



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 49

July 29, 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).

NEWS!!

- Of course the exciting news this month is the successful legal challenge to the **Safe Third Country Agreement!** Congratulations to the team at CCR, Amnesty International and the Canadian Council of Churches. See more details in the MAP News highlights below.
- Now the MAP YouTube channel is launched we have also uploaded all the links to the MAP website at <https://mapbc.org/about/events/> where you can see individual films of **MAP's World Refugee Day celebration** plus links, and art from Khatira. Please share with colleagues and friends.
- **And MAP is looking for a volunteer again!** Since Moe has joined Kinbrace we are in need of someone with some spare time who can help with meeting organization, note-taking etc. While meetings are online the position has changed a bit – but still lots of fun! See the attached Volunteer Job description and contact info@mapbc.org if you or anyone you know is interested. Starts in September.

Happy summer everyone. And **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.

Jenny Lam and Richard Belcham, - and the other Jenny!

News highlights:

COVID-19, Immigration law and refugee claimants

July 29, 2020

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

*Thanks to Journey Home Volunteer **Barry Growe** for his research and compilation*

- **Federal court rules Canada-US Safe Third Country agreement unconstitutional**
Global News
- **After court ruling, Canada should suspend refugee agreement with US**
Toronto Star editorial
- **Organizations welcome ruling on Safe Third Countries** Canadian Council for Refugees
- **Asylum claims being filed in Canada continue to rise slightly despite pandemic**
CTV News
- **The end of charity: Australian sector at risk of collapse**
The Saturday Paper
- **White House attack on legal immigration is an attack on patriotism and the US economy**
Hartford Courant Editorial

Dear Stakeholders,

We are pleased to invite you to a joint Stakeholder Meeting with the **four Divisions of the Immigration and Refugee Board's (IRB's) Western Region: the Refugee Protection Division (RPD); the Immigration Division (ID); the Immigration Appeal Division (IAD); and the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD).**

This will be a virtual meeting using MS Teams.

Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. PST

The Divisions will be discussing business resumption plans at the IRB including in-person hearings.

We request your **RSVP no later than Wednesday, July 29, 2020** to the attention of chloe.perrin@irb-cisr.gc.ca.

We look forward to sharing information about our respective divisions and answering any questions you may have.

Best regards,

Karin Michnick, Assistant Deputy Chairperson, Refugee Protection Division, Western Region

Linda Taylor, Assistant Deputy Chairperson, Immigration Appeal Division, Western Region

Alice Tang, Assistant Deputy Chairperson, Immigration Division, Western Region

Philippe Rabot, Acting Assistant Deputy Chairperson, Refugee Appeal Division, Western Region

It is with regret we announce that, after more than 20 years serving the newcomer community, the **Resource Office at First United Spanish Mennonite Church** will be closing as of July 31.

Currently, the **MCC Vancouver Refugee Office** at the same location is also temporarily closed. We hope to move forward with an interim plan for partial staffing soon.

Questions can be directed to Sue Kupp, Interim Director of Programs--Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) BC
at: suekupp@mccbc.ca

Participants Needed For Research On How Legal Problems Affect The Lives Of Immigrants (2 pages)

The **Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria** is leading a study about serious legal problems experienced by immigrants in Canada, particularly those that could be solved through the justice system.

We are interested in:

- Types of legal problem you have experienced in the last three years or since your arrival in Canada (for example: disputes about a large purchase, with a landlord/landlady or about a mortgage, family members, employers or employees, neighbours, police, social assistance, immigration officials, health services, and others)
- The ways you have tried to solve this problem (through official legal channels or other)
- Financial, social, and/or health-related effects these problems have had on you and/or your family

We would like to invite you to take part in an online interview through ZOOM. It will last approximately 1.5 hours. You will receive \$30 to compensate for your time. To participate you will need a computer, tablet, or cell phone with a camera, microphone, and internet connection. An interpreter could be present if needed and if available.

Participation is voluntary and will not affect your relationship with your settlement organization. The interview will be recorded but the information that you provide will be completely confidential and will not be attributed to you.



If you are interested in taking part in this interview, please fill out an application form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/icaresearch [surveymonkey.com]. The interview will be conducted by Florentien Verhage (Ph.D.), coordinator of the Greater Victoria Local Immigration Partnership (GVLIP).

Thank you!

Contact: gvlip@icavictoria.org or 250-388-4728 ext183
Canada

Funded by Justice

A poster and letter to share are attached. If helpful, a webpage with the same information is here:

<https://www.icavictoria.org/participants-needed-for-research-on-how-legal-problems-affect-the-lives-of-immigrants/> [icavictoria.org] and a shareable facebook post is here: <https://www.facebook.com/GVLIP/posts/181722080043220> [facebook.com]



FOOD HAMPER PROGRAM

The Lower Mainland Purpose Society Summer Food Hamper Program will run from July 6 through August 31, 2020.

