



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

Weekly Bulletin # 40

May 6, 2020

Dear MAP members,

How are you doing? That's a common question nowadays and one that MAP wants to focus on – 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).

[World Refugee Day Celebrations](#)

The MAP Executive has committed to creating a beautiful event online of music, poetry, interviews and images that will inspire, together with the traditional proclamation for World Refugee Day.

The date? Saturday June 20: World Refugee Day.

We are 6 weeks away! And we really need your help. Please look out for a special email regarding MAP's organizing committee. Your ideas and help are needed. Please join us - thank you!

[Changes to the weekly MAP Bulletin during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

You will have noticed that very urgent messages that apply to refugee claimants and agencies have been sent out in COVID-19 Special Updates. We are trying to reserve this urgent update solely for the most important pandemic-related material. At the same time the regular Bulletin carries information about pandemic-related workshops and support as well as general information.

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)

News highlights: COVID-19 and refugee claimants April 28, 2020

Please see a list of interesting articles gathered by MAP from across Canada attached in PDF. TITLES:

- **GVFB Community Food Distribution Sites: Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminister, and North Vancouver**
Greater Vancouver Food Bank Locations May, 2020
- **BC to relax COVID-19 rules later than most other provinces, but it had fewer to begin with; major announcement from Premier on Wednesday**
CBC News
- **Refugees face added stresses during COVID-19 pandemic**
CBC News
- **Filipino workers face backlash in towns over COVID-19 outbreaks at packing plants**
Calgary Herald
- **Bill Black: Maintaining strong immigration will be crucial to economic recovery**
Halifax Chronicle
- **British Columbians can now apply for the \$1,000 emergency benefit for workers**
Global News
- **You'll have to pay again to take the bus starting next month**
CTV

How can Options Immigrant Services help you during COVID-19?



Get help online via e-mail and video chat or over the phone

See useful information attached in PDF

And check our website at:

<https://www.options.bc.ca/get-support/community-inclusion-integration>



GRUPO PARA FAMILIAS LATINAS

Técnicas para Combatir el Estrés en Familia durante el COVID-19



¿Cuándo? **JUEVES**

Mayo 14, 21, 28
Junio 4, 11, 18, 25

¿Qué hora? **10 am - 11:30 am**

¿Dónde? **Via ZOOM**

¿Preguntas? **Comunicate al 778-372-6593**
o
escribe a paula@vast-vancouver.ca

para recibir el **meeting ID** y unirte al grupo

Also attached as PDF



SVNH Online Programs on Zoom



The following programs are available on Zoom

- **ESL Conversation Group** at 1-3pm Monday through Weds
- **Multicultural Women Peer Mentoring Group** @1-3pm on Friday
- **Basic Computer Class** in partnership with YMCA on Weds and Fri @10-12

How to join a meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/3955979455>

(Password to the meeting room provided upon initial registration)

For further details or registration, pls. contact **Kwangyoung**
(604)324-6212(Ext. 117) / kwangyoung.conn@southvan.org

Nobody's Perfect Parenting Group

----만 5세 미만의 자녀를 둔 부모를 위한 프로그램----

캐나다 정부 프로그램으로 아이의 성격, 습관, 인성, 도덕성 등이 결정되는 일생의 가장 중요한 시기를 어떻게 효과적으로 도와줄 수 있는지를 구체적으로 배웁니다. 귀에 쪽쪽 들어오는 한국어 강의이며 6권의 칼라로 된 work book과 수료증제공됩니다.

When: March 30-May 4 @12-2pm (5 Mondays)
(No session on April 13)

Where: South Vancouver Neighborhood House
(6470 Victoria Dr. Vancouver: 49th St. 와 Victoria Dr)

Fee: Free including light lunch & snacks provided with free Childcare

Facilitators: 이재경(유아교육 및 부모교육 전문강사) and Kwangyoung(광영)

*인원이 제한되어 있으니 필히 사전 등록바랍니다

For further information or registration contact Kwangyoung
@604-324-6212/Ext 117 or Kwangyoung.conn@southvan.org

Pacific Immigrant Resource Services (PICS) presents Virtual (online) English Conversation sessions through our **Community Adult Literacy Program** in partnership with KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY.

