



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

Weekly Bulletin # 42

May 20, 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 – 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).

This week we have two important multilingual resources available:

- IRCC's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): financial assistance for newcomers, temporary residents and refugees](#). This resource is available in a number of languages – use the drop down menu to access language options.
- A strong request by BC Health to help newcomers with language or other barriers complete the provincial survey: Your Story, Our Future about the experience of COVID-19. The survey (see inside) is available in Mandarin and Punjabi with other languages coming – regardless please help your clients to complete it to provide the province with complete data on which to base preparations for future emergencies.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY CELEBRATIONS: MAP can announce that we will be celebrating refugee claimants in our midst and reaching out to the general public with an event on June 20 at 2pm called: 'Distant but Together'. We invite members to nominate musicians, poets and refugee claimant speakers to participate. Contact Jenny at info@mapbc.org for details.

AND – don't forget to register for **MAP's monthly meeting: May 28 9:30 am**. We will hear from the Ministry of Health about MSP eligibility and procedures and a report from CBSA about the use of ATD's and how the new IHC in Surrey is faring during COVID-19. Contact Jenny at info@mapbc.org for an invitation.

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 May 20, 2020

Please see a list of interesting articles gathered by MAP from across Canada and globally (attached PDF)

Titles:

- **Newcomer advocacy group launches awareness campaign to combat COVID-19 racism** Winnipeg Sun
- **BC Housing Temporary Rent Supplement continues through June**
BC Housing website
- **BC bans majority of evictions**
CBC
- **Amnesty International calls on Canada to open borders to refugees from US**
CBC
- **Ottawa should reveal details of border ban on irregular migrants**
The Star
- **COVID-19 has made us wary of newcomers. So how can Ottawa make the case for the immigrants we so desperately need?**
The Star
- **Asylum seekers find work in Quebec's COVID-19 hard-hit care homes**
National Observer
- **BC is expanding testing to find new cases and prevent spread of COVID-19**
BC Centre for Disease Control website
- **Who are the most generous Canadians? Refugees.**
London Free Press
- **Regular COVID-19 news highlights** "What you need to know about COVID-19 in BC on May ___"
CBC Highlights
- **"COVID-19 Brief signup"**
CTV thrice-weekly update

BC COVID-19 SPEAK: Your story, our future is a population health survey to elicit citizen experience, knowledge and actions during the COVID-19 pandemic. This survey is the first of several activities that will strengthen our pandemic response and our understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 to date (social, economic, mental wellness and community wellness).

www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey

The survey will be open until May 31.



To complete the survey in Punjabi, please refer to the [Punjabi language guide](#). Other language guides coming soon!

At the end of the survey, you will be asked about participating in two important initiatives:

- **A serology survey** (blood testing) to help determine immunity across the population
- **Planning for future waves** in which identifying, containing and tracing are substantially strengthened through technology tools to enable integrated and coordinated information sharing

About the survey:

- The survey is open to all British Columbians 18 years of age and older.
- The survey **takes 10-15 minutes** and can be done online on any tablet, computer or mobile device.

Help the people in your life to participate

If you know someone who may have difficulty accessing or using a computer, open the survey via the link above, give them a call, and go through all the questions, inputting their answers into the online survey on their behalf. We need your help to prepare for B.C.'s future - every voice counts.

Protecting your privacy Safeguards are in place to ensure your privacy. Data collected in the COVID-19 survey follows strict privacy practices under the B.C. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The act governs how your information is collected, who sees it and how the information is used. Read the [complete privacy statement](#).

What happens after I complete the survey?

Results will be made available in the early summer. If you agreed to participate in a future phase, you will be contacted directly via email.

Survey help

For help completing the survey by phone, please call 1-833-707-1900, seven days a week between 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Language interpreting services are also available for assistance with completing the survey over the phone.

