



**MAP** Multi-Agency  
Partnership BC  
*Working Together for Refugee Claimants*

# MAP Member Agency News

Weekly Bulletin # 46

June 17, 2020



- ❖ **Acknowledges/Welcome:** Richard Belcham, *Co-chair MAP BC*  
Mariana Martinez Vieyra, *Co-chair MAP BC*
- ❖ **Welcome from the Co-host:** Nisha Khare, *Co-Founder of Human Biography and Khare Communications*
- ❖ **Video:** Deng Thiak Adut Unlimited
- ❖ **Proclamation:** Mayor Kennedy Stewart, *Mayor of Vancouver*
- ❖ **Speaker:** Hassan Al Kontar, *Syrian Refugee*
- ❖ **Music & Singing:** Tamanya-Waka, *International Reggae Artist*
- ❖ **Story:** A Cup of Black Tea
- ❖ **Poetry:** Rawan Moon, *Syrian Refugee*
- ❖ **Panel Discussion: Helping Refugees during the Pandemic**
  - Patricia Castillo, *Resident Support Specialist at Options Community Services*
  - Vanessa Roth, *Settlement Supervisor at Journey House Community*
  - Hikmat Termos: *Sponsorship Coordinator at Rainbow Refugee Society*
  - Matias Hacker: *Clinical Counsellor at VAST*
- ❖ **Music:** Sari Alesh, *Internationally Recognized Violinist*
- ❖ **Poetry:** Khatira, *New Visual Artist and student in Canada*
- ❖ **Music:** Saeid Kooshki, *Musician & Singer*
- ❖ **Story of Friendship:** Jorge and Araphat
- ❖ **Comment:** Ian Hanomansing, *CBC the National*
- ❖ **Music:** Hosam Falouji, *Band from Gaza*
- ❖ **Closing Remarks**
- ❖ **Video:** Dear Refugee, We Stand with You

SATURDAY JUNE 20  
2PM-4PM

# DISTANT BUT TOGETHER


celebrate  
world refugee day  
online

**MAP** Multi-Agency  
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Working Together for Refugee Claimants

## MAP World Refugee Day Program June 20, 2020

Register now at:

[https://mapbc.org/about/  
events/](https://mapbc.org/about/events/)

In Partnership with 

Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin June 17, 2020

**Dear MAP members,**

How are you doing? That's a common question nowadays and one that MAP wants to focus on during the pandemic and the unrest caused by overt and covert racism – providing support through online MAP meetings, information and a friendly check in. We will keep you up to date with any changes to refugee claimant services as they happen - and ask if you have information that you would like to share with MAP that you let us know ([info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org)).

***Thank you to everybody who has registered to attend World Refugee Day: 'Distant but Together' on Saturday! It features the strong voices of refugees through a cultural feast and it's a fine demonstration of MAP collaboration.***

***Thanks also to all the volunteers who have made such a wonderful contribution to the event – you shine!***

## **MAP MEETING JUNE 25**

Please respond to the Zoom Invitation to join the monthly meeting and hear from:

- Lobat Sadrehashemi: Refugee Lawyer at the new Immigrant & Refugee Legal Clinic and Past President of CARL
- Patricia Lim & Kirk Ha: Legal Aid BC – on Legal Aid BC updates on Resources and Intake

And join MAP in thanking Mariana for bringing her talents and voice so well to her co-chair position as she steps down after 2 years.

After registering contact [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org) to let us know your preferred breakout room: Settlement / Housing / Legal / IRIS Project

Thank you for all you are doing to support vulnerable refugee claimants - especially during these unprecedented times. Stay safe and well - and let's not let social distancing be a barrier to the folks we serve.

**MAP Co-Chairs: Mariana, Richard (& Jenny: Co-Chair Designate) and the other Jenny!**

News  
highlights:  
COVID-19  
and refugee  
claimants  
June 17,  
2020

Please see a list of interesting articles gathered by  
MAP from across Canada and globally to mark  
**World Refugee Day 2020**

(attached PDF)

***From the UNHCR:***

***“In the time of COVID, we celebrate refugees who are on the frontlines fighting this pandemic, their hosts and the aid workers supporting them. We have seen everyday heroes from all walks of life step up to join the front lines of this crisis. This World Refugee Day join us in creating a more inclusive world where no one is left behind.***



Hi everyone,

At Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op we translate updated information on basic recommendations of public health on COVID-19, so our community members have accessible information in their first language to stay safe.