This program is open to anyone who is experiencing food insecurity. The hampers are available for pick up or delivery.

If you would like to be registered for a food hamper, please call Ashley at 604-526-2522 to apply.





Dignidad Migrante Society

BIKE RIDE EVENT SATURDAY AUGUST 2ND

Hi Everyone,

Veggies & fruit will come from the fields to the city asking for your help by sharing this invitation to everyone who believes that those who put food in our tables deserve your support.

See the video first:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zxtjKjXjFZM8xutNEozWvTQDH4TvpBpD/view?usp=sharing>

PS If you have a bike you could lend the team please contact DIGNIDAD at imfarmworker@gmail.com

<https://dignidadmigrantesociety.org/en/home/>

Please also see a letter from Dignidad attached regarding police action in Abbotsford against migrant workers

Jumpstart Refugee Talent presents: **Credential Evaluation Webinar** (PDF also attached)

Thursday July 30 from 10:00 to 11:00 PST

Event description:

A credential evaluation is a comparison of your academic accomplishments to standards in the U.S. or Canada. This helps when institutions like schools, employers, licensing boards, or immigration authorities need to recognize your international university degree. Learn about:

- What is a credential evaluation?
- In what circumstances is it useful/valuable to you?
- The WES Credential Evaluations program
- The WES Gateway program

Event location: Zoom – Please RSVP [here](#) to receive the Webinar's URL.

Guest speaker: [Beatrice Kohlenberg](#) | World Education Services, Senior Manager, WES Gateway Program, WES Global Talent Bridge.

Note: This event is targeted to individuals who arrived to Canada as a refugee, or applied for asylum upon arrival to Canada.

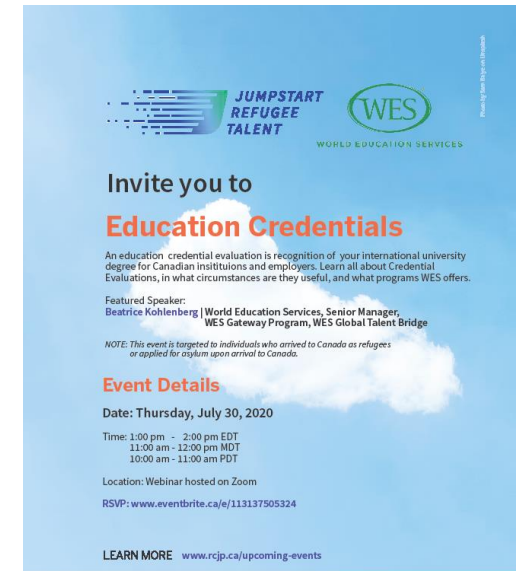
Kindest regards,

Masa Kateb (Pronouns: she/her/hers)

Manager of Projects Jumpstart Refugee Talent | Vancouver

604-442-2556

masa.kateb@jumpstartRefugee.ca



INVITATION TO REGISTER
BC REFUGEE HUB WEBINAR
Domestic Violence - Supporting Refugees and Refugee Claimants in B.C.

Speaker: Rosa Elena Arteaga, Manager of Direct Service and Clinical Practice - Battered Women's Support Services

Rosa Arteaga has been working in the anti-violence field for over twenty years delivering workshops on violence against self-identified girls and women and providing training to service providers at the national and international level. In her role as Manager of Direct Services and Clinical Practice, she oversees a number of programs within BWSS.

Rosa will be presenting on:

- How to recognize signs of domestic violence in clients
- What steps to take to support the client
- What are special circumstances impacting refugees and refugee claimants (that might be different than other groups)
- Limitations of the support a front line worker can provide and making referrals
- Changes and increased instances of violence due to COVID-19
- Introduction to the 2019 toolkit by BWSS and BC Refugee Hub
- Available resources
- Q&A session

Speaker: Mona Hassannia, Registered Clinical Counsellor - Nia Counselling

Mona Hassannia is a Registered Clinical Counsellor and Psychotherapist with Nia Counselling providing therapy, team debriefings and workshops in Vancouver. She has over 15 years of front-line and management experiences in the settlement sector.