Note: CALP classes are already in session - registration is on on-going basis.
Open to refugee claimants, citizens, permanent residents and work permit holders



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM CALP PICS

Free Virtual English Classes

Job Seekers wanting to improve their English can join free online English classes providing help with resumes and cover letters, interview skills, computer job search, and conversation skills. Extra one-on-one support is also available.

In Partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University



**FREE ONLINE ENGLISH
CLASSES**

REGISTER

Email to Register
chandni.patel@pics.bc.ca

WHERE

Online- A Link will be
provided before each
session via email

Instructions will be included
in the email of how to join
the session

ELIGIBILITY

Canadian Citizens, PR, Work
Permit

You should have access to
an electronic device with
video, microphone &
speaker

PICS.BC.CA

12725 80 Ave, Surrey,
BC V3W 3A6
604- 596-7722



NEW! Employment opportunities portal:

BNCNPHA + **VANCITY** + **Catalyst Community developers**

Present: **HOUSING JOB MATCH**

The Housing Job Match website will connect British Columbians looking for work with the non-profit housing and shelter organizations that need their help now more than ever.

Check it out at:

<https://housingjobmatch.ca/>

Questions? Get in touch: housingjobmatch@bcnpha.ca



Burnaby Neighborhood House Service Updates

Please see attached details in PDF – updates are **highlighted**

MOSAIC and Inasmuch will be hosting 1 more online Career Workshops for refugee claimants:

- May 8th - Workplace Culture and Integration: Stating Your New Job

All scheduled at 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, on Zoom (phone or computer).

Please register for any of them by email at refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org,

Please circulate the information too!

2 pages - see over for May 1st and May 8th workshops



ONLINE WORKSHOP
For Refugee Claimants

Workplace Culture and Integration: Starting Your New Job

Friday May 8th 10:30 am—12:00 pm
Workshop on ZOOM (phone or computer)

- What to consider before starting with a new company: advice from a former Head of Human Resources
- Feel comfortable and confident in a new Canadian workplace

To Register: Email refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org



WelcomeBC



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.

WEBINAR

As you may know, AAISA (the Alberta Association for Immigrant Serving Agencies), the umbrella agency for Alberta settlement and integration service provider organizations, is offering a national webinar series regarding anti-racism, online hate and intersectionality during COVID-19. Please find the link to register for the third webinar in the series titled Intersectionality and COVID-19 below.

Intersectionality and COVID-19

Date: May 15, 2020

Time: 9 – 10:00 AM PDT

This webinar hosted by AAISA will build on the COVID-19 and Racism webinar and focus on additional groups that weren't discussed. We will use an intersectional lens to explore the ways in which oppression is amplified by COVID-19. We will discuss the way to encourage continued learning, engaging in mindful reflection, and to learn and grow from any mistakes we will make while doing this work.

To register, click here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7422739633843051536>

To watch the first two webinars COVID-19 and Racism and Responding to Online Hate during COVID-19 in the series on-demand, visit: <https://aaisa.ca/professional-development/>

Kind Regards,

Sabrina Dumitra, Settlement and Integration Program Manager

604 718-4220 / sdumitra@amssa.org

Burnaby Family Life and Burnaby LIP invites you to the Second and Third Webinars of the “**Three Wellness Series Webinars**” to continue working in this unprecedented times and continue supporting clients.

