



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 60

November 4, 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 at info@mapbc.org

NEWS!!

- **REQUEST FROM MAP**

MAP is re-forming the INFORMATION WORKING GROUP in order to create a robust public education and messaging program .
MAP is calling on all member agencies to consider nominating a colleague for this ongoing committee. if you are interested please contact Jenny at info@mapbc.org or either of the co-chairs to join. Meetings will start in November.
See our poster inside for more details.

Thank you!

- **NEXT MAP Meeting: Thursday November 26**

- How do Neighbourhood Houses welcome Refugee Claimants in their communities?
- Umbrella Multicultural Health Coop: consultation with the MAP agencies about priority needs in accessing their health care services.
- Approval sought for updated MAP Terms of reference

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: Refugee claimant – related articles from Canada and around the world

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*

Titles:

- **Lives in limbo as Covid stalls refugee interview process**
Ottawa Citizen
- **Government of Canada announces plan to support economic recovery through immigration**
Canada Newswire
- **Advocates call for migrant care worker protection**
CTV News
- **Single mother gives back to North York agency that turned her life around**
Toronto Star
- **‘Our children are safe now’: how refugees have been welcomed across Britain**
The Independent

Poster
attached

INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT REFUGEE CLAIMANT ISSUES?
DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE? | DO YOU HAVE CREATIVE SKILLS?
SOCIAL MEDIA WHIZZ?

JOIN MAP'S INFORMATION WORKING GROUP

In 2020/21 we will be working on the following public education projects:

- Four-part online lecture series in 2021 for the public on international refugee claimant issues.
- Two 'Starting Over' events in different municipalities once in-person gatherings are allowed.
- Expanded World Refugee Day event – possibly in person and online

What's in it for agencies?

- Agencies can be co-sponsors of events and promote accordingly
- Agency staff can facilitate events
- Add these successes to your social media messages

We are looking for people with one or more of the following:

- Event planning skills
- Social media savvy
- Experienced with online event organization
- Design experience
- Knowledgeable about refugee claimants and committed to change

What would you need to commit?

- Monthly meeting of two hours at a time agreed within the group
- Meetings will be more frequent before World Refugee Day
- Tasks between meetings

If you are interested or have any questions please contact MAP Coordinator:
Jenny Moss at info@mapbc.org

Thank you! **Richard Belcham, Jenny Lam and Jenny Moss**





Update from MCC Refugee Office:

We are open again! We will be working with Refugee Claimants who speak English, Spanish, or Arabic.

For more information or to make an appointment please contact:

Sara Tohme saratohme@mccbc.ca or Teresa Fuller teresafuller@mccbc.ca

Sent on behalf of the Deputy Chairperson

Dear Stakeholders,

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) issued a [Notice on the Establishment of the Gender Related Task Force at the RPD](#).

A Chairperson's initiative, comprised of twenty-four highly qualified and experienced decision-makers nationally, the Gender Related Task Force (GRTF) has an impressive range of professional skills and backgrounds including:

- graduate studies and/or university professorships in gender-related fields
- work countering domestic violence amongst indigenous communities in rural parts of Mexico
- work at a women's legal aid centre in Tanzania
- advocacy at The Hague advancing gender-related issues related to DRC prosecutions
- criminal prosecutions focused on empowering witness testimony during the prosecution of crimes against female victims of violence
- the development of best practices while interacting with victims during the prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

The training for GRTF members lasts four weeks and is delivered by leading experts on refugee and immigration law on topics such as:

- trauma-informed practice
- trauma-informed decision making
- questioning from a cross-cultural and trauma-informed perspective
- cultural humility
- assessing credibility
- weighing of evidence



This rigorous training will enable GRTF members to bring enhanced expertise and awareness to deciding gender-related claims and position them to advance best practices to the benefit of claimants and the Board alike.

Refugee claims will be assigned to the GRTF based on refugee claim-type only; streaming will not consider the degree of complexity of a claim or average acceptance rates and will not result in priority or expedited processing. As is always the case, claims assigned to the GRTF will be determined based on the evidence, the specific merits of the claim, and in accordance with the law.

