



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

# MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 64

December 2, 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](mailto:info@mapbc.org)

## **MAP NEWS!!**

- **NEW AGENCY OF THE MONTH FEATURE!** SOUTH VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE is 'Agency of the Month' [here](#)  
Please share with friends and colleagues
- **December MAP bulletins:** Due to the holidays, bulletins will be published on these dates only: Dec 2, 16 and resume weekly on Jan 6. Please note these dates for your submissions. Happy Holidays everyone!
- **CCR Fall Consultation** – ongoing through December 11 – more information and registration [here](#) A number of workshops have been developed here in BC with issues of local interest. See you there!

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**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

November 2, 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*

- **Canada resumes deportations, but ‘guardian angels’ in Quebec will be spared, CBSA says**  
CBC News
- **Ethiopian church pastor seeks to sponsor refugees from the Horn of Africa**  
Toronto Star
- **Community chips in to save Syrian cafe**  
Sudbury Star
- **This Afghan ‘computer nerd’ learned to code in a Greek program for refugees. He said it was “life-changing.”**  
The World/Public Radio International
- **The community program helping young migrants and refugees navigate Newcastle’s iconic beaches**  
Newcastle (Australia) Herald
- **‘Militarization’ of UK borders blamed for 296 deaths as more migrants reach UK**  
PA Media/UK News



## BNH PROGRAMS – WINTER 2020

Poster also attached

**Note: In light of COVID-19, registrations are required for all programs**

\*In-person programming is dependent on Provincial Health Authority guidance. Please check with NBNH/SBNH regarding these programs.

| MONDAY   |             | TUESDAY                                      |             | WEDNESDAY   |               | THURSDAY   |             | FRIDAY  |             | SATURDAY                                |             |
|--|-------------|--|-------------|---|---------------|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| <b>Family Place</b><br>(BNH South House* - English)    | 10:00-12:00 | <b>Family Place</b><br>(Online - English)    | 10:00-12:00 | <b>Family Place</b><br>(BNH South House* - English) | 10:00-12:00   | <b>Family Place</b><br>(Online - English)              | 10:00-12:00 | <b>Family Place</b><br>(BNH South House* - English) | 10:00-12:00 | <b>English Conversation</b><br>(Online) | 10:30-11:30 |
| <b>Seniors Group Chat</b><br>(Online)                  | 11:00-12:00 | <b>Mother Goose</b><br>(Online)              | 11:00-12:00 | <b>Family Yoga</b><br>(Online)                      | 10:00 – 10:45 | <b>English Conversation</b><br>(Online)                | 1:00-2:00   | <b>Lynn’s Cooking</b><br>(Online)                   | 10:00-11:30 |   |             |
| <b>Computer Support</b><br>(BNH South House* & Online) | 12:00-2:00  | <b>Family Place</b><br>(Online - Spanish)    | 2:30-4:30   | <b>Yoga</b><br>(Online)                             | 10:00-11:00   | <b>Family Place</b><br>(Online - Spanish)              | 2:30-4:30   | <b>Photography</b><br>(Online)                      | 6:00-7:00   | <b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b><br>(Online)    | 11:00-12:00 |
| <b>English Conversation</b><br>(Online)                | 1:00-2:00   | <b>Future Leaders</b><br>(BNH South House*)  | 4:00-6:00   | <b>Computer Support</b><br>(BNH North House*)       | 10:00-2:00    | <b>Computer Support</b><br>(BNH South House* & Online) | 3:00-5:00   |   |             |   |             |
| <b>Qi Gong</b><br>(Online)                             | 2:00-3:00   | <b>Basic Sewing</b><br>(Online)              | 5:00-6:00   | <b>Choose to Move</b><br>(Online)                   | 2:00-3:00     | <b>Drawing Class (kids)</b><br>(Online)                | 4:00-4:30   |   |             |   |             |
| <b>Yoga</b><br>(Online)                                | 3:30-4:30   | <b>Learning Club</b><br>(Online – Grade 2-4) | 5:30-6:30   | <b>Family Yoga</b><br>(Online)                      | 3:30-4:15     | <b>Game on!</b><br>(Online)                            | 4:00-5:00   |   |             |   |             |
| <b>Foundations of Leadership</b><br>(BNH South House*) | 4:00-6:00   | <b>English Conversation</b><br>(Online)      | 6:00-7:00   | <b>Mentoring with Math</b><br>(BNH North House)     | 4:00-5:30     | <b>Learning Club</b><br>(Online – Grade 5-7)           | 5:30-6:30   |   |             |   |             |

