

#### **'TIS THE SEASON OF GIFTING**

Give the gift of culture Handcrafted wonders and experiences from newcomers entrepreneurs



# WHO WE ARE





Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) is a nonprofit that welcomes and supports newcomers to settle in their communities, learn English, study and find work in British Columbia (BC).

Please visit us at 💮 **issbc.org** 

## A message from our CEO

We want to express our gratitude for your interest in and support of ISSofBC's mission. Every day, organizations like ours support newcomers to Canada, including those seeking refuge from violence and persecution. We lead and innovate in the settlement sector, continually improving our practices. Over the last year, we have been fortunate to witness the transformative impact of our entrepreneurship programs, which have helped countless individuals bring their business ideas to life and contribute to the local economy.

Through programs like Ignite and Spark, we have supported newcomers to turn their aspirations into successful ventures. Ignite, for example, has played a pivotal role in launching over 50 businesses, offering tailored, one-on-one support to entrepreneurs in areas such as business planning, registration, and funding. This program has not only helped entrepreneurs grow their businesses but also connected them to a community of like-minded individuals, expanding their networks and opening doors to new opportunities. Similarly, Spark has supported individuals in refining their business ideas, taking them one step closer to realizing their dreams of entrepreneurship.

The success of these programs reflects the resilience and determination of the individuals we serve. By providing them with the tools and guidance needed to succeed, we are contributing to the growth of small businesses across British Columbia.

This, in turn, creates jobs, strengthens the economy, and turns the dreams of many newcomers into reality. It is a privilege to witness these entrepreneurs thrive, knowing that we have played a role in their journey.

Behind each of these stories is our dedicated team of nearly 500 talented and diverse staff members, driven by our shared values and diverse experiences. We thank them all. We also extend our gratitude to our volunteers, funders, partners, and donors for their unwavering trust, support, and commitment.

Sincerely, Jonathan Oldman. CEO.



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#### Spark & Ignite

#### **Gifting with Purpose**

Supporting Emerging Local Businesses

#### Celebrate with heart

#### Happy Holidays

From the ISSofBC community to yours



## Meet our Spark and Ignite business clients



### SPARK

Our program helps newcomers with their business ideas. Spark works with you to develop and strengthen your business ideas and takes you one step closer to launching your business. Individuals over four months; will take part in three phases that lead to having a business idea that is ready to be developed into a business.

### IGNITE

Ignite helps entrepreneurs and business owners succeed because of its tailored, personalized, and timely one-on-one individualized support. Ignite graduates own thriving businesses and still benefit from our ecosystem of support. Ignite has helped successfully launch more than 50 businesses. 5

#### Healy Traditional Brown Bread



Irish Immigrant turned small business owner, bringing the warmth of Ireland to Canada with handcrafted, traditional Irish Brown Bread made with love and care.

Specializing in fresh, traditional Irish brown bread made with natural local ingredients, sold at local farmers markets and through social media. Connect with us for more on our product offerings.



BUY NOW healysfoods.com

### Holy Taco



Holy Taco is a food truck that specializes in a Mexican dish called Birria. This dish is originally from Jalisco, Mexico. Birria is a famous dish known for tender beef slow cooked with Mexican spices and peppers that have an incomparable and delicious flavour. From grand venues to intimate events, Holy Taco offers catering with passion and authenticity. Join us in this culinary adventure, where every bite tells a history of tradition, love and commitment to bringing the best of Mexican cuisine to your event.



#### **Vedic Aroma**



Welcome to Vedic Aroma - where tradition meets innovation in the world of wellness. We specialize in crafting the finest essential oils, hair oils, and massage oils, all designed to enhance your well-being and bring balance to your life. Our carefully curated collection brings you nature's best, enhancing your physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.



BUY NOW <u>vendicaroma.ca</u>

### **Mansion Vibes**



At Mansion Vibes, our home decor & lifestyle products are crafted from eco-friendly materials such as coconut shells, bamboo, canvas, and jute, which are natural, renewable, and biodegradable.



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### **Inspirit Breath**



Inspirit Breath, founded by Natalie, a physiotherapist with 18 years of experience, specializes in Functional Breathing to help women manage stress, pain, and anxiety. Combining tailored breathing techniques with functional and postural exercises, Natalie empowers women to take control of their bodies, minds, and emotions. Inspirit Breath provides practical, personalized tools to overcome obstacles and embrace a vibrant, fulfilling life-starting with the simple yet transformative power of breath.



SUPPORT HERE inspiritbreath.com

### N2P Distributors



We empowering businesses by providing high-quality, customized promotional products that enhance brand visibility and drive growth. With over a decade of industry experience, we recognized the need for a reliable partner who understands how impactful branded products can be in strengthening business relationships.



### **GT Kitchen Jewel**



GT Kitchen Jewel Ltd. is an authorized dealer of Saladmaster, a direct selling company engaged in manufacturing premium cookware. Whether you are a master-chef or a home-cook, Saladmaster cookware helps the family save time and money while prioritizing nutrition. Our cookware is not sold in stores because Saladmaster should be experienced in every home. Saladmaster cookware offers each family a lifetime of healthy and guilt-free cooking. Connect with us at GT Kitchen Jewel on Facebook, for more details on cookware that will make holiday meal preparation a labour of love.