The RPD is consulting with stakeholders and subject matter experts on the scope and work of the GRTF. Ongoing consultations on the review of the [Chairperson Guidelines 4 – Women Refugee Claimants Fearing Gender-Related Persecution](#) will also influence the work of the GRTF and vice versa. The Board's Policy, Engagement and Parliamentary Affairs Directorate is working closely with the GRTF to ensure alignment between these two initiatives.

Additionally, we are currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the [Chairperson Guidelines 4 – Women Refugee Claimants Fearing Gender-Related Persecution](#) and are enhancing our member training programs around gender-related issues, including appropriate questioning, credibility assessments as well as trauma-informed adjudication.

Please refer to the [Notice](#) for further details and share this information with your membership as you deem appropriate.

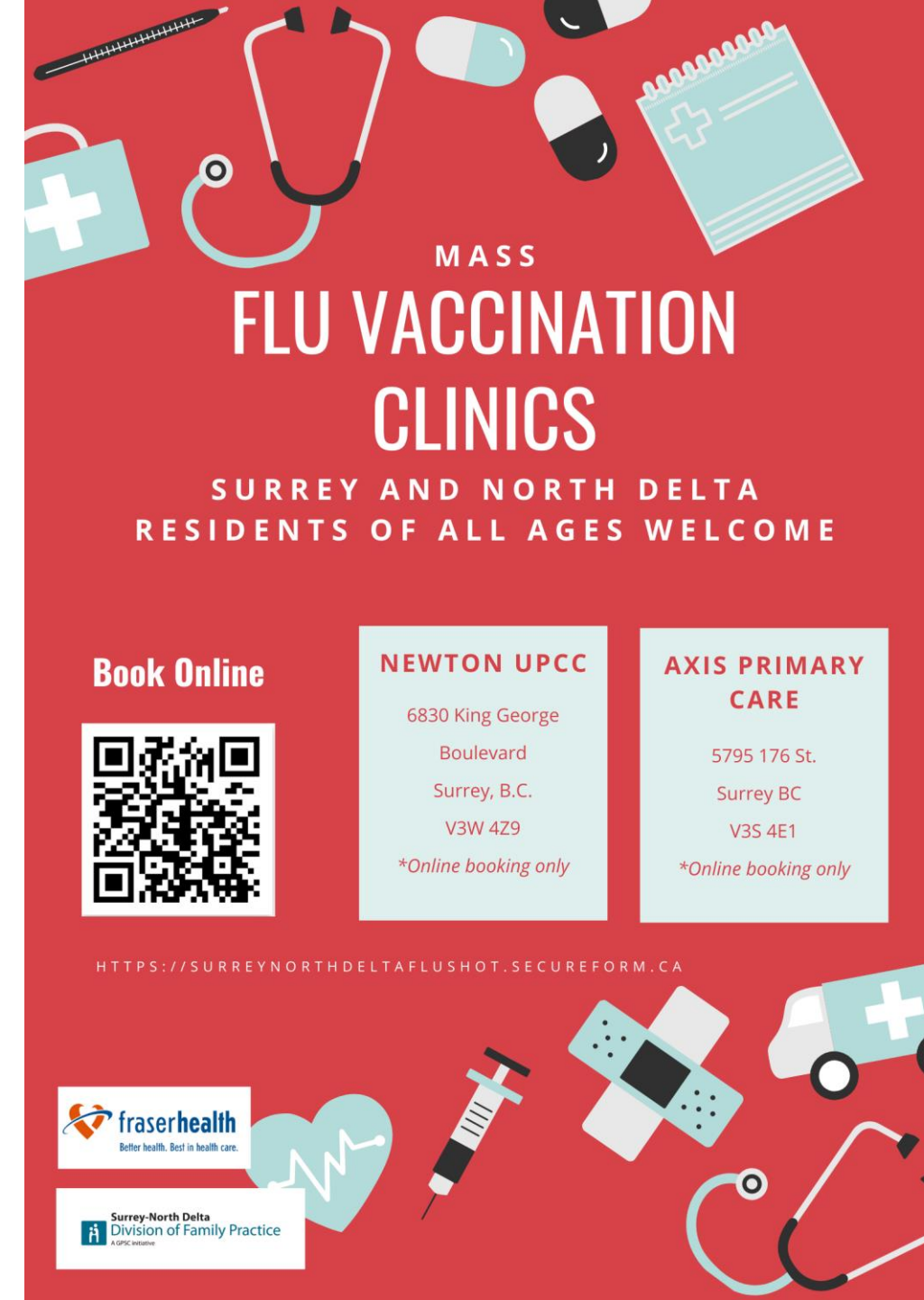
-

Richard Wex

Roula Eatrides

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson, RPD



MASS
**FLU VACCINATION
CLINICS**

SURREY AND NORTH DELTA
RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES WELCOME