Calendar of activities: <https://burnabynh.ca/calendar/>

# Work Experience Opportunities Grant

(2 pages)

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction launched a new funding opportunity – [the Work Experience Opportunities Grant](#). The new grant program is part of government's Stronger BC for Everyone: BC's Economic Recovery Plan.

## Program overview

The Work Experience Opportunities Grant supports an inclusive labour market recovery for 2,000 individuals. The grant helps people gain experience in the labour market, and who are qualified to receive:

- Disability assistance under the Persons with Disability (PWD) designation
- Income assistance through the Person with Persistent Multiple Barriers to Employment (PPMB) benefit

The grant is available for non-profit organizations to deliver a 12-week work experience placement that can include support for:

- The development of life skills
- The development of essential skills
- Skill development that will aid in connection to the labour market
- Enhanced community benefit

Applications are now open and will close on **Monday, December 7, 2020**.

## Funding

Non-profit applicants can apply for up to \$5,000 per participant, to a maximum of up to five participants, totalling \$25,000. Participant stipends must be a minimum of \$300 per week per participant for a minimum of \$3,600 for the complete 12-week placement. The remaining \$1,400 per participant must be used to remove barriers and provide supports for participants, and administration costs.



This grant can also be used along with other funding sources to support a participant in their work experience.

## Applicants and Participants

Applicants who are eligible for the grant include:

- Registered non-profit societies based in or operating in British Columbia
- Registered non-profit societies that own, operate, or administer a social enterprise

Participants do not need to be actively receiving income assistance but must be *qualified* to receive it at the time of the work placement.

If you have specific questions about the program, check out our [application guide](#) or contact the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction at [workexperiencegrants@gov.bc.ca](mailto:workexperiencegrants@gov.bc.ca)

Dear community partners:

Thank you for completing the **Settlement Sector and Technology Task Group Survey** and helping to get the word out. If you haven't done so, it's not too late to participate! Your voice, opinion, experience, and insight are essential.

As per our email last week, PeaceGeeks is a member of the newly formed **Settlement Sector and Technology Task Group**, which is looking at what the immigrant and refugee-serving sector needs to potentially move towards digital and hybrid service delivery models. The Task Group is managed by AMSSA and reports to IRCC's National Settlement and Integration Council (NSIC). The national bi-lingual survey is intended to capture the perspectives of individuals who provide any and all services to newcomers including, but not limited to immigration, employment, financial literacy, housing, and language services.

The survey **closes on December 4th**. Please help spread the word with your network. [Here](#) are some messages you can use for newsletter/website copy, as well as messages to share on your social media channels. We encourage you to customize them for your networks and stakeholders and make them your own.

You can find out more about the survey, including some additional background information about the Task Group, preview survey questions, and access the survey here: <https://peacegeeks.org/settlement-tech-task-group>

Best Regards,  
Jean and the PeaceGeeks Team

[#210 - 128 West Hastings Street](#)  
[Vancouver, BC, V6B 1G8](#)  
e. [jean@peacegeeks.org](mailto:jean@peacegeeks.org)



Dear Community Partners,

(poster attached)

In partnership with Fraser Health we have recently launched a survey to gather feedback about Health Care Experiences in Surrey and North Delta.

**Would you please consider completing the survey and possibly sharing the link with your clients to invite them to participate?** This survey is open to everyone 18 years or older, and the survey can be found here: <https://surveys.divisionsbc.ca/Your-Experience.aspx> Those who complete the survey are eligible to enter to our draw for \$100 in Google Play gift cards!

Thank you for partnering with us in this survey. We are grateful your help in helping us gather feedback to improve health care for the Surrey and North Delta community.