Diana Jeffries will be the panelist for the three webinars. Diana specializes in working with refugees and other multi-barrier newcomers in community-based programs. She has facilitated numerous workshops throughout Canada on for the education, settlement, and the health sectors and has written several papers, resources guides, and curricula for practitioners working with newcomers to Canada

- Zoom webinar 2 will be May 21, 2020 09:00 AM PST

Topic: **ESSENTIAL SELF-CARE STRATEGIES - For Mental Health During Uncertain Times**

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ynLSno3dQ22Z_W8vVbrKrw

- Zoom webinar 3 will be Jun 4, 2020 09:00 AM PST

Topic: **TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICES FOR WORKING WITH NEWCOMERS - Perspectives on Healing-Centered Engagement, and Working in Solidarity with Newcomers**

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i2D79B7VSpm4vvTFv7VCHw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



MOSAIC is accepting nominations for two awards:

- ANN & JO-ANN SOBKOWA AWARD
- EYOB G. NAIZGHI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Please see application forms attached in WORD and PDF

So grateful for this donation for emergency food aid

DIVERSEcity has received a total grant of \$50,000 from Community Food Centres Canada's Good Food Access Fund to provide food directly to our most vulnerable immigrant and refugee clients who may be experiencing food insecurity, especially now during COVID-19.

"This donation from Community Food Centres Canada is such an integral contribution to the support of immigrant and refugee families we assist at DIVERSEcity who may be faced with food insecurity," says Laura Mannix, director, Community Development at DIVERSEcity.

"Migrant populations are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and faced challenges in accessing resources even before this pandemic. We are grateful to have funding that provides food directly to those in our community who need it." [Learn more here ...](#)



[DIVERSEcity is hiring – check out the opportunities here](#)

City of Vancouver News release April 30, 2020

Vancouverites unite against COVID-19

As the effects of COVID-19 are felt worldwide, Vancouver businesses and residents continue to pool their resources in support of local communities hit hardest by the pandemic.

[Give a Hand Vancouver](#) has seen an influx of donations and low-cost offers since it launched in early April, all materials from which have been re-routed to aid residents in need and help frontline workers as aim to curb the spread of COVID-19.

“Many businesses across Vancouver have been facing tough times since residents have begun self-isolating,” said City Manager Sadhu Johnston. “Knowing this only makes it all the more heartening to hear that those who are able to have been contributing to support others, and we encourage all groups with supplies to please reach out so we can help direct those materials to where they can do the most good.”

Give a Hand Vancouver is currently seeking urgent donations for shelf-stable, age-appropriate nutritional meal supplements such as Ensure, Pediasure, baby formula and baby food, as well as diapers, pull-ups and baby wipes. These items are critical for organizations such as the Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre, Insite and the Aboriginal Mother’s Centre who provide support to many people who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Speaking about the importance of these items, Robyn Hansen, Transformational Housing Manager at the Aboriginal Mother Centre Society, said: “Many of the women who come to the Aboriginal Mother’s Centre are trying to self-isolate, so supports like Ensure, baby formula and diapers would help them stay home and keep their families safe.



There are fewer options to access food these days, and people's ability to provide for their kids' core needs has gotten more difficult. Baby formula, baby food, and diapers are critical during a time when people have less access to income to support their kids' basic needs.”

Power of Threee, a volunteer effort coordinated by 3 sisters from Vancouver's Filipino community, has been providing COVID-19 care packages containing food and sanitary products, directly to those in need. A total of 242 care packages have been created and delivered so far to seniors, single parents, families and those at high-risk.

“We believe it is the responsibility of those who can take care of each other in any way to take care of those who cannot,” said Vinelli Rumbaua-Teguibon, co-founder of Power of Threee. “The care package project is a short-term solution to provide temporary relief for those who are struggling. In a time where we are all physically divided, we all need to come together in other ways.”

Other recent donations to **Give a Hand Vancouver** include:

- Masks from Brightline Sportswear, Dr. Simmy Yeung and GeoGuard.
- Restaurant equipment and takeout containers from Tivoli Caterers
- Meals provided by Guru Nanak's Free Kitchen
- Corn Tortillas from Mexican Delight Gourmet Inc.
- Hand sanitizer from Windward Lavender
- Cakes and other sweets from Yummy Yonie Cake

The City is extremely grateful to every business and organization that has donated and helped their fellow residents at this time. If you would like to make a donation or help out with Vancouver's COVID-19 response, visit

giveahandvancouver.ca.



