



MAP Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 27, 2020 - 9:30AM - 12:00PM

Location: Welcome Center, ISSofBC, 2610 Victoria Drive, Vancouver

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

Attendees: Richard Belcham (inasmuch), Frank Cohn (VAST), Sarah Lopez (VAST), Jhevoi Melville (VAST), Alissa Cook (inasmuch), Tammy Johnson (inasmuch), Mia Morin (Vancity), Diana Barry (Vancity), Bridget Bell (IRB), Negar Azmudeh (IRB), Claudia Buendia (MSDPR), Valentina Stanciu (MSDPR), Karen Spears (MSDPR), Jerry Wu (VSB SWIS), Noli Cole (VSB SWIS), Kathleen Cashin (Covenant House), Leanne Hodaly (IRCC), Fran Gallo (Kinbrace), Derek Chu (Kinbrace), Ryan Reid (Kinbrace), Adriana Z (Kinbrace), Masha Rademaker (NSMS), Ann Barnard Ball (New Hope CS), Teresa Fuller (MCC/FUSMC), Demetrius Schwab (UGM), Katherine Griffin (MOSAIC), Salih A (MOSAIC), Alexandra Dawley (MOSAIC), Saleem Spindari (MOSAIC), James Grunau (Journey Home Community), Brad Kinnie (Journey Home Community); Vanessa Roth (JHC), Loyal Mackeroff (JHC), Julia Wu (bc2II); Irene Koh (DIVERSEcity), Jenny Lam (Options), Iris Solorzano (Options), Sireen El-Nashar (Zaytuna), Meaad Alharbi (SOS), Salena Keath (SOS/ISS), Ewa Karezewska (ISSofBC Surrey), Kathy Sherrill (ISSofBC), Maria Cervino (Kiwassa NH), Maryam Torabizadeh (Kiwassa NH), Angela Kim (SUCCESS), Ali Mustafa (Independent), Masa Kateb (JumpStart), Jenny Moss (MAP), Moe Z (MAP Volunteer)

By phone: Wazhma Wakil (Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op)

The meeting was called to order by **MAP Co-Chair: Richard Belcham (inasmuch)**

- Richard acknowledged the indigenous territory where we met, and thanks were expressed to the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness for the funding that supports MAP.

Welcome and Introductions

- **The agenda was approved.**

- Review of **January 27, 2020 Minutes** – one addition: Bridget Bell (IRB) provided arrival statistics for December 2019 that were included after the meeting in the Minutes. **Minutes approved**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Richard read an announcement sent in by David Griffiths (Legal Services Society)

IMMIGRATION STOP DATES (26/02/2020)

Service stop dates on Immigration contracts are currently set for March 13, 2020. LSS needs more time to confirm our Immigration and Refugee funding for next fiscal year. We are taking an interim measure to avoid unnecessary disruption to our clients. LSS will extend current Immigration contract stop dates on active files to June 30, 2020. Your bill by date will be changed to September 14, 2020. These changes will be made to your contract(s) within the next two weeks. Contracts with stop dates later than June 30, 2020 will not be affected. Further announcements will be made when our funding is confirmed.

Presentation: Refugee Protection Division Update

Presenter: Negar Azmudeh – Special Advisor to Deputy Chairperson, RPD

Ms. Azmudeh is a former Immigration Lawyer, Governor in Council Member, and has also been a Public Service Member of the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) and the Immigration Division (ID). She is substantively with Legal Services. In order to assist with the 2018-2019 ramp up, Negar joined the RPD on assignment, first as a Member, and then as Acting Coordinating Member. She now is assisting Deputy Chairperson Roula Eatrdes as a special advisor.

(Please see slides attached for the Presentation)

MAP thanked Negar and the IRB for this useful presentation.

Bridget sent along the January referrals for BC:

First Scheduled Place of Appearance*	Principal & Associate	Principal Only	Top 3 countries in each city (PCs)
Vancouver	346	213	Iran 83, India 45, Mexico 16, Afghanistan 6

Extended Break

MAP UPDATES – Jenny

IHC Visit:

Jenny outlined the procedure for the MAP member tour of new IHC facilities in Surrey on March 2

Website:

- Weekly bulletins are now listed [here](#) . Please let Jenny know if at any time you consider the bulletin contents should NOT be for public consumption. It could be moved to Member's Only.
- The **Directory** is now fully functional in the Member's Only area. This useful resource will allow you to search by name and find contact information etc. according to the member's profile. If you would like other methods of searching (by organization for example) please let Jenny know.
- For the Directory to function optimally we need members to:
 - a) join the Member's Only area – just complete the registration form you see there and your application will be approved, and you will be informed of your full access.
 - b) please populate your profile with useful information for MAP members – including a photo.
- Shortly we will be adding another [resource](#) to our Housing Page. A list of articles gleaned across Canada (and sometimes also worldwide) will be posted bi-monthly. Thank you to **Barry Grove**, Journey Home volunteer, for this extra support.
- New 'agency of the month' bc211 (<https://mapbc.org/collaboration/meet/>) Please contact Jenny if you would like to be featured in the future.

Jenny will be away for two weeks+ in March – there will be just 2 bulletins this month (March 4th & 18th). From April 1st to September 30th Jenny's working days will be Monday/Tuesday/Thursday as a guideline.