**Jody Friesen**

*Director of Strategic Initiatives and PCN*



**A** 214 - 5455 152<sup>nd</sup> St. Surrey, BC V3S 5A5

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

**W** [divisionsbc.ca/surrey-north-delta](https://divisionsbc.ca/surrey-north-delta)



**Prize Draw**  
Enter for a chance to win!

While you are waiting, why not enter our draw for \$100 Google Play card?

Help shape the future of health care in Surrey and North Delta!

Tell us about your experiences with health care by answering a few questions.



Scan the QR code below or go to <https://bit.ly/3nXi7Xq>



<https://bit.ly/3nXi7Xq>

The winner will be selected December 15, 2020. You must be 18 years or older to enter the contest.



The UBC Centre for Migration Studies is pleased to invite you to the following event:

Friday, December 4, 2020

Accessibility of Post-Secondary Education for BC Newcomer Youth

**Panel Speakers:** **Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim** ([UBC School of Social Work](#)); **Bahar Taheri** (Executive Director, [BC Newcomer Camp](#). Project Consultant, [BC Refugee Hub](#), and [Newcomer.Info](#)); **Sherry Lin** ([Youth Settlement Counsellor at South Vancouver Neighbourhood House](#))

**Date:** Friday, December 4

**Time:** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (PST)

**Location:** The event will be delivered through Zoom. Please register to receive the event link.

**Organizer:** WUSC UBC

**Note:** Participants will have a chance to **win \$25 gift cards** at the event!

[Event Page](#) | [RSVP Link](#)

We hope to see you at our upcoming events!

**Centre for Migration Studies** | Faculty of Arts

The University of British Columbia | Vancouver | Musqueam Traditional Territory

1855 West Mall | Vancouver BC | V6T 1Z2 Canada

[admin.migration@ubc.ca](mailto:admin.migration@ubc.ca) | [@UBCMigration](#)

<https://www.migration.ubc.ca>

MAP (Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin December 2, 2020

Understanding the needs and challenges of recruitment

## Applied Science Technologists, Technicians, Engineering, Architecture

December 9, 2020  
9:00-11:00am

This event will provide immigrants and refugee job seekers a better understanding of the needs, skills and qualifications required by the applied science technologists, technicians, engineering, and architecture sectors and offer attendees the opportunity to ask questions to employers .

Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/biptevent5>

**Panelists:**

Colleen Beresford, Senior HR Professional – Independent  
Elisa Brandts, Senior Managing Principal at Stantec  
Giuliana Loza, Talent Acquisition Pretium Resources Inc.

**Moderator:**

Tony Botelho, Director Career and Volunteer Services, SFU



# Trainings following the BIPOC Voices on Racism

posters attached

## Understanding Impacts of Settler's Colonialism in Canada

December 8, 2020  
Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am

For many decades Canada has been perceived as a multicultural country that celebrates diversity, however there is a growing awareness that racial inequality is a detrimental problem in our society. This introductory session will examine the following topics: What is racism? What are the impacts of racism on our communities? and finally, what are steps we can take to address racism? There will be opportunities for questions and discussion throughout the session.

### Registration Required:

<https://tinyurl.com/v3k7yhcs>

### Presenters:

**Sheelah McLean (PhD)** is an Anti-Racist teacher who lives on Cree territory (Treaty 6). Has 25 years of experience as a teacher, researcher and scholar with a focus on understanding the harmful impacts of settler colonialism in context such as Canada.

**Manjit (Jeet) Chand, RSW, MA (Community Planning)** has been a facilitator with PHSA's San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety program for almost 3 years. She brings over 20 years of experience in the non-profit, charitable and international development realms.

ASL Interpretation Available!



## From Bystander to Allyship

January 13, 2021  
9:00-11:00am

Join us for this webinar that explores knowing how to respond to incidents of non-inclusive language and behaviour in the community and the workplace.

### This workshop will:

- provide an understanding of “unearned advantage”
- discuss the responsibility in using one’s unearned advantage to undo patterns of social inequity
- provide clarity around demonstrating allyship and the five key traits of an ally

Panelist:  
Alden Habacon



ASL  
Interpretation  
Available!

Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/yxss6tvu>





# CAN YOU HELP US?

## FOOD DRIVE FOR BURNABY FOOD HUBS

We are seeking gift cards for groceries and non-perishable food donations to support families and individuals that are food insecure in Burnaby

### ABOUT US

As part of a response to COVID-19, eight Burnaby Food Hubs were created throughout different neighbourhoods in the city. These Food Hubs are operated by the [Burnaby Neighbourhood House](#) in partnership with schools and community agencies and with the support of the [United Way](#) and [Burnaby Primary Care Networks](#).

### WHAT IS MOST NEEDED

- Gift Cards for groceries (Superstore, Walmart, Save on Foods, Safeway, Buy Low Foods)
- Rice, Cereal, Flour
- Beans (canned and dried)
- Canned tuna and salmon
- Canned tuna and salmon
- Children's Diapers (size 4,5,6)
- Baby formula and baby food
- Period products (especially pads and liners)

### WHERE TO DROP OFF

UNTIL DECEMBER 14  
9:30am-4:30pm | Monday-Friday

- Burnaby Neighbourhood House North House 4908 Hastings St.
- Burnaby Neighbourhood House South House 4460 Beresford St.

*Thank You!*





**RESEARCH** at a Glance  
**RECHERCHE** en un coup d'oeil



External publication alert | Alerte de publication externe

**Irregular Border Crossings and Asylum Seekers in Canada:  
A Complex Intergovernmental Problem**  
IRPP Study No. 80

Mireille Paquet & Robert Schertzer

Centre of Excellence on the Canadian Federation - Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) |  
Published online November 10, 2020

**Download the full report:**

<https://centre.irpp.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/11/Irregular-Border-Crossings-and-Asylum-Seekers-in-Canada-A-Complex-Intergovernmental-Problem.pdf>



- **The COVID-19 Pandemic:**

- **An Immigrant Family Story on Reconnection, Resistance, and Resiliency**

Ranjan Datta (*Mount Royal University*), Jebunnessa Chapola (*University of Saskatchewan*), Prarthona Datta & Prokriti Datta

*Journal of Comparative Family Studies* 51(3-4), 2020 - **Special Issue: Global Family Perspectives on COVID-19**

Published online August 26, 2020

Read the full article : <https://doi.org/10.3138/jcfs.51.3-4.016>

- **Trend Report: Canada's Appeal to Prospective Immigrants in the Face of COVID-19**

- **A WES Survey Series: April to August 2020**

World Education Services (WES)

November 2020 | novembre 2020

**Download the full report:**

<https://knowledge.wes.org/canada-report-immigration-trends-canadas-appeal-to-prospective-immigrants-in-the-face-of-covid-19.html>

REPEATS

(2 pages)



Immigration and  
Refugee Board of Canada

Commission de l'immigration  
et du statut de réfugié du Canada

## IRB Announcement Annonce de la CISR

Dear stakeholders,

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) has published a review <<https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/transparency/reviews-audit-evaluations/Pages/sogie-guideline-implementation-review.aspx>> of the way it is implementing Chairperson's Guideline 9: Proceedings Before the IRB Involving Sexual Orientation and Gender identity and Expression (SOGIE). <<https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/legal-policy/policies/Pages/GuideDir09.aspx>>

The review began in the spring of 2019 as a best practice for policy instruments, ensuring that they are being applied effectively in a manner that supports high quality decision-making. Its objectives were to assess if and how Guideline 9 was being applied and to develop recommendations to further strengthen its implementation.

The review includes analysis of a sample of IRB cases and relevant Federal Court cases, a series of consultations with internal and external stakeholders, and a comprehensive scan of policy, media and academic sources.

Overall the review shows widespread approval of the Guideline and a marked improvement of the IRB's approach to cases involving SOGIE individuals since the Guideline's introduction. It also identifies some areas of ambiguity within the Guideline and opportunities for improvement in terms of the consistency of its application.



