 2018-2019, including the celebration of Nowruz for which a certificate from the City of Edmonton was issued in congratulations. Additionally, the Board of the Edmonton Heritage Festival awarded IHSE's cultural tent second place prize for its positive impact on visitor experience at the 2019 festival.

In 2018-2019, the IHSE focused time and resources to increase the involvement of Iranian youth in the organization and execution of IHSE events. Through creating a comfortable and nurturing environment, many Iranian youth rose to the challenge of event coordination and developed a range of skills in various roles.

- General Meeting - November 4, 2018
 - The IHSE reviewed budget, plans, areas of opportunity and the society's vision of how to deliver its mission successfully at the general meeting.
 - Over 18 people from IHSE and the Edmonton-Iranian community were in attendance.
- Yalda Celebration - December 22, 2018
 - Many people, including Iranians, celebrate the battle of brightness vs. darkness on the longest night of the year by gathering together to stay awake overnight.
 - The IHSE hosted live performances, poetry readings, dinner and dancing at 12904 112 Street NW.
 - 258 were in attendance from the Edmonton-Iranian community.
- International Women's Day - March 8, 2019
 - The IHSE invited three successful Iranian-Canadian women from the Edmonton community (Ms. Nooran Ostadian, Dr. Tina Khaalipour and Dr. Maryam Sharafzadeh Amin) to present their life stories, including achievements and challenges.
 - The event was held at Telus Centre and about 47 of people were in attendance.
- Nowruz Market/Spring Bazar - March 15, 2019
 - Eighteen small businesses participated in this community fair located at Blue Quill - 11304 25 Ave NW, showcasing their crafts and services.
 - Over 400 people attended the market, which took place over six hours.
- Youth Spring Celebration - March 15, 2019
 - Through a series of dance and musical performances, Iranian youth were educated on the history of Nowruz – the first day of Spring and the Persian calendar.

- Over 200 people attended the performances, which took place over the 3 hours .
- Nowruz Celebration - March 16, 2019
 - A ceremony to celebrate Nowruz was held at The Royal Palace - 4960 93 Ave NW, and included live performances, traditional dance, dinner and a live band.
 - 360 people from the Edmonton community were in attendance, including Honourable Donald L. Iveson, Mayor of Edmonton, and his wife.
 - Following his speech, the Mayor presented IHSE with a certificate to recognize the celebration of Nowruz in Edmonton.
- Edmonton Heritage Festival - August 3-5, 2019
 - With the support of over 70 volunteers, mostly youth between the ages of 14-20, the IHSE successfully represented Iranian heritage during the 2019 festival.
 - Infrastructural investments included the purchase of a two-door commercial grade fridge, commercial grade all stainless-steel sink and working tables (included in financial report).
 - The IHSE was awarded second place for its impactful execution of its cultural tent.

Action Items for IHSE in 2020:

- Seek additional funds in the operational budget for office rental and storage.
- Seek additional funds in the operational budget for developing a website, including the creation of an English language site.
- Seek legal advice on implementing the process of enhancing the organization structure.
- Increase traffic to the IHSE website by providing a user-friendly platform and useful information.
- Join and support other non-profit community organizations with similar goals.
- Seek additional funds in the operational budget to increase community activities during summer months involved with cultural performances.
- Seek additional funds in the operational budget to improve the quality of IHSE events that can support higher volumes of participants.
- Expand IHSE activities and develop impactful programs that align with the IHSE mission (promoting, educating and engaging cross-cultural dialogue between Iranian-Canadians and the global community) such as summer sports activities for youth and cultural activities.

On behalf of the IHSE Board of Directors, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Edmonton-Iranian community voluntarily in 2018-2019.

Sincerely,



Reza Akbari
Vice-President of IHSE
Report on behalf of IHSE Board of Directors