Book Online



NEWTON UPCC

6830 King George
Boulevard
Surrey, B.C.
V3W 4Z9

**Online booking only*

**AXIS PRIMARY
CARE**

5795 176 St.
Surrey BC
V3S 4E1

**Online booking only*

[HTTPS://SURREYNORTHDELTAFLUSHOT.SECUREFORM.CA](https://surreynorthdeltaflushot.secureform.ca)



Appointments are **available as soon as TODAY!** Appointments can be booked at the following website:

<https://surreynorthdeltaflushot.secureform.ca/>

Please note: routine Childhood Immunizations are not available at the Influenza Immunizations Clinics, **only influenza immunizations for Children ages 6 month and older.**

We hope this service will be helpful to the clients you serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jody Friesen

Director of Strategic Initiatives and PCN

A 214 - 5455 152nd St. Surrey, BC V3S 5A5

C 778-387-6009 **F** 604-629-2942

W divisionsbc.ca/surrey-north-delta

Hello BCSIS Service Providers:

AMSSA's new **BCSIS Informal English Language Learning podcast** mini-series promotes the sharing of innovative practices and resources. The first podcast episode, **Everyday Adaptations for Innovative ELL Programming**, is available now on the AMSSA website Resource Centre at the following link:

<https://www.amssa.org/resource/everyday-adaptations-for-innovative-ell-programming/>

For newcomers, English language skills are an important factor in successful settlement and integration. The flexibility of informal English training programs can be ideal for newcomers who are experiencing change and uncertainty and is essential for those who are ineligible for LINC. For service providers, creative, budget-friendly approaches to informal English language learning, including through online methods, are vital. In changeable times, there is greater need for flexibility, adaptability, and innovation. There is remarkable work being done, and value in sharing and learning from one another. That's what this podcast is all about.

In the podcast, four language training experts share their everyday adaptations for innovative informal language programming. They have taken many small ideas and used them to build successful programs that can be readily adapted. Podcast listeners can pick up ideas to try out at their agency. There's an audio-only version, a video version, and a corresponding Podcast Show Notes information sheet that provides links to the resources shared in the podcast.

Watch for the second podcast episode, Employment Related Supports in ELL Programming, coming soon!

Sincerely,

Lori





COVID-19 updates

BC legal system

COVID-19 and physical distancing rules have led to changes in BC's courts.

Provincial Court

•A First Appearance is an important step in a family law case, and it looks nothing like what most of us see on TV and in movies. Our new [First appearance in Provincial Court](#) page contains interactive content, including videos of good and bad examples, to explain what to expect in the courtroom and how the process works. It also helps people write a script they can follow, using the easy-to-use template provided. Having a script helps people use their time and the court's time effectively and make a successful first appearance, even if that first appearance is virtual, as most now are during COVID-19.

Supreme Court

•Starting October 26, 2020 in Vancouver, applications scheduled for hearing in Masters chambers (estimated at 2 hours or less) [will be heard on Microsoft Teams](#). All other chambers applications in Vancouver will be by phone. This page provides information about the process.

Coping with Separation during COVID-19

This [online-only updated edition booklet](#) was developed to help people deal with the emotional aspects of separating.

It describes the emotional stages of separation and

suggests ways to cope during COVID-19, including how to:

- recognize symptoms of stress using the checklist provided
- deal with the uncertainty of the pandemic effects on living arrangements and financial situation during separation
- reduce anxiety about the legal process as it evolves during COVID-19
- reduce conflict and communicate with the other person to solve parenting and other issues during the pandemic
- help children cope with their emotions and give them support during COVID-19

Also has an extensive list of where to find support services and legal help.