I would like to thank all the organizations who answered the consultative survey. Your perspectives on the impact and operability of the Guideline were invaluable to us in assessing the Guideline's impact and application.

The input you provided helped inform the development of a series of 11 recommendations for the continued and consistent optimization of the implementation of the Guideline. These recommendations - centred around credibility assessments, training and accessibility of resources, language and terminology and data capturing - propose a practical way forward to ensure that the Guideline and its implementation continue to reflect the latest practices and approaches.

We are committed to take action and follow up on the review's recommendations. Accompanying the review is our implementation plan<<https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/transparency/reviews-audit-evaluations/Pages/sogie-implementation-plan.aspx>>, which outlines the important steps we will be taking to ensure that all recommendations are carefully applied and that we continue to improve the Guideline based on the feedback we received from all our stakeholders and partners.

If you wish to provide further input on the implementation of these recommendations, in particular in relation to training and terminology, I encourage you to communicate with our Outreach and Engagement Team.

The IRB is dedicated to ensure fair and respectful treatment of particularly vulnerable populations and is committed to the correct implementation of its Guidelines. As part of our concrete and concerted efforts to ensure the sensitive treatment of those appearing before the IRB we have begun work to review other Guidelines, notably Chairperson's Guideline 4: Women Refugee Claimants Fearing Gender-Related Persecution. I look forward to continuing our fruitful partnership on these forthcoming projects. In the meantime, I invite you to share this review with your membership, as you deem appropriate,

Richard Wex  
Chairperson



Update from MCC Refugee Office: We are open again! Now with more focused services. We will be working with Refugee Claimants who speak English or Spanish.

For more information or to make an appointment please call 604-325-5524 or contact either Andrew Bauman at [andrewbauman@mccbc.ca](mailto:andrewbauman@mccbc.ca) or Teresa Fuller [teresafuller@mccbc.ca](mailto:teresafuller@mccbc.ca)

Currently, we are not handling Basis of Claim forms and Humanitarian & Compassionate applications.

Regards,

**Teresa Fuller**

Refugee Claimant Services Worker  
778-867-3848

• **Toy Drive** – MOSAIC is proud to be partnering with One World United and several fantastic community groups to offer distributions of NEW toys to refugee claimants. Agencies can refer clients or clients can reach out themselves by emailing [refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org](mailto:refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org) –

Deadline to register is December 11<sup>th</sup> and spaces are limited.

All distribution will be made in a way that is COVID-19 friendly and respectful of privacy.

• **Winter Jackets and Warm Accessories** – MOSAIC is proud to be partnering with Khalsa Aid Foundation to make large scale winter jacket and warm accessory donations to refugee claimants in need.

Client referrals can be made by either settlement workers or refugee claimants themselves by emailing [refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org](mailto:refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org)

Deadline to register is December 4<sup>th</sup>. Spaces are limited. All distribution will follow COVID-19 Protocols and will be respectful of privacy.

## **Free New Winter Jackets & Cold Weather Items for Refugee Claimants**



Are you a refugee claimant that needs a warm jacket as we go into winter?

MOSAIC and Khalsa Aid are working together to make sure you are warm this winter.



To register and for more information:  
[refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org](mailto:refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org)

Deadline to register: December 4<sup>th</sup>

Spaces are limited. Jackets will be distributed in mid December.



## **NEW TOYS FOR REFUGEE CLAIMANT KIDS**

Are you a refugee claimant?  
Would you like to provide your children with some new toys?

MOSAIC, One World United and the local community are bringing extra FUN this winter season.

To register and for more information contact: [refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org](mailto:refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org)

Deadline to register: December 11<sup>th</sup>  
Spaces are limited! Register today!  
Toys will be distributed late December.  
Toys are new.

COVID-19 protocols will be observed.