Mona will be presenting on:

- Supporting victims of abuse and violence as a front-line worker
- Understanding vicarious trauma and best practices in avoiding burnout
- Self care - a necessity for front-line workers
- Working remotely while supporting clients - how to create boundaries
- Q&A session

Date & Time: August 11, 2020 at 9:30am - 11:30am

Questions E-mail refugeehub@issbc.org


Burnaby Neighbourhood House ongoing workshops
- PDF also attached

The Settlement and Integration Program at Burnaby Neighbourhood House Presents

Free-Drawing Workshops for trans youth

Content

- Day 1: Lines and shapes
- Day 2: Sguiggles and Prompt drawing
- Day 3: Lines and Prompt drawing
- Day 4: Circles and Prompt drawing
- Day 5: Basic shapes and Prompt drawing
- Day 6: Shading basics with pen and Prompt drawing.
- Day 7: Fill a shape with dot and Prompt drawing
- Day 8: Wrinkles and Prompt drawing
- Day 9: Drawing exercise wrap up



Biography

Marco Walraven is a 20 y/o self taught artist from Mexico, now residing in Vancouver BC. He studies music at Vancouver Community College, and has an interest for different types of art and loves connecting them. He's passionate about education and works at a chocolate factory.

Materials:
Paper (any paper) and pen (preferably felt tip pen), you can use pencil if you prefer.

We welcome all genders to participate in a safe environment!

Monday 5:30-7:00 pm
Directed by: Marco Walraven
Format: Via Zoom
Duration: 1 hour
Suggested age: 14-19yrs
Language: English/Spanish
Participants: 20 per session

Pre-registration is required to get the link for the Zoom Workshop!

Please contact Elva at
Elvar@burnabynh.ca
236 833 6515



Burnaby Neighbourhood House
4460 Beresford Street
Burnaby, BC V5H0B8



Funded by:
Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Financé par:
Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

JOB OPPORTUNITY!

Organization: Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture (VAST)

Title: Outreach Coordinator for Newcomers in the DTES

Hours: Temporary Part-Time (2 days, 16 hours per week) position

Start Date: August 1, 2020

See details in PDF attached.

Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op are looking to hire an IT support person to join their team: <https://umbrellacoop.ca/umbrella-co-op-jobs/>

PDF also attached



Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op

JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: IT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN (CASUAL)

Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op is a member driven not for profit health services organization. Our members are people who face barriers to accessing health care due to their language and culture. Our mission is to provide practical access to affordable and holistic health care services that are appropriate in culture and language for those who are without access to health security.

The IT Support Technician provides on-site technical support to maintain the software, hardware and telecommunication systems and needs of the organization.

DUTIES AND RESPONSABILITIES:

- Provide technical support to staff, troubleshoot and problem solve IT and communications issues.
- Provide routine computer and laptop repair and maintenance.
- Coordinate the procurement of new desktop computers and set-up with all required applications.
- Set-up new workstations with printer, scanner, photocopier, label makers, etc.
- Coordinate and implement OSCAR-EMR servers' system upgrade
- Liaise with OSCAR-EMR IT provider and other technical support services in resolving IT related issues.
- Set up a VPN to support staff working remotely, and train staff on how to access the network
- Provide support on platforms/software to facilitate virtual care and group programming.
- Maintain inventory control for all IT equipment.
- Maintain an inventory of software, licenses, IP addresses, email accounts and warranties.
- Consult with management to analyze computer system needs and IT functional operations, to determine scope and priorities of projects, and to determine system capacity and equipment acquisitions.
- Obtain quotations and order all approved IT hardware and software.
- Make recommendations on systems efficiency and improvements.
- Other IT needs as required

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Undergraduate degree in related discipline or equivalent demonstrated experience in the IT field, preferably in a health setting
- Strong knowledge of Mac OS and Windows OS
- Strong knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Knowledge of SYNC or other cloud systems

CCR Summer Working Group meetings



The Working Groups Meetings will take place on-line on 8-10 September 2020. Please find below general information so you can save the date!

When:

Tuesday 8 Sept. 2020

[Overseas Protection and Resettlement Working Group](#)

Wednesday 9 Sept. 2020

[Immigration and Settlement Working Group](#)

Thursday 10 Sept. 2020

[Inland Protection Working Group](#)

Time:

11:00am - 1:00pm PST

Participation and registration: Details to follow.

On the agenda:

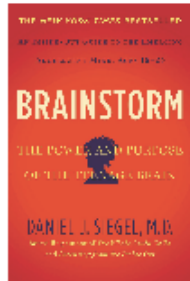
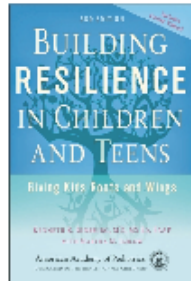
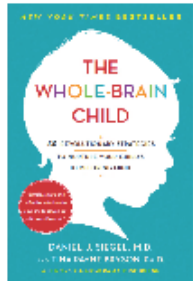
Draft agendas for the meeting will be available in the next few weeks on the [Working Group webpages](#) for logged-in CCR members and will also be sent by email to the [CCRLIST](#).