Questions? Send your questions to covid19.speak@bccdc.ca. and **Help promote the survey!**

BC Settlement & Integration Services



Humanitarian and Compassionate H&C Application

- Are you eligible for a H&C Application?
- What are humanitarian grounds?
- Gathering Evidence
- Application Process

DATE:
SATURDAY,
MAY 23, 2020

TIME:
10:30AM-12:00PM

LOCATION:

On Line
ZOOM MEETING

- Download Zoom on your Phone or Computer
- Registrants will receive a Code to join the Webinar

Speaker Marina L. Sedai, Lawyer
Sedai Law Office
More than 15 years experience in matters related to Law services
She is a past National Immigration Chair of Canadian Bar Association

Follow the Link Zoom Registration
<https://bit.ly/35YAjaU>

Any Questions call Patricia or send an E-mail to patricia.castillo@options.bc.ca

BC Settlement & Integration Services



Sesión Informativa Solicitud por Razones Humanitarias y Compasión

- Eres tu elegible para la aplicación de Humanidad y Compasión?
- Que son los Motivos Humanitarios?
- Reuniendo Evidencia
- Proceso de la Aplicación

FECHA:
SABADO
MAYO 30, 2020

HORA:
10:30AM-12:00PM

LUGAR:

En Linea
Sesión en Zoom

- Descargue la aplicación de Zoom en su Celular ó Computadora
- Al registrarse recibirá un Código para unirse a la session

Presentador, Donald Vega, LL.L., R.I.C.
Canadian Immigration Counsel
VISACANA Canadian Immigration Firm
en la Columbia Britanica
Especialista en casos de Inmigración

Siga el enlace para unirse <https://bit.ly/3fk9SKv>
Cualquier pregunta llamar a Patricia 604-761-1054 ó envíe un correo a patricia.castillo@options.bc.ca



We can help!

OUR COVID-19 COMMUNITY SERVICES

For seniors 65+ and those with compromised health who live in Burnaby



GROCERY DELIVERY

A volunteer will shop weekly for you and bring the supplies to your home. They will shop for groceries, pet food, prescriptions, and medical supplies.



FOR EVERYONE!

FOOD BANK

Through donors and partnerships, *those who have challenges with food security can receive a weekly hamper of fresh and non-perishable goods.



FROZEN MEALS

You can receive healthy, low-cost, home-made frozen meals each week cooked by BNH's own Kitchens Coordinator.



PHONE CHECK-INS + SERVICE REFERRALS

A volunteer will call you weekly to have a friendly chat and keep you connected. You can also call the BNH to learn more about other resources available in the community.



FREE delivery!

Please call : (604) 431-0400

The Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a charitable, non-profit organization. We are a volunteer-driven, community-funded agency with a unique focus on neighbours helping neighbours.

BNH Services – also attached in PDF

COVID-19 – May 2020

Are you a Senior in Burnaby Who Needs Help?



Help with Grocery Shopping, Free Food Support or Prescription Delivery?

CALL: Burnaby Neighbourhood House at 604-431-0400

www.burnabynh.ca

Help with Home Health Services?

CALL: Fraser Health Home Health Service Line at 1-855-412-2121

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/Service-Directory/Services/home-and-community-care/home-support-services>

Help because you are being abused?

CALL: Seniors Abuse and Information Line at 604-437-1940

<http://seniorsfirstbc.ca/programs/sail/>

Help to find a Doctor?

CALL: Burnaby Division of Family Practice at 236-455-0154 or 236-427-5799

<https://www.divisionsbc.ca/burnaby>

Help to deal with your worries or concerns (mental health)?

CALL: Fraser Health Crisis Line at

604-951-8855

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/mental-health-and-substance-use>

Help to find other social services?

CALL: 2-1-1

<https://www.bc211.ca/>

Help with translation or to get information in your language?

CALL: 2-1-1 and say the name of your language

<https://www.bc211.ca/>



DIVERSEcity: Message for Working Moms from Neelam Sahota, Chief Executive Officer, DIVERSEcity.

The COVID-19 global crisis has highlighted the emotional, often invisible, workload that mothers carry. It has also increased that workload.

As we self-isolate in our homes, mothers are carrying the burden of homeschooling, often while working full-time jobs from home, in addition to the cooking, cleaning, shopping and so on.

Many are also still working outside the home, as leaders on health care's frontlines, or working in essential or service industries, helping us all safely access groceries and essentials during this crisis. We are also seeing amazing women leaders rise up to battle this crisis at the policy level.

