



# BEST PRACTICES AWARDS REGISTRATION FORM

Best Practices Awards is a new initiative of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC). Each year the focus of the awards will be different. This year's focus is civic education.

We are now accepting submissions for nominations for 2010 Best Practices Awards that will recognize three programs that have adopted successful approaches to civic education. The award will be based on the creativity of the organization's approach, transferability of the model, sustainability and success of the program (not the organization).

## STEP 1 – REGISTRATION

Fill out this pdf form and email it as an attachment to [bp@icc-icc.ca](mailto:bp@icc-icc.ca)

Name of the organization

Title of the nominated program

Mandate of the program (in 25 words)

Year the program started

Lead person name

email

phone

Selected subcategory of civic education (see the list of subcategories)

[Please view a sample of the registration form for your reference.](#)

## STEP 2 – Q/A

Please tick the correct response.

1. Does the program serve participants in English and/or French?

English only	French only	Both	Neither
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2. Is the approach to civic education theoretical or practical?

Theoretical only	Practical only	Both	not applicable
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3. Does the program have concrete tools for measuring its success?

Yes	No	not applicable
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4. Does the program facilitate active citizenship (e.g. volunteerism)

Yes	No	Not sure	not applicable
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Civic education is the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to develop informed, active and responsible citizenship.

*Institute for  
Canadian Citizenship*



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5. Do you maintain a relationship with program alumni?

Yes	No	Not sure	not applicable
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6. Is there a “part-two” to the program which allows alumni to develop their skills further or to become engaged?

Yes	No	Not sure	not applicable
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7. What is the dropout rate of the program?

Under 5%	5% to 25%	25% to 50%	over 50%	not applicable
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## STEP 3 – WRITE AN IMPACT STATEMENT

The nominating organization must write an impact statement (limited to 500 words) which includes the following:

- the unique qualities of the program;
- its successful approaches to civic education;
- the impact of the program on the participants; and
- a brief description of how the award would be used to develop or share the program model.

**BONUS** You may collect bonus “points” for submitting an impact statement written by an alumni of the nominated program. His/her statement should be limited to 250 words and must contain an explanation of how the program has affected him/her personally. The alumni should email his/her statement directly to [bp@icc-icc.ca](mailto:bp@icc-icc.ca) in the body of an email.



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**FEES** It's free!

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS** To participate in Best Practices Awards the organization must submit a nomination for its existing program which exemplifies a model approach to civic education.

1. Organization running the nominated program must be a Canadian entity;
2. The program must be ongoing (not a one-time project or a pilot);
3. The program must be for Canadians;
4. The program must be directly related to civic education.

**CONTEST RULES** Nominations open during Citizenship Week, October 19-25, 2009 and close at 5pm, 30 May 2010

To nominate a program, please fill out the form and email it to [bp@icc-icc.ca](mailto:bp@icc-icc.ca)

The form consists of three parts:

- the registration;
- Q/A section; and
- 500-word impact statement.

**JUDGES** Adrienne Clarkson – co-chair of the ICC  
John Ralston Saul – co-chair of the ICC  
Irfhan Rawji – ICC Board member  
Martin F. Katz – ICC Board member

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR SELECTING THE WINNERS

The Panel of judges will use the same criteria to judge all nominees, including:

- The program's degree of sustainability (i.e. how likely that the program is going to continue);
- The program is transferable within Canada;
- The number of points collected by the organization for the program;
- Impact story; and
- The scope of the program.

## RECOGNITION & AWARD

The three winning programs will be

- announced during Citizenship Week in October 2010 at an awards event;
- published in ICC newsletter; and
- awarded a monetary prize which the organization responsible for the program must spend on developing and/or disseminating the program.

Following the awards we will continue to work with the winning organizations for the purposes of sharing their successful models with the rest of Canada. In year two, members of the winning organizations of the previous year's award may join the panel of the judges.

## COPYRIGHTS & DISCLAIMER

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship retains the right to this contest and the website content.

By entering the Best Practice Program contest, the entrant agrees to be bound by the rules of the contest.

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship reserves the right to disqualify an entrant.

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship reserves the right to cancel the contest without further notice.

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship reserves the right to change the rules without further notice.

## CONTACTS

For more information contact Fragile Gbego-Tossa, Manager, Program Design & Development at [fgtossa@icc-icc.ca](mailto:fgtossa@icc-icc.ca) or call 416.593.6998 x 234.



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[< back to form](#)

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Name of the organization

**Institute for Canadian Citizenship**

Title of the nominated program

**Building Citizenship: Change for Change Initiative**

Mandate of the program (in 25 words)

**Connect new and established Canadians by encouraging community celebrations around the rites of citizenship; Encourage the practice of active, inclusive citizenship.**

Year the program started

**2009**

Lead person name

**Claire Reid**

email

**creid@icc-icc.ca**

phone

**416-593-6998**

Selected subcategory of civic education (see the list of subcategories)

**Other: Discussion forum on citizenship**

Please view a sample of the registration form for your reference.

## STEP 2 – Q/A

Please tick the correct response.

1. Does the program serve participants in English and/or French?

English only     French only     Both     Neither

2. Is the approach to civic education theoretical or practical?

Theoretical only     Practical only     Both     not applicable

3. Does the program have concrete tools for measuring its success?

Yes     No     not applicable

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- Yes       No       Not sure       not applicable

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- Yes       No       Not sure       not applicable

7. What is the dropout rate of the program?

- Under 5%       5% to 25%       25% to 50%       over 50%       not applicable

## STEP 3 – WRITE AN IMPACT STATEMENT

The nominating organization must write an impact statement (limited to 500 words) which includes the following:

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When his brother, Ram recently took his citizenship oath the ceremony was far different. Held on the grounds of the local elementary school, it included numerous people from the community and was far more of a celebration. "It was great since Ram was able to meet and celebrate with people from his new neighborhood. Everyone had brought food and there was music and people all shared their own stories with him and the other ten people taking their oaths." Shiv describes.

This difference is the result of the work of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) through its national "Building Citizenship" program. Launched in July 2006, the Building Citizenship program creates a national network of local citizenship committees who connect new and established Canadians by encouraging community celebrations around the rites of citizenship.

Community citizenship ceremonies were initiated to address the reality that immigrants are often isolated from their larger community but that through these ceremonies, new and established citizens could be brought together in celebration. The community citizenship ceremony is different in that it is planned and hosted by citizens in the community and that each ceremony is a unique celebration reflecting the local culture of the community.

The program is in three parts. It starts with roundtable discussions about what active citizenship means and how it shapes Canadian identity. The round table discussions are an opportunity for both new and experienced Canadians to learn from one another and share their experiences and opinions.

The citizenship ceremony constitutes the second act, coordinated together with Citizenship and Immigration Canada and carefully designed to bring local leaders and community together. Then comes the “reception” –a celebration in all its forms. Each ceremony is a unique celebration reflecting the local culture of the community.

The enhanced citizenship ceremonies are a launching pad for new citizens and established community members to connect in meaningful ways. Following up on the ceremonies, committees are encouraged to initiate activities that will provide the space for new and experienced citizens to meet one another, share stories and experiences, and build their communities together. Committees apply for a maximum of \$1,000.00 per fiscal year to implement these local activities. The Institute believes that integration is a process that requires the active participation of all citizens. Indeed, actively involving all members of a community in practicing inclusive citizenship is the aim of the program.

## BONUS

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