Parent Support Services
Society of BC

PARENTING BOOK CLUB

Interested in reading and discussing some of today's
best selling parenting books?



Join us on a bi-weekly basis via Zoom and on our Facebook group,
to discuss the reading material; have the space to ask questions;
receive information and resources; and connect with other
parents & caregivers.

Open to all
Parents/Caregivers
in BC

To Join, Click [HERE](#)
OR email:
office@parentsupportbc.ca

OR call our
Parenting Support Line:
1-877-345-9777 ext.1

We thank the Province of
British Columbia for their
financial contribution



Pdf ATTACHED TO REGISTER





Please see the [important update](#) that **Umbrella Multicultural Health** have added to their website this week regarding COVID-19:

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

It contains information on **Public Health basic recommendations and more in multiple languages.**

Wazhma Wakil <http://umbrellacoop.ca/>
Coordinator of Social Determinants of Health,
715 Carnarvon St, New Westminster, BC V3M 1E6
Phone: 604-553-0633
Visit us at: www.umbrellacoop.ca



Dear ISSofBC friend,

We are pleased to announce that delivery of limited in-person services on an appointment-only basis will begin in most ISSofBC offices and locations by the end of this month.

Settlement services – including multilingual settlement supports for Government-Assisted Refugees, **refugee claimants**, and other immigrants; volunteer connections; and youth and women's programs – are available for appointment-scheduling in all locations except Maple Ridge beginning July 27.

Resumption of in-person Employment and Self-employment services and LINC training which continue to be delivered online or by phone will be announced later.

Delivery of all in-person services are strictly by appointment only. All offices will remain closed to drop-in services.

New or returning clients can book in-person service appointments by contacting the centralized intake resources listed on the [ISSofBC Programs during COVID-19](#) webpage.



ISSofBC has spared no effort to ensure a safe workplace for staff and clients to return to. When booking and later, arriving for appointments, clients will be expected to answer a number of health-related screening questions and provide critical personal information to facilitate virus contact tracing should that become necessary. For everyone's protection, they must also arrive wearing facial masks (both adults and children over two years old). Please check out the [ISSofBC Return-to-Workplace Safety Plan](#).

We continue to closely monitor guidelines and directions from public health authorities and by doing so, look forward to a successful and healthy reopening of all the services our clients and the community have come to rely on. Thanks for your continued support and please stay safe.

URL links:

Programs during COVID-19 - <https://issbc.org/program-intake>

Return-to-Workplace Safety Plan - <https://issbc.org/safetyplan-covid19>

Yours truly,



Patricia Woroch
Chief Executive Officer



Legal Aid BC Update: COVID-19 and the Law (July 14, 2020) (2 pages in PDF attached)

In this update:

- COVID-19 updates - abuse & family violence, the BC legal system, immigration & refugees and mortgage & rent
- Video - Should I go to court during COVID-19?
- Date changed - BCSTH & LABC webinar on legal options for women without status fleeing abuse

MOSAIC and Inasmuch will be hosting a career workshop on **Wednesday, July 29th**. This online session will be hosted on Zoom (available on phone or computer). Clients can register and get the link to join the Zoom session by emailing refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org.

Posters with more information are attached to this email. Please share with any refugee claimant clients who might be interested in participating in the career workshop.

- **Workplace Culture and Integration: Starting Your New Job**

- *Wednesday, July 29th from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm*
- 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

Please don't hesitate to email refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org if you have any questions. Have a great day!

Tracy Tang



MOSAIC

Reaching Home housing grants and supports available from five of our rent bank partners:

These are funds made available through Reaching Home in response to COVID19 and the impact it has had on people's housing stability. People should apply through the regular rent bank application process, but based on their situation either a loan, grant or combination solution will be offered.

Reaching Home – BC Rent Bank Coalition

Due to the impact of COVID19, BC Rent Bank and five of our partners are working together to assist people in accessing or maintaining their housing by providing one time grants that support housing placement and housing loss prevention. These grants are for individuals or families, and can assist with rental assistance, damage/utility deposits, moving fees, and any rent or utilities that have gone into arrears. Some sites are also offering assistance with gift cards to help with food and hygiene supplies. To find out which partners are participating, please go to <https://bcrentbank.ca/covid-19/>. Links to each community partner are located there. Please note – to qualify the applicant must reside or be moving into the community to which they are applying. If you have any additional questions, the best is to contact the agency directly or feel free to email info@bcrentbank.ca or call, 604-877-8453.

Melissa Giles

Project Lead – BC Rent Bank
Vancity Community Foundation
C. 604-877-8453

info@bcrentbank.ca

www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca

www.bcrentbank.ca