For all of them, traditional lines of work and home are being blurred, and it's important we don't dismiss or ignore the pressure mothers may be under now — and as we rebuild our workplaces after COVID-19.

As a mother myself, I remember the challenges of building a career in a traditional workplace when my kids were young. When I took on the role of CEO at DIVERSEcity with three children under the age of 12, I was fortunate to have a strong support network. But I still had to make accommodations and choose priorities for myself as a professional versus a mother. During this crisis, I can only imagine the strain working mothers of young children are currently under.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission says that COVID-19 is “having a disproportionate impact on women. Social and economic barriers have been amplified for racialized women, Indigenous women, migrant women, women with low income, single mothers and other women. They are at greater risk of job loss, poverty, food insecurity, loss of housing and domestic violence.”

The Commission recommends taking a feminist approach to re-establishing our workplaces. Canadian Women's Foundation calls for us to invest in diverse women's leadership opportunities and empower girls, asking us to imagine what women could achieve if we supported them to the fullest.

Flexible workplaces need to be more of the norm

As a leader of a social services organization, I want all my employees, especially mothers, to feel supported during this crisis. As we all continue to work from home, providing services to our clients through phone and virtual options, I want them to know we see them, we appreciate them and we will give them the flexibility they need not just during COVID-19, but as part of our permanent organizational culture. This is my commitment to working mothers in our organization. You don't have to choose between being a mother and being a professional. Organizational cultures like DIVERSEcity's need to be the equalizer and more of the norm in our workplaces today.

As for what's next? Let's use the lessons from this crisis to reimagine the 21st century workplace more thoughtfully. Let's all be more flexible and more authentic to who we are and what we need as professionals, as parents, as humans.

Also see: [Seven Tips to Stay Connected](#)

During the recent virtual meeting on refugee claimants, Heather Neufeld mentioned that she gives people waiting for a renewal of their work permit a letter that explains that they have the right to work. There was a request for the text of this letter, and Heather has generously provided a sample text (written from the perspective of a settlement worker.) 2 pages

Sample letter regarding work permit extension

Date
To Whom It May Concern:
Re:

I am a settlement worker supporting xxx in her immigration matters. With regard to xxx's work permit, I would like to confirm that she is legally allowed to work even though her current work permit expired on xxxx. This is because she applied to renew her work permit before the expiry date and is therefore permitted to work until a decision is made on her application for an extension.

The governing legislation is the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act Regulation 186 (u) states:

Work Without a Permit
No permit required

186. A foreign national may work in Canada without a work permit until a decision is made on an application made by them under subsection 201(1), if they have remained in Canada after the expiry of their work permit and they have continued to comply with the conditions set out on the expired work permit, other than the expiry date.

Section 201(1) states:

201. (1) A foreign national may apply for the renewal of their work permit if
(a) the application is made before their work permit expires; and
(b) they have complied with all conditions imposed on their entry into Canada.



xxx has complied with the conditions on the work permit and applied for a renewal before the expiration date. Therefore, xxx is legally permitted to continue working.

I would also like to add that there appears to be a backlog of work permit renewals as a result of COVID19. Therefore, expect that it may take some time for xxx to provide you with a copy of their new work permit.

Please contact me if you have any questions about xxx's right to work.

Yours truly,

--

Provided by: Janet Dench

Canadian Council for Refugees jdench@ccrweb.ca

The Canadian Research Data Centres Network, in partnership with Statistics Canada, will launch a series of webinars with the intention to engage CRDCN researchers across the country and encourage collaborative research and data development to inform policy responses to COVID-19, anyone can register for the webinars.