And since the end of May, we have been posting regular summaries of the recommendations on BC's restart plan from the Public Health Office/Dr. Bonnie Henry. Our summaries focus on the aspects most relevant to newcomer communities and are available in five languages: Dari, Spanish, Arabic, Tigrinya and English.

Please check below the link to our website and please feel free to share:

<https://umbrellacoop.ca/covid-19-response/>

Regards,

Wazhma Wakil

Coordinator of Social Determinants of Health,  
715 Carnarvon St, New Westminster, BC V3M 1E6

Phone: 604-553-0633

Visit us at [www.umbrellacoop.ca](http://www.umbrellacoop.ca)



Dear all,

We are looking to hire a Project Coordinator for our IRIS project. Please find attached Job Description to circulate within your networks. Lived migration experience and multilingual candidates will be prioritized. The posting is attached and can also be found on our CGSHE website here: <http://cgshe.ca/about-us/career-opportunities/>

Many thanks,

Mei-ling

Mei-ling Wiedmeyer, MD, CCFP

Director of Clinical Practice, Center for Gender and Sexual Health Equity  
Clinical Assistant Professor, UBC Department of Family Practice  
Family Physician, Umbrella Multicultural Health Cooperative  
Staff Physician, Willow Clinic/Everywoman's Health Centre/Elizabeth Bagshaw Clinic  
1190 Hornby Street / 647 E Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC | [www.cgshe.ca](http://www.cgshe.ca)



**We help each other in  
the good & bad times!**

☎ 778-791-3419 / 604-754-3419

▶ Dignidad Migrante

📘 @dignidadmigrantesociety

🌐 [dignidadmigrantesociety.org](http://dignidadmigrantesociety.org)

Please see the letter attached that Dignidad sent to the Hon. Justin Trudeau regarding the death of farm worker. If agencies or individuals want to support that letter, or send their own letter, it would be much appreciated.

## **Dignidad Migrante Society**

880 Malkin Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6A 2K6

**Phone:** [778-791-3419](tel:778-791-3419) || [604-754-3419](tel:604-754-3419) **Fax:** [604-299-1673](tel:604-299-1673)

**FB:** [dignidadmigrantesociety/](https://www.facebook.com/dignidadmigrantesociety/) **YouTube:** [DIGNIDAD-DIGNITY](https://www.youtube.com/DIGNIDAD-DIGNITY)

**Website:** [dignidadmigrantesociety.org](http://dignidadmigrantesociety.org)



You're invited to attend **Our Story: World Refugee Day webinar - Friday, June 19th 10am PST**

Jumpstart Refugee Talent is putting together the **first nation-wide refugee-led webinar of its kind in Canada**. With refugees from across the country sharing their stories, various settlement agencies coming on board from different provinces with ISSofBC representing the beautiful province of British Columbia, Canadian government with Minister Marco Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship doing the opening remarks, and UNHCR doing the closing remarks.

Your support is appreciated to attend, share the event with your refugee and refugee claimant clients, as well as your personal networks, as we're trying to show **Canadians that they can take action to advance the economic inclusion of refugees in the country**.

Flyer is attached and registration URL is below:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/our-story-tickets-107112863458>

**Masa Kateb** (Pronouns: she/her/hers)

Manager of Projects - Jumpstart Refugee Talent | Vancouver

604-442-2556

[masa.kateb@jumpstartRefugee.ca](mailto:masa.kateb@jumpstartRefugee.ca)





Rainbow Refugee Society: Virtual Drop-ins for refugees and refugee claimants:

every Sunday (2-3:30) and Wednesday (7-8:30)

To join, email: [community@rainbowrefugee.ca](mailto:community@rainbowrefugee.ca)



**MOSAIC**

Our online Table Topics for refugee claimants will be hosting on

**Wednesdays from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm from June 17<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

These online sessions will be hosted on Zoom (available on phone or computer).

Clients can register and get the link to join the Zoom sessions by emailing [refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org](mailto:refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org).