**Posters also attached**



SUPPORTING  
REFUGEE  
MENTAL  
HEALTH



## GRUPO PARA FAMILIAS LATINAS

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



¿Cuándo?  
El último Jueves de cada mes

¿A Qué hora?  
10 am - 11:30 am

¿Dónde?  
Via ZOOM

¿Preguntas?  
Comunicate al  
(778) 372-6593  
o

[Rosa.sevy@vch.ca](mailto:Rosa.sevy@vch.ca)

[matias.hacker@vast-vancouver.ca](mailto:matias.hacker@vast-vancouver.ca)

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

For more group information please contact to  
Matias [matias.hacker@vast-vancouver.ca](mailto:matias.hacker@vast-vancouver.ca) or  
Rosa [rosa.sevy@vch.ca](mailto:rosa.sevy@vch.ca)

Poster also attached

MAP members are invited by Diana Barry of Vancity to provide our opinions on a campaign they are funding via The [Institute for Canadian Citizenship](#) about employment opportunities and credential recognition for newcomers called **'Stand Together'**

The ICC will be highlighting Doctors and Nurses and want to ensure that it is informed and shaped by those with lived experience, and by agencies in the settlement sector.

Please contact MAP at [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org) if you would be interested in previewing the campaign and having a conversation with ICC in this stage of listening and discovery.

An online meeting for this purpose will be arranged specifically for MAP members on Thursday December 3rd at 10 am PT.

If you are interested in attending send MAP a message at [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org) and the zoom link will be sent to you

Thank you for your interest in shaping public messaging about employment opportunities for newcomers.

## BC Refugee Hub Survey

We want to hear from you!



Please take approx. 5 minutes to complete our feedback survey!

We would like to hear from you about your work, how you are supporting refugees/claimants and what you would like to see on the BC Refugee Hub.

This survey is for anyone who:

- Uses the BC Refugee Hub to access information, resources, training
- Works with or supports refugees / refugee claimants
- Anyone with lived experience as a refugee or refugee claimant

Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide your valuable feedback!

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

**Borders are first imagined and then built. What we think borders can do is shaped by the stories we tell.**

## **What is your border story?**

[Register](#) today for this free webinar *Refugees and Borders: Remapping the World We Think We Know* where you can ask questions and participate in dialogue with lived-experience and academic experts.

**Event Details:** 05 December 2020, Saturday 2-4 pm Pacific Standard Time

This webinar begins with a virtual screening of [Borderstory](#), a Worn Words short documentary and dialogue-opener about what the word 'border' means to us. Following the film, cross-sector experts will engage questions as part of a panel discussion on the word 'border' and give concrete suggestions for policy and law. Participants are invited to ask honest questions and participate in dialogue based on personal experience and collective curiosity. As global and country citizens, we'll imagine incremental ways our idea of "border" can increasingly become more human-centred and benefit the safety needs of people seeking refuge while honouring the practical need for boundaries.

**For more details see poster attached**

## **Questions?**

Please contact [events@kinbrace.ca](mailto:events@kinbrace.ca).

This [Kinbrace](#) inspired event is co-hosted by the University of British Columbia, [MOSAIC](#), and [Journey Home Community Association](#), with thanks to the [UBC Community Engagement Partnership Recognition Fund](#), [Vancity](#), and generous co-sponsors.



**JUST POSTED!**

**BC Refugee Hub Training Webinar: Refugee/Asylum Claims – National and Local Updates from UNHCR Canada and Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB)**

Powerpoint deck, video recordings and resources have been uploaded to the hub.

[VIEW HERE](#)



## Introducing the 12 ways at Christmas.

**Another pair of socks. Toys that need batteries. A novelty onesie.  
Christmas shouldn't be about things we don't need or stuff we don't want. It's about much more important things like love, and peace and hope.**

That's why the team at Inasmuch wanted to give you 12 ways that you can help our vulnerable refugee claimants this Christmas. You don't have to give stuff. Instead, buy one of our gifts for your friends and family and make a difference. And you'll receive a tax receipt for your purchase too!

***Each of our Christmas Gifts features a downloadable gift certificate for you to print off and wrap up in any way you choose.***

***You could even put it in a stocking above your fireplace.***

**Interested? Click [here](#) to learn more**





Dear Vancouver Immigration Partnership Partners,

We'd like to share news about the **Vancouver Immigration Partnership**.