Webinars are theme-based and comprise:

Webinar 2: Income and employment	May 25, 2020 (1:00-2:00 pm)
Webinar 3: Education and social development	May 26, 2020 (1:00-2:00 pm)
Webinar 4: Immigration and settlement	May 27, 2020 (1:00-2:00 pm)
Webinar 5: Population health and health services	May 28, 2020 (1:00-2:00 pm)

To register, please go to

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/4715887002728/WN_E7YImfNVSmaeM1nya4E7OA?utm_source=Unknown%20List&utm_campaign=dc0313a66e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_05_04_04_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-dc0313a66e-

If you have any questions, please contact:

Desiree Ng, Consulting Analyst

Statistics Canada | 600 - 300 West Georgia Street, Vancouver BC V6B 6C

desiree.ng@canada.ca

Telephone 604-349-3627/ 604-666-4996

Government of Canada



Statistics Canada is delighted to invite you to our **free** upcoming online learning session on **A Brief Overview of the Canadian Statistical Geospatial Explorer**.

Advanced registration is required. As spaces are limited, please register early!

Language of webinar

English

French

Date, Time and Registration link

Thursday May 21st, 2020 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time

Thursday, June 18th, 2020 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time

To register for the **English** session, click [HERE](#).

To register for the **French** session, click [HERE](#).

This webinar will provide you with an introduction to the Canadian Statistical Geospatial Explorer (CSGE). This interactive mapping tool was designed at Statistics Canada to give users the ability to explore our data, create custom maps and download geo-enabled data into users' own workflows. The CSGE allows users to visualize data at granular levels such as dissemination areas and other geographies like provinces/territories and health regions. The CSGE includes a range of COVID-19 relevant indicators on health, demographic profile and socio-economic conditions of the Canadian population.

Description

The webinar covers basic functionalities of the Canadian Statistical Geospatial Explorer such as:

- Finding and exploring data
- Exporting data in various formats and bringing it into your workflow
- Customizing maps
- Changing base maps (satellite imagery, topography, etc.) to view data in a different context

Please find the link to the Canadian Statistical Geospatial Explorer [HERE](#).



Intended Target Audience

This is an **introductory** webinar; it may be too basic for advanced data users.

After registration:

Once we approve your request, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the session.

Joining a meeting is really simple, whether you are at work or home. All you need is a computer connected to the Internet, and a phone line.

This session is offered by the Statistical Information Service. Some of the services we offer include:

assisting data users with simple and complex data requests

offering standard and customized workshops for data users of different levels of expertise

engaging in outreach activities through webinars, newsletters and presentations.

If you have any questions about this session or the Statistical Information Service, please feel free to contact us.

**Note 1: Once on the registration page, the language that is displayed can be modified using the options in the top right corner of the page. These language modifications can also be saved.*

**Note 2: Registrations cannot be made using a smartphone.*

Desiree Ng: Consulting Analyst

Statistics Canada | 600 - 300 West Georgia Street, Vancouver BC V6B 6C7
desiree.ng@canada.ca Telephone 604-349-3627 / 604-666-4996

From the Immigration and Refugee Board (as emailed to MAP members May 12)

Dear stakeholders,

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) has published a new [Application to Vary Conditions of Release Form](#). This form simplifies and clarifies the process for making requests to change or cancel the terms and conditions of release for a person previously detained under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

While not mandatory, the Application to Vary Conditions of Release Form will facilitate requests from the person subject to terms and conditions of release, their counsel, the bondsperson, or the Minister's Counsel. Please note that the existing conditions of release remain in place until a decision is made by the Immigration Division (ID) on the application and the applicant receives written confirmation that the application is granted.

This form was developed in consultation with our national stakeholder consultative committee and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). It represents the Board's ongoing commitment to working with its partners to improve its processes, and supports efficient and effective decision-making.

Please share this information with your membership as you deem appropriate,

Alice Tang

Assistant Deputy Chair, Immigration Division



**RAINBOW
REFUGEE**

EVEN COVID-19 CAN'T KEEP US APART!

Even when we can't meet in person, we can connect. Rainbow Refugee has moved its group support and social events online. We can help 1:1 by phone, text or online.

GROUP SUPPORT

Virtual Drop ins –Information and support for LGBTQI refugee claimants & newcomers in BC. Stand-by interpretation in Farsi, Arabic, Spanish & Bahasa Indonesian is usually available. New members welcome!

Wednesdays 7-8:30 | Sundays 2-3:30

Email community@rainbowrefugee.ca to ask for an invitation and interpretation if you need. Invitations are sent in English, Arabic, Spanish, Farsi by email or text.