Quantitative and qualitative update on Refugee Claimants in the Lower Mainland

Meaad provided the report

BC Refugee Hub is busy with updating the website with new blog and IFH question sheet for claimants
If agencies have any questions please email Bahar at bahartaheri@gmail.com

Election of new MAP co-chair

Richard explained that Mariana Martinez Vieyra, has reached the end of her 2-year commitment as co-chair at MAP and will be stepping down in June 2020.

In the process of selecting a new co-chair MAP had received one nomination for Jenny Lam (Options)

Jenny was invited to introduce herself: Jenny's passion for working with refugee claimants is always evolving – it is a new area for Jenny because formerly she worked mainly with permanent residents. Now she's with Options and joined MAP and thinks MAP really helps people to learn. Jenny wants to learn more via her work in service to refugee claimants.

What skills do you bring? Settlement services – Jenny has worked for many years in this field.

Richard called on members for any questions. Seeing there were none, Richard moved that MAP approve Jenny Lam as new MAP co-chair for 2020 – 2022. APPROVED

Jenny will shadow Mariana and Richard and assume her title in June 2020.

MAP Advisory Committee: Refugee Claimant Housing Referral and Management System

Nominations had been invited for the new Advisory Committee (list attached). It was noted that we are still missing 2 key members:

1. IT Systems Advisor – some corporations had been approached but so far with no success.
2. We are waiting to hear back from CBSA as to who their representative will be.

Richard invited the nominees to introduce themselves and their experience in terms of the committee mandate. Since there was no competition for positions MAP members were invited to acclaim the nominees as posted.
APPROVED.

Next steps: Alexandra Dawley (MOSAIC) will contact the Advisory Committee members to set a date/place for the first meeting sometime in March.

Agency Updates

Iris (Options)

Job Fair March 14 at City Center Library – 11 am

Alexandra (MOSAIC)

Introduced Salih as new MOSAIC Langley Settlement worker for claimants

Vanessa (JHC)

If your agency has a problem with bank accounts then we (with Vancity) are drafting a letter to IRCC to ask for help – please join us.

James (JHC)

A Reception Center for claimants was a recommendation in the MAP Housing report to MJEDC, so JHC has been investigating the possibility and retained the services of Loyal Mackeroff to develop a concept design for what it would look like. The center is envisaged as economically sustainable and socially responsible.

Loyal will meet with MAP members to see what would be needed for a reception center.

JHC has discussed property options with a number of groups.

More news soon!

Masa (JumpStart Refugee Project)

New employment support agency in Vancouver. They only work with refugees (of all categories) and focus on meaningful employment. Very much a part of the community in Toronto, and wants to be in Vancouver – arranging 'get to know you' meetings in Vancouver and happy to be part of MAP.

Derek (Kinbrace)

Hiring a Community Coordinator – to support – please apply (see bulletin)

Salih (MOSAIC)

Introduced himself from Langley – please let him know if there are any RC's who need help.

Katherine (MOSAIC)

March 11 – April 22 Conversation Circles; Wednesdays 6-8 at Vancouver office

Parissa is now the contact with MOSAIC for Conversation Circle registration.

MOSAIC will offer First Aid and Food Safe again – currently sessions are full.

Jerry Wu (SWIS – VSB)

Vancouver School Board has recently hired a Youth & Community Connections – Engaged Immigrant Youth Coordinator: Noely. Jerry introduced her to MAP.

She is especially engaged to help those students at risk of dropping out.

Signed a contract with IRCC through 2022

VSB also stands with the city's 'Respect Vancouver' policies.

Bc211`

Please send updates to updates@bc211.ca

Frank (VAST)

- Wednesday group for claimants as usual from 10 – 12
- Surrey group – meets Monday afternoons
- Group for Latino families – Victoria Drive Thursday afternoons
- Tuesday mornings: foot reflexologist
- New Outdoors group funded by MEC for outdoor adventures

Fran (Ready Tour)

Ready Tour – it's difficult to schedule in time for claimants' hearings so PLEASE schedule right after eligibility has been established.

There are a few spots: one in March and one in April

READY Tours are NOT for the new PRAA claimants – so please ask first.

PLUS: MAP members are invited to view information from data collected on the impact of Ready Tours. The study is featured in the current MAP bulletin and [here](#)

Zaytuna Services (Moe for Sireen)

Senior's free tax clinics start March 15: from 9 am – 3pm Thursdays/Fridays/Saturdays

Jenny (MAP)

- Next month MAP presentation will be a short presentation from CBSA re: progress of the Alternatives to Detention program, and a full presentation from UBC featuring staff and students from WUSC and EdMeCo to discuss available support to refugee claimant students wishing to attend university.
- Heads up that Jenny will be calling on volunteers to help with World Refugee Day planning soon. Our celebrations will be on June 18 (as June 20 is a Saturday)

12:00 pm: Feedback forms were completed, and adjournment

Next Meeting: March 26, 2020 at Canadian Red Cross: 3400 Lake City Way, Burnaby.

MAP gratefully acknowledges the funding provided by Ministry of Jobs, Employment Development and Competitiveness, without whom our work would not be possible.