Join us for the Virtual Spring Consultation to explore current issues affecting refugee protection and newcomer settlement. All are welcome to participate!

With views from all Canadian provinces and with experts in diverse fields, the Consultation offers opportunities for professional development, networking and strategy.

The Virtual Consultation will feature a series of webinars and on-line meetings. See current schedule (subject to change): ccrweb.ca/en/2020-spring-consultation

Information

When: 19 May - 26 June 2020 (all webinars, caucuses, working group meetings will start at 2:00pm EDT and will last 90mns)

Where: GoToWebinars

Who: Refugees, immigrants, representatives of refugee and immigrant-serving organizations, government, UNHCR, academics, community workers, lawyers, youth advocates and more. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Fee schedule:

Please select the appropriate CODE when registering!



Canadian Council for Refugees, 6839 Drolet #301, Montréal, QC, H2S 2T1 (514) 277-7223, ccrweb.ca

SUBJECT: Impacts of COVID-19 on mental health and well-being - Share your perspective /

Statistics Canada invites you to participate in a crowdsourcing collection initiative to better understand how Canadians are doing during the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage everyone to take part:

Statistics Canada is collecting data on the impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians' mental health and well-being.

You can provide your perspective by sharing your experience on how the pandemic has been affecting your mental health, including feelings of anxiety and stress. Everyone's input is important to accurately assess how this pandemic is affecting our society. 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.

Participating is easy and secure - Visit www.statcan.gc.ca/COVID-series-e

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

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

Thank you,

Jean Labbé

Director, Collection Planning and Research Division

MOSAIC will be offering online English Conversation Circles for Refugee Claimants on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:00 pm from April 29 to June 3, 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 Parisa at proofigari@mosaicbc.org.

Frequently Asked Questions:

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

Please don't hesitate to contact Parisa via email at proofigari@mosaicbc.org if you have any questions. Have a great day!

ONLINE: English Conversation for Refugee Claimants



Every Wednesday

5:00 pm — 6:00 pm

April 29 — June 3, 2020

We will “meet” each week on Zoom
(an online app)



Practice your English, talk to new people, and learn more about life in Canada.

You can register any week!

To get the link to join on your phone or computer, please email Parisa at proofigari@mosaicbc.org



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.



WelcomeBC

BC SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION SERVICES

Free **Employment, Immigration, and Settlement** services

Employment Services: Resume & CV Reviews, skills workshops, and more.

Immigration Services: Express Entry, BC PNP, pathways to permanency info.

Settlement Services: Information on Government Benefits and more.

Eligibility:

- Foreign workers *with a valid work permit*
- Post-secondary international students
- Refugee Claimants
- PNP Nominees
- Naturalized Citizens actively seeking work

For all inquiries and workshop registrations:

Email us at:

bcsis@success.bc.ca

or visit our website:

www.successbcsis.com

Want to speak with a staff? Find the number in your region below.

Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster: 236-668-4953; 604-900-3538

Richmond, South Delta..... : 236-668-3474; 236-333-8101

Surrey, Langley North Delta..... : 236-808-2323; 604-900-3532

**Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam,
Port Moody, Maple Ridge.....** : 236-333-2135; 236-668-1248



See news from **DIVERSEcity** in their current [newsletter](#) – including the Cloth Facemask Initiative

The Cloth Facemask Initiative

An immigrant women's sewing collective called Sewmates Craft has come together to launch The Cloth Facemask Initiative, sewing masks for vulnerable populations in BC during COVID-19.

One hundred masks have already been delivered to Mission Possible, which are being distributed them to the homeless community in the Downtown Eastside. DIVERSEcity has donated \$1,000 to buy 200 masks for clients as well as vulnerable populations in Surrey, BC, distributed by the Lookout Society.

Shayne Williams, CEO of Lookout Society said: "Their amazing generosity is helping to protect the lives of Lookout employees and the vulnerable people we serve." See more in the Newsletter

