

MAP Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2019 9:30AM - 12:00PM

Location: MOSAIC: 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver

The meeting was held on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples including the Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish and Musqueam nations

Attendees: Claudia Buendia (MSDPR), Katherine Ludgate (Vancity), Jenny Moss (MAP), Saleem Spindari (MOSAIC), Mariana Martinez Vieyra (VAST), Derek Chu (Kinbrace); Fran Gallo (Kinbrace); Adriana Zepeda (Kinbrace), Katherine Griffin (MOSAIC), James Grunau (Journey home); Vicki Chiu (MJTT), Marilyn Corpuz (MJTT), Vanessa Roth (Journey Home Community); Jameline Bitun (IRCC); Alexandra Dawley (MOSAIC), Dennis Juarez (MOSAIC), Julia Wu (bc2II); Mandana Salimian (Canadian Red Cross); Arran Smith (Canadian Red Cross); Gerardo Munariz (Mennonite Central Committee); Alissa Cook (inasmuch), Nadia Carvalho (Social Planning, City of Vancouver), Laura Mannix (DIVERSEcity), Thomas Reyes (Roots Community Health Center), Dardana Shushka (Abbotsford CS), Desiree Ng (Stats Can), Stewart Deyell (Stats Can), Amira Halperin (UBC), Ann Barnard Ball (New Hope CS), Aya Abdel-Dayem (Zaytuna), Gulalai Habib (Kiwassa NH), Bahar Taheri (BC Refugee Hub), Imtiaz Poppat (Rate for Rent)

By phone: Sabrina Dumitra (AMSSA)

Regrets: Bridget Bell (IRB), Sabine Lehr (Victoria ICS), Arran Smith & Cloe Clayton (Canadian Red Cross), Richard Belcham (inasmuch)

The meeting was called to order by MAP Co-Chair: **Saleem Spindari, MOSAIC**

- Saleem acknowledged the indigenous territory where we met, and thanks were expressed to Vancity and the Provincial Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology (MJTT), for the funding that supports MAP.

Welcome and Introductions, including our participant on the phone.

- **The agenda was approved**

- Review of **April Minutes** – approved

PRESENTATION: 2016 Census results on refugees in Metro Vancouver

Presenter: **Stewart Deyell, Consulting Analyst, Statistics Canada**

Stewart provided a PowerPoint presentation that is attached along with paper copies of the statistics provided in the presentation.

As an introduction to Statistics Canada Stewart mentioned that their data is considered extremely reliable and is also held confidentially with no identifying markers. Information has been gleaned from the 2016 census as well as IRCC data linked into the census.

The next census will be in 2021.

This information concerns those identified as having come to Canada as refugees since 1980 or later.

Questions and Answers:

Claudia (MSDPR): Is the data you collected only from private households?

Answer: yes, but it has been cross-referenced with IRCC so more people have been included.

But the data does not include those in cooperatives – including shelters and transition houses.

Katherine (MOSAIC): 1. Why is there a cut off at age 15 or older?

Answer: This is a standardized cut off – but we sometimes also use 24+

2. Are the subjects self-identifying as refugees, or as the definition Stats Can is using?

For e.g. those who came years ago but became Canadian, they are not seen as refugees?

Answer: no – we can only see people as citizens or not citizens.

Saleem (MOSAIC): Your employment statistics might look different if you were using current data; and if you separated out RC's – it would look different

Answer: agree – we will look at that and provide another presentation only on RC's

Mandana (Canadian Red Cross) – can we look at family size – proportion of children/adults?

Answer: Stuart will send this data to Jenny for forwarding

Amir (UBC): *Do you have info from different cities where refugees came from?*

No, just countries, not cities

Katherine (MOSAIC): *what kind of information is there information about refugees' dependents abroad?*

Answer: There is only information about those dependents who came to Canada.

Saleem thanked Stewart and Desiree for the interesting presentation.

- **Announcements:**

1. CCR Consultation details May 29 – June 1 at U Vic – everyone welcome, there will be a large MAP group attending but there's a table Jenny has arranged for brochures if you can get them to her beforehand.