**A poster with more information is attached to this email**, and some answers to FAQs are below.

Please share with any refugee claimant clients who might be interested in exploring a wide variety of social discussion topics, creating new connections, improving spoken English and “meeting” new people.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

- ✓ Every Wednesday from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- ✓ Zoom – An online App (can be used on phone or computer)
- ✓ Clients can register any week
- ✓ Farsi and Arabic language support
- ✓ All refugee claimants welcome! Participants can attend even if they are still waiting for their ID

*Please don't hesitate to contact [refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org](mailto:refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org) if you have any questions.*

### **Tracy Tang**

Program Assistant, Refugee Settlement & Integration and  
Legal Advocacy Programs

#### **Family & Settlement Services**

5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver V5R 2P9  
T 604 254 9626 ext.1064





(3 documents attached)

Thanks to the Government of Canada Emergency Community Support Fund, the [Canadian Red Cross COVID-19 Emergency Support to Community Organizations](#) is launching funding through two programs:

1. [Granting Program for Non-Profits](#)
2. [Preventing Disease Transmission Training and Equipment Program](#) for non-profits, registered charities, and qualified donees

Attached is a “Who should apply” document which outlines the funding opportunities through Canadian Red Cross, as well as opportunities through Community Foundations of Canada and United Way Centraide Canada. Also attached are the one-page overviews for both Canadian Red Cross programs mentioned above, which can be found online along with many other helpful supporting documents.

Applications are now open and the deadline is **July 7, 2020**. For any questions on the grants available or eligibility of an organization, please call 1-866-221-2232 (between 8:30 am and 7:00 pm EST) or email [covid19communitysupport@redcross.ca](mailto:covid19communitysupport@redcross.ca)

**Arran Smith**

Officer, Immigration Detention Monitoring Program  
Canadian Red Cross | Croix-Rouge canadienne

3400 Lake City Way Burnaby | BC | Canada | V5A 4Y2

[Arran.Smith@redcross.ca](mailto:Arran.Smith@redcross.ca)

C 604-349-9853

[www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) | [www.croixrouge.ca](http://www.croixrouge.ca)



As of June 8, 2020, **BC Rent Bank** is announcing a call for an Expression of Interest (EOI) from communities across British Columbia interested in joining the BC Rent Bank network. This EOI is the first phase of a two-phase expansion process that will identify and begin operations as four (4) new rent bank sites across BC by March 2021.

To find the guide and template, please visit, <https://bcrentbank.ca/get-started/>.

We are asking for your help in creating awareness about this EOI, and so please feel free to share within your network.

Kind regards,

**Melissa Giles**

Project Lead - BC Rent Bank  
604-877-8453 | [info@bcrentbank.ca](mailto:info@bcrentbank.ca)  
[www.bcrentbank.ca](http://www.bcrentbank.ca)

## **BC Newcomer Camp.**

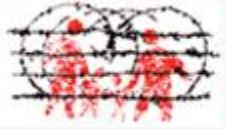
We are running a tech drive campaign in the next two weeks to take our summer camps from in person to online:

### **SUMMER CAMP FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN ASKS PUBLIC FOR TECH AND MONETARY DONATIONS**

**BC Newcomer Camp to pick up donations June 13-16 in the Greater Vancouver area as they transition online for summer 2020. BC Newcomer Camp, which offers free-of-charge summer camps for newly immigrated refugee children, is asking for lightly-used tablets and/or computers and monetary donations to support their transition to virtual camp for summer 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. British Columbians in the Greater Vancouver area can put their second-hand devices outside their homes for socially-distanced curbside pickup by a BC Newcomer Camp staff member between June 13 - 16. For information on when a team member will be in your neighbourhood and to sign up for curbside pickup visit our website: <https://www.bcnewcomercamp.org/2020-tech-drive>**

Also, BC Newcomer Camp is currently recruiting youth camp leaders (ages 15-29) - ideally candidates are fluent in both English and either Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish, Spanish, Somali, Tigrinya. Camp programming will be delivered completely online this year due to Covid-19. We are funded by the Canada Summer Job's Grant - these are paid positions, 35 hours per week starting in the last week of June till August. Here is the information on our website and how youth can apply: <https://www.bcnewcomercamp.org/get-involved>.