SOCIAL EVENTS ONLINE

Rainbow Refugee's Community Outreach team plans online social time—karaoke, meditation and conversation. Have an idea for a social event? Want to join? Email outreach@rainbowrefugee.ca for updates.

REFERRALS

Email community@rainbowrefugee.ca. A volunteer will respond by email or phone to assist. Volunteers speak Arabic, Bahasa Indonesian, English, Farsi, French, Spanish. Volunteers can connect you with food or meal supports, legal information or referrals, and ways to access COVID-19 relief.

R A I N B O W R E F U G E E

1:1 support and consultation

Nazanin Moghadami has joined Rainbow Refugee in her new role as case manager.

Nazanin has many years experience supporting newcomers and refugees. Originally from Iran, she is fluent in Farsi and English. She can help members get connected with resources and services, including legal, financial, health, food and COVID-19 relief services. Email support@rainbowrefugee.ca or text her at **613.604.5024**

UPDATES

How are people making refugee claims impacted by Canada's COVID-19 response?[https://](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRpl97m2ejTVgoj8KSaCC1gNZJfibBQ2wJfR9xkrfVNRRSiG16Qbb4toZsephBOlw/pub)

docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRpl97m2ejTVgoj8KSaCC1gNZJfibBQ2wJfR9xkrfVNRRSiG16Qbb4toZsephBOlw/pub

How to start a refugee claim during COVID-19 IRCC office closures

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTzLdoXGxpfLm-3fAVb-NNu7vW_MtjQxBqSupR6LTsslbjtxoWCpJRXPF0FLIN5HW-Icb3RmUoyT-B/pub

Thank you to Vancouver Foundation and Lawson Foundation for generous support of our COVID-19 response

R A I N B O W R E F U G E E



Update: COVID-19 and the Law

Legal Aid Society Update: 2 pages

You're receiving this email because your organization assists clients who might need free legal information or services.

Legal Aid BC Update: COVID-19 and the Law is a special series of our Factum enewsletter.

All Legal Aid BC websites are being updated with the most current information on how COVID-19 is affecting the law as new information becomes available.



In this Update:

- COVID-19 FAQs on our Family Law and Aboriginal Legal Aid websites;
- New video about how to get a protection order now;
- Extended hours on LiveChat on the Family Law website;
- Legal Aid BC is still here to help.



The **Family Law Website** has [information about legal aid and court system updates](#). The website also has [FAQs related to COVID-19](#) and the current period of self-isolation. While focused on family law, these FAQs also cover other aspects of the law such as rent, foreclosure, refugee law, welfare & benefits, and government support.

The **Aboriginal Legal Aid in BC website** also has a [FAQ page](#) covering COVID-19 related issues important to the Indigenous community including answers to questions about child protection, Gladue reports, and parenting.

Video: HOW TO GET A PROTECTION ORDER NOW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Riv3YMSdqml&feature=youtu.be>

This video on the [Family Law Website](#) is for people who want to make an urgent application to BC Provincial Court for a family law protection order against their abusive partner during COVID-19.

In the video, a lawyer coaches a client on the paperwork to apply for a protection order and explains what to include in the forms. She also explains that the hearing will take place by phone, with the judge.

The video includes links to:

- the forms she will need (application for urgent hearing, application to obtain an order, and affidavit)
- websites that can help
- how to make a safety plan

LiveHelp hours extended to 9am-4pm, M-F

LiveHelp is now available on the [Family Law Website](#) from **9am - 4 pm, Monday to Friday**.

Start a real-time chat with our legal information experts by clicking on the chat button on the top right of the homepage. They'll help find the information you need to solve your legal issue. If they can't find the answer to your question then they'll refer you to someone who can. LiveHelp is staffed by Legal Aid BC's Legal Information Outreach Workers and volunteer law students. When LiveHelp is offline, you can always leave a message through email.

Legal Aid is still here to help

Legal Aid applications are being taken by phone only. Parents Legal Centres (PLCs), duty counsel and Community Partners can be reached by phone. Our many online and phone-based services remain available. For up-to-date information about LABC services, click the link below.