LEGAL AID UPDATES contd.

Evolving government benefits

The pandemic has created financial hardship for many British Columbians, and government services and benefits continue to evolve to meet changing needs. Legal Aid BC has updated information in several locations, including:

- [Q&A - Welfare and benefits](#) - for people who need or receive welfare or disability benefits
- [Q&A - Family violence](#) - for people who need financial support so they can leave an abusive partner
- [Q&A - Support](#) - for people having trouble making or receiving support payments



Legal Aid BC is still here to help you during COVID-19. Find up-to-date information about legal aid applications, legal information, and child protection, family advice, and criminal legal services on our [COVID-19 legal help page](#).



Legal Aid BC is still here to help your clients. Our services, including legal aid applications, Parents Legal Centres, duty counsel, and community partners, can be reached by phone. The Family LawLINE (a free telephone advice service) is also available.

For up-to-date information about LABC services, click [Legal Aid Services](#). You can also check out our [Latest News](#).

Rainbow Refugee Society continues with virtual drop-in support for refugee claimants and LGBT refugee community members, while still offering referrals, advocacy and support for those who need that.

To make a connection or find out more, contact support manager, Nazanin at: support@rainbowrefugee.ca

Thank you,

Nazanin Moghadami
Support Manager
Phone: 613.604.5024



Dear Community Partners,

2 pages



PeaceGeeks is excited to announce that the registration for Snapp (Skilled Newcomers and Professionals Partnership) Pilot 2 is now open! We are sharing the key pilot information and some of the changes from Pilot 1 below; and have included an email template for you to share with newcomers in your network.

The full overview of the pilot can be found on the **attached document**. We also prepared [this social media kit](#) and **the attached poster** for your ease in sharing the information with your network.

What is Snapp?

Snapp (Skilled Newcomers and Professionals Partnership) is a pilot program by PeaceGeeks that connects newcomers and local professionals in BC for 1:1 video calls to meet and share employment advice. The upcoming pilot will run from Nov 1 to Dec 11, 2020. [Register by Nov 13 to participate!](#)

Who is eligible to participate?

- **Local professionals** with at least two years of experience in their profession in BC

- **Newcomers** who:

- are one of the following: Permanent Residents of Canada; Refugee Claimants and Protected Persons as defined in Section 95 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA);
Individuals who have been selected, inside or outside Canada, to become permanent residents (pending verifications) and who have been informed, by a letter from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; Convention refugees and protected persons outside Canada who have been selected for resettlement in Canada by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; and Temporary foreign workers who hold or received approval of a work permit under section 112 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (IRPR) or received initial approval for permanent residence under section 113 of the IRPR.
- have intermediate English communication skills, are able to complete the registration form on their own. We offer an option to match based on language (if a match is available), but a newcomer should expect to communicate in English for their meet-up.

- **Professions:** Snapp welcomes participants from all professions; however we are prioritizing our recruitment efforts in the technology and non-profit/social sectors. The professions available to select on our registration form include: software development, product management, project management, business analysis, data science, quality



Professions contd.

assurance, design, marketing, customer service, sales & business development, public relations & communications, human resources, operations, accounting & finance, administrative, manufacturing & distribution, education & training, planning & strategy, non-profit & social services, and civic & government. If a profession is not shown, registrants can include it in "Other". Note: acceptance into the pilot is not guaranteed and depends on availability of a match.

What's new in Pilot 2?

- This is our first public pilot where newcomers and local professional volunteers can register without being referred by a settlement agency. Feel free to share with your friends and other networks.
- *Matching:* In addition to profession and employment advice areas, our matching now also includes interests and language (optional).
- *Number of matches:* Participants can now select to meet up to 4 matches. Each match intended to be a one-time 1:1 meet-up for about 45-60 min.
- *Vetting:* We are reviewing all newcomer and local professional registrations before they are accepted into the pilot. All local professionals are asked to indicate if they were referred by an individual or an organization. Our primary recruitment method for volunteers is through company contacts so we will be prioritizing participants from employer partners or referred by other already verified participants. For newcomers, they are expected to have an intermediate level of English in order to be able to complete the registration form and are asked to indicate when they arrived in Canada. We also ask them to include a referring party and prioritize those who are referred.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Jean Parlina, *Project Coordinator, Community Engagement & Outreach*

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

BIPOC VOICES ON RACISM & HOW TO BE ANTI-RACIST

Listen and learn from Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) on racism, how it shows up in our communities, and what it means to be anti-racist. Join for an opportunity to learn and ask questions on racism, responsibility, biases, and how to be anti-racist.