Over the years we worked with our funder, IRCC, to look for different ways to support and resource the Partnership which align with the City's overall approach in creating and fostering community partnership. In late 2019, the City expressed interest to IRCC in renewing the partnership, with the hope for a shifted approach in enabling and fostering partnership capacity building especially through implementation of the New Start Strategy. The partnership was in its sixth year of operation, and we learnt as a convener over the years that success of the partnership is mainly based on the success of partners collaborating and through collective implementation. While we are grateful for the support that partners continue bring to the table on their own, we are also mindful that organizations are very stretched in their capacity to contribute to project implementation. Covid-19 this year brought even sharper focus to this need.

During the renewal process, we shared this idea frankly with the funder, noting that VIP, to continue, needs to make available more broadly the funding support we received from IRCC with our partners. We are very appreciative of IRCC's desire to continue partnering with the City of Vancouver to welcome newcomers and support their successful integration into our communities, and thankful for their consideration of this request for change of focus and offering of options available to support this work going forward.

Unfortunately the City has concluded that none of the options offered by the funder matches our expectation of a strengthened community partnership, and that we cannot move forward with a renewed contract of VIP at this time. Our main concern is the inability of the current LIP model to deploy approved funding to support the implementation of strategies at the community level by project partners. We believe that the most impactful initiatives within community are led by community. From our perspective, although IRCC offered options would allow for greater flexibility in resourcing convener-led responses, they do not provide an avenue to financially support the implementation of community-led initiatives.

The need to fund the implementation of community developed initiatives is of heightened significance at this time as community organizations struggle with the financial impacts of the COVID pandemic both in terms of organizational capacity and stability, and the ability of community organizations to support newcomers in the context of COVID and COVID recovery. These challenges are also a reality for the City of Vancouver, which has also been significantly impacted financially through this crisis and is finding ways to maintain the level of service needed in all areas.

In light of these concerns and the current context, we have determined that it would be best for IRCC to identify and work with a Vancouver based non-profit service organization who has the capacity to take on this very important work. The City of Vancouver will always view immigrant settlement and integration as critical work that we must remain connected with, so it is our intention to actively engage with the next lead organization and the network of involved organizations in an ongoing way.

Thank you again for supporting the City in leading the Vancouver Immigration Partnership over the past six years. You are the ones who have made this work worthwhile and we are grateful for all your support. We also wish to thank IRCC for entrusting us to steward this work over the years and for their thoughtful consideration of our request. While no longer leading the initiative, we are committed to supporting the work of the partnership and working with the senior government.

For ongoing work related to newcomers integration, equity and inclusion, and anti-racism, you can contact staff in Social Policy, including Wilma Clarke, Assistant Director, and Jennifer Reddy, Senior Social Planner (Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress). Nadia and myself continue to be involved in various community initiatives related to immigrant and newcomer communities.

Warmest regards,  
Baldwin Wong and Nadia Carvalho



Dear colleagues and community partners:

As you may know, PeaceGeeks is a member of the newly formed **Settlement Sector and Technology Task Group**, which is looking at what the immigrant and refugee-serving sector needs to potentially move towards digital and hybrid service delivery models.

The Task Group is managed by AMSSA and reports to IRCC's National Settlement and Integration Council (NSIC).

As part of our work, we've just launched a national bi-lingual survey. The survey launches on November 23rd and ***closes December 4th***. This survey is intended to capture the perspectives of individuals who work in the settlement sector. We define the settlement sector as those providing any and all services to newcomers including, but not limited to immigration, employment, financial literacy, housing, and language services.

The survey is available for anyone in the sector who is interested in this issue and wants to provide input and insights. The survey has two paths, one for front-line workers, one for management/leadership. Multiple people from the same organization are invited to complete the survey. We encourage you to share the survey link with others in your organizations and professional networks.

You can find out more about the survey, including some additional background information about the Task Group, preview survey questions, and access survey here: <https://peacegeeks.org/settlement-tech-task-group>

Questions? Contact:

Jean Parlina and the PeaceGeeks Team at [jean@peacegeeks.org](mailto:jean@peacegeeks.org)