2. MAP's Agency of the Month Program – MAP volunteer Marissa Deweerd is interviewing agencies to be 'Agency of the Month' on the new MAP website. Currently she is organizing QMUNITY's posting; but she will be open for other requests. Please email Marissa at marissadeweerd@gmail.com

3. Membership drive for MAP's website today – Jenny (MAP) announced that MAP members could join up to the Members Only section of the website today in person. This section gives members access to agendas, minutes, reports not open to the public and other internal material.

BREAK and Membership drive

- **BC Refugee Hub Update – Bahar Tamjeedi**

Here are some statistics from ISS_SOS for April that will be featured in 2nd quarter bulletin:

- 558 new and returning refugee claimant clients (444 returning)
- 36 % singles
- 112 were inland claims
- Iran top source country
- Majority were adults
- Settled in 1) Vancouver, 2) Surrey, 3) Burnaby, 4) Coquitlam

Tri-partite consultation – ‘Connected, Empower and Media Literate’

June 14 at Robson Square

Organized with Amira (UBC), City of Vancouver / LIP & MPNH, – register, free, lunch provided.

BC Refugee Hub May 30 – June 20: Public Education narrative to lead up to WRD – success stories.

email Bahar for info on how to get involved.

- **World Refugee Day Celebrations Update – Jenny & Katherine**

There is a wonderful MAP committee of 13 MAP members working on World Refugee Day - for this reason we have a varied and interesting program:

Information Marketplace – 30 agencies involved in serving refugee claimants will display their information.

Walk with Me – with reps from govt and non-govt agencies the public have an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of a refugee claimant going through the process towards claiming refugee protection and the inevitable challenges in Canada.

Starting Over - A panel of former refugee claimants, talking about their personal experiences ‘starting over’ in Canada.

Refugee Law in Troubling Times - Prominent local refugee lawyers (Peter Edelmann, Lobat Sadrehashemi, Rob Hughes) will discuss current issues and what challenges, claimants, and the lawyers who serve them, are facing.

Our Lives in Music – Concert of music from those who came to Canada as refugees from all over the world.

As well, in the evening there will be another **Starting Over** event: a panel focusing on the distinct needs of LGBTQ + refugee claimants, their experiences in Canada, the challenges they faced, the agencies that helped them and where they are now in their Canadian journeys. Partnering with Rainbow Refugee and MOSAIC’s ‘I Belong’ program and featuring the photographic exhibition #BreakTheStigma.

MAP members are encouraged to:

- Sign up for an Information Fair table if you haven't already – limit of 30 Contact Claudia Buendia at Claudia.Buendia@gov.bc.ca
 - Get involved in 'Walk with Me' as an NGO or volunteer
 - Help us promote the event by sharing the email and poster, and on social media
 - Can you help us connect with high schools or colleges to invite students to participate?
 - Is there anyone special you want invited?
 - Let us know if you can volunteer on the day
- Thank you!

- **Agency Updates**

Bahar BC Refugee Hub)

June 18 – Burnaby Public Library/BLIP WRD event on employment

Katherine (MOSAIC)

Conversation circles finishes now. June 18 start up again: Tuesdays from 6 – 8pm, child minding provided.

Employment workshops are ongoing

Alissa (inasmuch) – For WRD they will be showing the documentary film 'Inside my heart' at the Matsqui Rec Theatre in Abbotsford – 7pm June 20.

Vanessa – (Journey Home) – are holding a fundraiser for WRD: a gala event called 'Summer Solstice Gala' – June 20

Dardana (Abbotsford Community Services)

Busy with new clients – those who've moved out from Vancouver
Partnering with inasmuch for WRD

Laura (DIVERSEcity)

'Together Now' pilot being continued for LGBTQ in Surrey – supported by TD Bank -
One of participants is now the coordinator! – will send out details soon.

Ann (New Hope CS)

Ann is the new full- time staff member and ED
13 units – some may be available

Fran (Ready Tour)

Registrations accepted now for July 12 with Ready Tour

Tomas (Roots Community Health Services)

His work is changing, but will continue to be the link with MAP

Gulalai (Kiwassa NH)

Officially became a sanctuary site as of 1st May

Imtiaz (Rent-to-Refugees)

Has changed agencies and his new work involves working with landlords – hope to be able to provide more rental space for refugees soon.

Please complete the **Feedback forms** and adjournment at 11:50 am.

Next Meeting: June 27, 2019 hosted by Options at City Centre Library Room 418

MAP gratefully acknowledges the funding provided by Vancity and the BC Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology without which our work would not be possible