November 17, 2020 | 6:00pm-8:00pm

Registration Required:

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

ASL interpretation available

Panelists:

Ta7taliya Michelle Nahanee, Skwxwú7mesh, decolonial facilitator & strategist catalyzing social change to transform colonial narratives & impacts.

Dr. Moussa Magassa, PhD, IDI.QA, University of Victoria Human Rights Education Advisor and Specialist in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Partnerships.

Moderator:

Aslam Bulbulia, Advisor for the SFU Dialogue and Engagement Certificate program.



Virtual Town Hall

BIPOC Voices on Racism and How To Be Anti-Racist

Nov 17, 2020 06:00 PM

Listen from black, indigenous, and people of colour (BIPOC) on racism, how it shows up in our communities, and how to be anti-racist. Join us for an opportunity to learn and ask questions on racism, responsibility, biases and how to be anti-racist.

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ASL interpretation available

Registration required:

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

General Employment Opportunities (updated weekly):

There are a number of job opportunities available – all information has been posted individually attached to this bulletin:

ISSofBC

- Assistant manager - Outreach (Terminal and Surrey locations)

Burnaby Family Life:

- Early Childhood Educator and Infant/Toddler Educator at Burnaby South Child Care Centre
- Trauma Counsellor

RESEARCH at a Glance
RECHERCHE en un coup d'oeil



External publication alert | Alerte de publication externe

COVID-19 - Immigration in a Time of Pandemic: Confronting the Challenge

Download the full issue (EN):

https://www.ciim.ca/en/fiche-229-COVID_19_Immigration_in_a_Time_of_Pandemic_Confronting_the_Challenge

Behind Closed Doors: Exposing migrant care worker exploitation during COVID-19

Migrant Rights Network

Published online October 28, 2020

https://migrantrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Behind-Closed-Doors_Exposing-Migrant-Care-Worker-Exploitation-During-COVID19.pdf

More agricultural workers should become permanent residents

Naomi Alboim & Karen Cohl

Policy Options - IRPP (Institute for Research on Public Policy) |

Options politiques - IRPP (Institute de recherche en politique publiques)

Published online October 26, 2020 | Publié en ligne le 26 octobre 2020

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/october-2020/more-agricultural-workers-should-become-permanent-residents/>

REPEATS

You may be interested to explore this new resource for refugee claimants, "[Refugee Hearings During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)".

This page, found on the *READY for My Refugee Hearing* website, is available in English and French and provides a central location for claimants to access information about how the pandemic has affected the hearing process. The page is complete with illustrations of different types of hearings, Frequently Asked Questions inspired by regular questions from READY Tours, and links to some of the most recent IRB Practice Notices.

Please take a look at this page and share it with the claimants you support and your teams. If you have any feedback to make this resource more useful to refugee claimants please email ready@refugeeclaim.ca.

This page is intended to be a living resource that can be updated and added to as needed.

Sophia Underhill
Accessing Refugee Protection Coordinator



English Conversation Groups



Also attached

Practice and improve your English conversation in a supportive setting. Learn common vocabulary and phrases used at work and in everyday life. *Registrants are encouraged to attend all 4 sessions.*

Dates: Tuesdays: Nov 3, 10, 17, 24

Registration: <http://bit.ly/BCSISRF>

236-333-8101 | bcsis@success.bc.ca

www.successbcsis.com/events

Interested in volunteering as a facilitator? Contact us for more info at bcsis@success.bc.ca

Suitable for foreign workers, PNP nominees, refugee claimants and naturalized citizens.

SOUTH VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



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

See details in the poster attached

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

Public Health Project

COVID 101 Workshop - Request Form

Also attached

➔ Summary

To promote health and well-being in our community and especially among our most vulnerable members, REACH is offering the COVID 101 Workshop which is an engaging, interactive, socially-distanced workshop with trained staff who will support participants in learning how to safely navigate to meet their basic needs during the pandemic. This project was developed out of community consultations and feedback from partners and community members expressing fear, anxiety and a lack of clear information about how to keep safe. Through providing Covid 101 Workshops, REACH strives to promote greater health equity in our community.