Thanks,  
Bahar



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés  
Canadian Council for Refugees

## Useful information pertaining to work permits from the CCR Consultation with IRCC staff: Monday June 8

The slides and the handout can be found at <https://ln2.sync.com/dl/f383109d0/bcmq9h4y-yd84tyaf-8j7tfxre-kyut8mnb>

The recording of the session is available here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2922271416646427151>

## **SUBJECT : Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians – Parenting During the Pandemic: Share your perspective**

Below is an invitation from **Statistics Canada** to participate in a crowdsourcing initiative to collect data on how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting families with children under the age of 15. The data you provide will be helpful for making future plans.

### **Invitation from Statistics Canada:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the lives and habits of all Canadians, yet data on the impacts to children and their families is limited. If you are the parent or guardian of children aged 0 to 14, please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire and feel free to forward this email to others—the more people participate, the better the data.

### **Your participation is important: Your voice matters**

Tell us how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected your family, and how you are adjusting to the challenges of this new reality. This questionnaire focuses on children's activities, child care and school, employment status, and your concerns for your family's overall well-being.

Results will be used by government organizations such as the Public Health Agency of Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada, and other types of organizations, to evaluate the delivery of health and social services and economic support, and to ensure best practices are adopted when reopening workplaces and public spaces.

### **Participating is easy and secure**

Select the following link to participate: [www.statcan.gc.ca/COVIDparenting-questionnaire](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/COVIDparenting-questionnaire)

This survey is conducted under the authority of the *Statistics Act*, which ensures that the information you provide will be kept confidential, and used only for statistical and research purposes.

### **Keep checking back**

In order to collect information on specific topics related to the impacts of the pandemic, the questionnaire will change on a regular basis. Visit [www.statcan.gc.ca/COVID-series-e](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/COVID-series-e) on June 23 to see the next topic and complete a new questionnaire. Your opinion matters to us!

### **For general enquiries and technical assistance**

Contact us Monday to Friday (except holidays), from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Eastern Time): 1-877-949-9492 (TTY: 1-800-363-7629)

[infostats@canada.ca](mailto:infostats@canada.ca)

Thank you,

Jean Labbé: Director, Collection Planning and Research Division, Statistics Canada



[Letters for Black Lives](#) is a set of crowdsourced, multilingual, and culturally-aware resources aimed at creating a space for open and honest conversations about racial justice, police violence, and anti-Blackness in our families and communities.

Asian Americans and Canadians wrote a letter in 2016, [which you can read here](#) along with how this project came together.

[Here are the finished translated 2016 Letters](#) (and [Readings](#)): Available translations in Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Malaysia, Bengali, Portuguese, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Hindi, Hmong (Green dialect), Hmong (White dialect), Farsi, French, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese.

And here's some background on how this all began:

- [A Letter From Young Asian-Americans To Their Families About Black Lives Matter](#) (via NPR)
- [Meeting People Where They Are: The Seed Crystal of the Letters for Black Lives Project](#) (via Reappropriate)

A new 2020 effort is underway. [Here's where you can learn more.](#)



## City of Vancouver COVID-19 Multilingual resources:

We are pleased to share that the **Korean, Farsi and Simplified Chinese COVID-19 webpages are live**. Below are links to the City's COVID-19 webpages in seven languages. Huge kudos to the EOC Equity & Inclusion team for this collective effort, particularly our outstanding language access leads, and big thanks to Digital Services.

Please feel free to cascade these resources widely to your teams and networks and via social media if you're able to do so.

Korean: <http://www.vancouver.ca/covid19korean>

Farsi: <http://www.vancouver.ca/covid19farsi>

Vietnamese: <http://www.vancouver.ca/covid19vietnamese>

Tagalog: <http://www.vancouver.ca/covid19tagalog>

Punjabi: <http://www.vancouver.ca/covid19punjabi>

Traditional Chinese: <http://www.vancouver.ca/covid19chinesetraditional>

Simplified Chinese: <http://www.vancouver.ca/covid19chinesesimplified>

Lara Honrado

(she/her)

Equity & Inclusion Officer  
Emergency Operations Centre  
City of Vancouver