Hello Everyone,



Dignidad Migrante Society first of all wants to thank all of you for accepting our TFW COVID-19 Guide, and we appreciate that you have been asking for the updated one.

As everybody knows, we are a worker-based organization and our Board of Directors and membership is comprised of migrant workers. Given the current situation, we have been swamped with phone calls, texts, Whatsapp messages, etc., and even though we now have two phone numbers, we just don't have the capacity to attend to everyone quickly.

This updated guide **attached** called "**COVID-19 doesn't take away workers' rights**" includes the basic rights workers have if their employment is impacted by COVID-19, what resources they are entitled to, and how they can access them. We are attaching the Spanish version here and at the bottom of the guide, you will find the link to go to the English version. You can also find our guide in [DIGNIDAD Face Book](#)

We hope this guide will be helpful to you, and that you can help us to support those temporary foreign workers who need this kind of assistance.

We also invite you to share our [DIGNIDAD Youtube](#) channel with the few short videos that we have posted. We are finding it a useful way of getting information to workers during these days of physical distancing.

Feel free to ask us for any material that you need related to temporary foreign workers. As an organization that have been working with TFWs for 14 years we have some very useful and we are more than happy to share them to benefit the workers.

Updates from the City of Vancouver (2 pages)

We are continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic across the city and recognize that many in our communities are facing challenges related to this crisis. Our work focuses on efforts to help our residents and keep Vancouver safe. Here's what's happened recently:

Here are the online language links for sharing:

Traditional Chinese: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/covid-19-city-news-update-april17-may1-traditional-chinese.pdf>

Simplified Chinese: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/covid-19-city-news-update-april17-may1-simplified-chinese.pdf>

Punjabi: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/covid-19-city-news-update-april17-may1-punjabi.pdf>

Farsi: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/covid-19-city-news-update-april17-may1-farsi.pdf>

Tagalog: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/covid-19-city-news-update-april17-may1-tagalog.pdf>

Vietnamese: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/covid-19-city-news-update-april17-may1-vietnamese.pdf>

Korean: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/covid-19-city-news-update-april17-may1-korean.pdf>

KEY UPDATES:

City speaks out on increased racism during pandemic At the start of Asian Heritage Month on May 1, the City reaffirmed its commitment to anti-racism, anti-discrimination, diversity and inclusion. The pandemic has triggered an increase in racist incidents against Asians, and everyone is encouraged to stand against prejudice and intolerant attitudes.

Property tax payment deadline delayed Vancouver City Council has approved a delay in the 2020 payment deadline for both residential and commercial property taxes. **The new tax payment deadline is September 30, 2020.**

Parking enforcement resumes The City resumed parking enforcement on April 30

COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

Food resources As the effects of the pandemic continue, many people and organizations are facing difficulties in accessing food. The City has compiled a list with information on how to find, grow, buy and donate food or volunteer and apply for grants.

Donations needed for essential items The City's Give a Hand Vancouver donation program needs urgent donations for nutritional meal supplements, baby formula and baby food, as well as diapers, pull-ups and baby wipes for organizations who help women and children in need. The program also needs take-out containers, disposable cutlery and food packaging to help with distributing free and low-cost meals in a hygienic, safe way to people in need. Donations of bottled water are also needed.

New proactive measures in the Downtown Eastside The City is taking additional steps to help ensure Downtown Eastside residents can access essential services and information, and stay safe, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Actions to meet urgent housing needs

City Council has received a staff presentation on how existing vulnerabilities in Vancouver's housing system have become serious threats during the current crisis. The presentation outlined a series of short and long- term actions that will deliver housing for those who need it most, and help to recalibrate the housing system so that we are better prepared for the future.

Free bike share for essential workers Mobi by Shaw Go, in partnership with the City of Vancouver, is providing COVID-19 essential service employees with a free 90-day pass to use the Mobi bicycles. Cycling continues to be a fast and convenient way to get around while maintaining safe physical distancing from others.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES:

Golf courses and VanDusen reopen The Vancouver Park Board reopened Fraserview and McCleery golf courses and VanDusen Botanical Garden on May 1. The sites will operate with new physical distancing procedures for users and staff to ensure a safe experience.

