

Surrey Public Library Wins Prestigious Award

By Melanie Houlden.



Left to right: Trustee Muhammad Malik, Trustee Peter Leblanc, Ravi Basi, Jas Cheema (Board Chair), Melanie Houlden, Tania Tong, Trustee Jay Bains.

Surrey Public Library was honoured on April 15th, 2009 at the Metrotown Hilton where it won the DIVERSEcity Award for Business in the category 'Public Institutions'.

The Library won over Richmond School District and the UBC Centre for Intercultural Communication. The Awards program was developed by Diversecity Community Resources Society in to acknowledge the

value that diversity brings to the workplace, including an expanded labor force, improved problem solving, new markets for products and services and improved customer satisfaction.

Recent highlights of new services at the Library include:

- Installation of ESL software at computer labs in three branches.
- Development of a New Canadians website.
- Access to an online subscription which offers newspapers in 35 languages.
- Development of a "Cross-Cultural Communications" staff workshop.
- Participation in events such as the Fusion Festival and hosting celebrations such as Chinese New Year's.
- Offering new programs - Storytimes to Help Learn English and technology training classes for First Nations students.
- Hiring staff with language skills to better serve our customers.

Melanie Houlden is the Deputy Chief Librarian of Surrey Public Library.