604-401-2299
<u>gtkitchenjewel@gmail.com</u> 12
<u>GTKitchenJewels</u>

#### **Events by Bruno**



Life's most cherished moments deserve to be celebrated in a way that reflects your unique story. Fueled by expertise developed from exceeding clients' expectations, I specialize in crafting unforgettable experiences, weaving together the essence of your vision with our unrelenting passion for creativity and meticulous planning. We will be the architects of your celebration, guiding you through the entire process with a personalized touch that will be cherished forever. Whether it's a joyous birthday, a love-filled anniversary, a whimsical bridal shower, a heartwarming baby shower, an emotional celebration of life or mindful wellness retreat, our commitment is to make these moments unforgettable.



#### SUPPORT HERE eventsbybruno.com 13

#### **ECO Wave Cleaning**



We are proud to offer a range of high-quality cleaning services tailored to meet the needs of our clients. Our services include move-in/move-out cleaning, warehouse cleaning, event cleaning, and daily cleaning for construction projects. Delivering exceptional results while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and efficiency is our focus. We prioritize the use of eco-friendly cleaning products that are both safe for our clients and gentle on the environment. These green products are non-toxic, biodegradable, and free of harsh chemicals, ensuring that our cleaning methods are as sustainable as possible. Whether it's using green products, reducing waste, or supporting eco-conscious businesses, we are committed to doing our part in creating a cleaner, healthier world while generating job opportunities for others.

<u>ecowavecleaning.ca</u>

🕒 604-618-4776

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#### La Luna Events



Welcome to La Luna, where every event becomes an unforgettable adventure for kids! We bring the magic with our face painting, balloon twisting, glitter tattoos, fun-filled games and activities, colorful balloon garlands, and more! From birthday celebrations to daycare parties, festivals to business events, our five-star entertainers bring joy and excitement to every gathering. All you have to do is pick the venue and we'll bring the fun to you! Proudly serving Greater Vancouver, including Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, and beyond. Ready to party? let's make some magical memories!



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#### **Positive Nutrition BC**



At PositiveNutritionBC, we are a team dedicated to empowering individuals on their journey to better health and well-being. Led by an experienced nutritionist and wellness educator with over a decade of experience, we believe in the power of personalized care, cultural awareness, and holistic health. Whether through one-on-one coaching, group programs, or community initiatives, our mission is to help you unlock a healthier, more balanced lifestyle -physically, mentally, and emotionally.



#### Hong Kong Companions Society



Hong Kong Companions Society is founded by Registered Clinical Counsellors under BCACC who have recently relocated from Hong Kong to Vancouver. The mission is to foster mental, emotional, and social wellbeing for Hong Kong born Vancourites, empowering them to thrive in their new home of BC. As a registered non-profit organization, HKCS is dedicated to supporting newcomers through a wide range of culturally sensitive services designed to address the unique challenges faced by HK immigrants. Through therapeutic workshops, psychoeducation, community events and talks, HKCS strives to create a nurturing environment where newcomers can gain insight from healing and navigating life's transitions, while contributing positively to the Vancouver community.



#### BaseHub



We are a new immigration consulting firm based in Vancouver and our goal is to provide all the support you need to study, work or immigrate to Canada! Coming to a different country, whether as a permanent or temporary resident, might look complicated, but we are here to help you navigate the process. We will provide you with the step-by-step and will carefully review each step, to make sure your application is strong to maximize your chances of approval.



#### **SkillEase Academy**



We're passionate about sharing knowledge and empowering others, specializing in making complex technical concepts clear and actionable. With deep expertise in data analytics, cloud technologies, and business intelligence, we love guiding individuals and teams through the ever-evolving world of data-driven solutions. Whether through mentoring, workshops, or collaborative projects, we're dedicated to helping people sharpen their skills, stay ahead of trends, and use technology to tackle real-world challenges. Our mission is to inspire continuous learning and growth across the tech community.



#### Alex Coco



We believe feeling beautiful and comfortable in your own body will set you free to live in the now. We believe the now holds the most precious and colourful moments. We believe moments of happiness are hidden in the small things. We believe all little things such as the breeze, the water and the music can bring you to magical places.

We are Alex Coco, and we are inviting you to feel comfortable, beautiful and free. Welcome!



#### Trust Business Partners INC.



Meet Alaa Aljamal, founder of Trust Business Partners Inc. With over 25 years of experience providing expert accounting, bookkeeping, and CFO services to help businesses thrive, Trust Business Partners Inc. is ready to meet your financial needs. We leverage our experience to drive business growth and financial success. Connect with us today to discuss your financial needs and how we can help you grow.

SUPPORT HERE <u>trustbp.ca</u>

## A heartfelt thanks

We are deeply grateful for your support of newcomer entrepreneurs featured in this business directory. These individuals, with their determination and creativity, are enriching our local communities and contributing to Canada's vibrant The economy. businesses showcased here represent more than just entrepreneurial spiritthey embody the resilience and hard work of those building new lives in Canada

Through programs like Spark and Ignite, ISSofBC proudly supports these entrepreneurs in bringing their dreams to life. The ripple effect of their success extends beyond their own ventures, fostering stronger, more inclusive communities.



This directory is a testament to the collective manv-our effort of dedicated staff. volunteers. funders. community and partners. Your encouragement support and empower us to continue this important work. As the year draws to a close, we encourage you to consider these businesses for your holiday needs, helping to create an even greater impact.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

#### Sincerely,

#### **Mohamud Olow**

Manager, Spark & Ignite Program





## THANK YOU and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM YOUR COMMUNITY