Watering restrictions Annual watering restrictions are now in effect. Lawn and garden watering are allowed two days per week from May 1 to October 15 to help ensure there is enough treated water for essentials such as cooking, washing, and drinking. Watering outside of permitted times could result in a \$250 fine.

Lawn watering days for residential addresses

- Even-numbered addresses: 4am – 9am on Wednesdays and Saturdays
- Odd-numbered addresses: 4am – 9am on Thursdays and Sundays

Online dashboard The City has released an online dashboard that tracks our emergency response and efforts to curb to the spread of COVID-19. The dashboard tracks categories that include: supporting public health orders; travel; childcare for essential workers; homelessness and low-income housing; food access; and community contributions.

Stay updated on what's happening

Sign up for updates [here](#). **Website:** vancouver.ca **Send comments** [here](#) **Call us:** 3-1-1, for non-emergency enquiries about the City's COVID-19 response, *language interpretation available in various languages*.



Workplace Culture and Language Training (Beginner Level)

Would you like to speak English more confidently? Register now for this online 10-session English language class. Learn how to communicate in and around the Canadian workplace and improve your English!

Mondays and Wednesdays
June 8 - July 8 (10 sessions)

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Online via Zoom

Details provided upon registration

Who can attend this workshop?

- International Students
- Work Permit Holders
- Refugee Claimants

Highlights:

- Workplace Communication
- Teamwork
- Office Culture
- Effective Networking
- Managing Conflict
- Job Interviews

For more information and to register, contact:

Masha Rademakers, mashar@nsms.ca
604-988-2931 ext. 242



Workplace Culture and Language Training (Intermediate Level)

Would you like to speak English more confidently? Register now for this online 10-session English language class. Learn how to communicate in and around the Canadian workplace and improve your English!

Tuesdays and Thursdays

June 9 - July 9

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Online via Zoom

Details provided upon registration

Who can attend this workshop?

- International Students
- Work Permit Holders
- Refugee Claimants

Highlights:

- Workplace Communication
- Teamwork
- Office Culture
- Effective Networking
- Managing Conflict
- Job Interviews

For more information and to register, contact:

Masha Rademakers, mashar@nsms.ca
604-973-0463



Webinar:

Changes to the BC Employment Standards Act in Response to COVID-19

May 26, 2020 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

As a response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the BC Provincial Government has introduced many changes to the existing policies and regulations. Amongst these are the changes to the Employment Standards Act and Regulations.

This webinar will look at what these changes are, and more specifically, look at what they mean for Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs) in BC.

Event Details & Registration

Webinar: Changes to the BC Employment Standards Act in Response to COVID-19

Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm (PT)

(Please note that this webinar will not be recorded or available for later viewing)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Presenters

Courtney Milburn, *Industrial Relations Officer, Employment Standards, Ministry of Labour*

Agnieszka Ellis, *Licensing Registry Officer, Employment Standards, Ministry of Labour*

QUESTIONS? Send an email to ssehic@amssa.org

SUBJECT : Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians' perceptions of safety – Share your perspective

You will find below an invitation from **Statistics Canada** to participate in a crowdsourcing collection initiative on how COVID-19 is impacting Canadians' perceptions of safety.

We encourage everyone to take part. The data you provide will be helpful for making future plans.

Invitation from Statistics Canada:

Statistics Canada is collecting data on the impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians' perceptions of safety.

Your participation is important: Your voice matters

You can provide your perspective on the current crisis, by sharing your perceptions of safety, crime and violence in your community during the pandemic. Please take a few minutes to participate in this crowdsourcing data collection, and feel free to forward this email to others—the more people that participate, the better the data.

Results will be used by governments and other organizations to evaluate the need for services and assistance programs to support individuals, families, and communities during and after the pandemic.

Participating is easy and secure

Select the following link to complete the short [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 to complete the various questionnaires. 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):

9-9492 (TTY: 1-800-363-7629) OR infostats@canada.ca



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