➔ Workshop Outline

The **COVID 101 Workshop** is a 90 minute presentation. We will work with you to determine how many people can attend while maintaining social distancing throughout. It covers a variety of topics relevant to participants and opportunities to have their worries/ questions about COVID-19 addressed. Workshop topics include:

- a. Disease Information – What is a coronavirus?
- b. Who is at higher risk? Symptoms to watch out for.
- c. Things they can do to manage risk. Why is social distancing important?
- d. PPEs – How do you put on a mask? Why is it helpful?

Each participant will receive a PPE kit with 2 washable masks, sanitizer, etc. to support safe practices in community navigation. **There is no cost for this workshop.**

➔ Interested in Hosting a Workshop? Please complete, scan and return this form to a contact.

Name of Org/ Agency: _____

Contact Person: Name: _____

E-mail: _____

of Participants: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Position at Agency: _____

Approx. ages of participants: _____

LOGISTICS:

Do you have a meeting suitable space for the workshop?

Are there any concerns or info regarding the participants that we need to know about?

We have access to a tent/ chairs/ table is needed. Please contact us to discuss this in detail.

CONTACT:

John Sakamoto-Kramer

Public Health Project Coordinator

Jsakamoto-kramer@reachcentre.bc.ca

778-865-0844

OR

Faith Tang

Recreation Therapist

FTang@reachcentre.bc.ca

604-251-3000 ext 298



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

CCR members are invited to participate in the public webinar (free of charge for members) organized in collaboration with [QuakeLab](#) on Thursday 5 Nov.

Webinar

Your anti-racism training is doing harm.

Here's what you should be doing.

November 5, 2-3:30PM, EDT

Canadian Council for Refugees
Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés

and

QUAKE
LAB

Sharon Nyangweso, founder and CEO of Quake Lab will talk about the impacts organizational trainings on anti-racism, inclusion, diversity have had.

Join this webinar to learn what your organization should be doing when creating and delivering a training on anti-racism.

For more information and to access the registration link, [visit our event's page](#). Please share this event in your networks, especially to non-member organizations you work with.

MEETING DETAILS

When: Thursday 5 November 2020
11am Pacific

The meeting will last 90 minutes. This meeting will be held in English, however, simultaneous translation will be offered, and we ask that anglophone members please use this service to listen to interventions in French.

Nov 5, 2020 9:00 - 11:00 am

This event will provide immigrants and refugee job seekers a better understanding of the needs, skills and qualifications required by the Retail, Hospitality and Warehousing Sectors. The actual situation with COVID-19 has offered challenges to business and job seekers. The event will provide information and offer attendees the opportunity to ask questions to employers.

Panelists:

Cleaning

Tom Zakeri, PEng, PMP, MBA
General Manager SERVPRO of North Vancouver

Construction:

Ella Lindau - Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator - BC Infrastructure Benefits

Security:

Kia Coles - Human Resources
Armour Security and Protection Services

Moderator: Tessa Vanderkoff

Chat Monitor: Anita Lal

Time: Nov 5, 2020 09:00 AM Pacific Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpc-msqDkvGdcXLvfd6uzMo1zTarkS5x2K>

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

Please promote within your networks and clients.

Ana Maria

Ana Maria Bustamante, M.A. (She/her)

BIPT Coordinator





Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés Canadian Council for Refugees

CCR members are invited to participate in a virtual meeting on Wednesday 18 November on recommendations to the CBSA to address issues of gender-based violence. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is reviewing the immigration enforcement framework with a focus on the needs of victims of gender-based violence. The CCR has already made [submissions](#) on the problems - now we want to develop recommendations for changes in the areas of both policy and operations.

Join this meeting to contribute your ideas for how to reduce negative impacts for people experiencing gender-based violence.

MEETING DETAILS

When: Wednesday 18 November 2020

11am Pacific

The meeting will last 60 minutes.

Register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ocu2srz0tG9xqWIR23uvDLCs5l4aIWdXK>