



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

# MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 70

February 3, 2021

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**

- MAP sends its condolences to everyone working at or associated with **PICS (Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society)** on the passing of **Charan Gill**, founder and dedicated community builder. Charan fought tirelessly for agricultural workers rights, anti-racism and helped build programs and services for women and seniors in the South Asian community. His example lives forever.



- **MAP announces the first IN FOCUS public presentation: A Bitter Pill: utilizing the skills of refugee women doctors**

Please share the poster attached – send it to your neighbours, schools, universities, colleagues and friends. Thank you!  
Thursday March 4 at 7:00 pm online an all women presentation to raise women's voices for International Women's Day  
The panel: a refugee doctor – a public health advocate and the lawyer who is bringing the Human Rights complaint in BC.  
Please save the date – registration information soon!

Thank you to MAP's Information Working Group for their collaboration: from Options BC, inasmuch, Mount Pleasant NH and UBC.

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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

February 3, 2021

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*

- **Refugee family arrived in Burnaby during Covid with no computer, one cell phone**  
Burnaby Now
- **In Montreal, translating Covid-19 guidelines is a daunting task**  
CTV News
- **“We don’t just want you to study here, we want you to stay here”**  
Toronto Star
- **Labour and anti-hate activists must unite to confront white supremacy**  
Toronto Star
- **Refugees are working on the front lines in the UK and saving lives, let’s celebrate them**  
inews
- **Refugee rights are under attack at Europe’s borders, UNHCR says**  
Guardian
- **‘Adored’ healthcare worker who fought Covid-19 disinformation dies with virus**  
MSN
- **British Columbia issues 168 invitations in first immigration draw of 2021**  
immigration.ca
- **Canadian immigration: 15,000 newcomers arrived in November 2020**  
CIC News

## A Message from the Immigration Refugee Board - RPD

Dear stakeholders,

Following the establishment of the Gender Related Task Force (GRTF) at the Refugee Protection Division (RPD), we have introduced a form claimants and counsel may use to request that a claim be reviewed and considered for adjudication by the GRTF.

The [Request for Adjudication by the Gender Related Task Force](#) form is available on our website. In order to make a request for a case to be considered by the RPD's GRTF, claimants and counsel must provide brief reasons which must include an explanation of how the personal or documentary evidence and personal profile of the claimant(s) justify a hearing with a member of the GRTF.

This form must be sent to the RPD in PDF form to the following address: [irb.GRTF-ESDAG.cisr@irb-cisr.gc.ca](mailto:irb.GRTF-ESDAG.cisr@irb-cisr.gc.ca) at least 10 days prior to the hearing. Please note that requesting adjudication by the GRTF will not result in shorter processing times.

### **Karin Michnick**

Assistant Deputy Chairperson, Refugee Protection Division, GRTF  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada / Government of Canada  
[karin.michnick@irb-cisr.gc.ca](mailto:karin.michnick@irb-cisr.gc.ca)

Message from the Immigration Refugee Board - Outreach and Engagement Team

## **DEADLINE EXTENSION - IRB SOGIE consultation on implementation of recommendations**

We have been informed by some consultation participants that they would welcome additional time to provide feedback on the revised SOGIE Guideline.

Accordingly, please be advised that the **deadline has been extended to Monday, February 15th, 2021.**

We are hopeful that this extra week will allow you to provide us with fulsome comments and are looking forward to receiving your valued input.

Thank you,

Outreach and Engagement Team  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
[Engagement@irb-cisr.gc.ca](mailto:Engagement@irb-cisr.gc.ca)

**(Please find three critical documents attached)**

MAP's In Focus Lecture Series Presents

# A Bitter Pill:

*Utilizing the talents of refugee women doctors*

Did you know that 90% of resident physician jobs in Canada are closed to international doctors?

It's a terrible waste of talent and resources.



Join our all women panel of doctors and advocates to find out why and learn more.

**SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 4, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Questions? Email [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org)

Please share MAP's first IN FOCUS presentation – poster also attached.

And listen in to our [videoclip](#)

# BC SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION SERVICES

## Free Employment, Immigration, and Settlement services

Employment Services: resume & CV reviews, career networking events, etc

Immigration Services: information on pathways to permanent residency

Settlement Services: information on government benefits, community connections, English conversation groups, 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](mailto:bcsis@success.bc.ca)

or visit our website: [www.successbcsis.com](http://www.successbcsis.com)

Register directly online: <http://bit.ly/BCSISRF>

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

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

Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam,  
Port Moody, Maple Ridge..... : 236-333-8101; 236-668-1248

# English Conversation Groups



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 6 sessions.

**Dates:** Tuesdays: Feb 2, 9, 16, 23; Mar 2, 9

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

236-808-2323 | 604-900-3532 | [bcsis@success.bc.ca](mailto:bcsis@success.bc.ca)  
[www.successbcsis.com/events](http://www.successbcsis.com/events)

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



Facebook: [/successbcsis](https://www.facebook.com/successbcsis)  
Twitter: [@successbcsis](https://twitter.com/successbcsis)



S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

All of our services have moved online. Offices have temporarily closed. Call or email us and we'd be happy to help. Stay safe and take care.



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
SFU SURREY | TD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTRE



S.U.C.C.E.S.S.



**INVITATION TO REGISTER**  
**BC REFUGEE HUB WEBINAR**

**Skilled Immigration as a Solution for Refugees:  
A Win for Employers that Transforms Lives**



Join speakers Sandra Elgersma (UNHCR Canada) and Dana Wagner (TalentLift) to learn more about Canada's Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP).

In June, Minister Mendicino announced the expansion of Canada's Economic Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP) to welcome 500 refugee principal applicants and their families on economic pathways over the next two years. This webinar will explore this innovative project, which reflects the approach to solutions set out in the Global Compact for Refugees.

**DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

**TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. PDT**

*This free webinar is open to anyone working with and supporting refugees in Canada, and individuals with refugee lived experiences. Community stakeholders, community agencies, government representatives and academics are also welcome to attend.*

**[REGISTER](#)**



Hello BCSIS Service Providers and Colleagues,

We invite you and your team members to register for the new BCSIS e-learning module, **Introduction to Food Insecurity**, which is now available through the AMSSA Institute. You can access the module through the following link:

[Introduction to Food Insecurity \(amssa.org\)](https://amssa.org)

The online course was developed for front-line Settlement staff. Many have worked with clients who have experienced food insecurity. It's a complex topic, and the course content was designed to be introductory and understandable, yet comprehensive. It explains "what is food insecurity", including key definitions, followed by a global view, and a detailed look at food insecurity in Canada and BC. Learners will gain insights into who is most vulnerable to food insecurity, and the impact on women, children, newcomers and in relation to racial and cultural identity, and indigenous status. The course describes the effect of food insecurity on health and well-being, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. There's a section on BC social-sector agencies and charitable food programs that address the urgent needs of food insecure individuals and households, and a downloadable PDF with these resources. The course takes approximately 2.5 hours to complete, however, it's self paced and can be taken anytime. The module is user-friendly and free of charge.

After finishing the course content, quizzes and evaluation, learners will receive a certificate of completion to track professional development accomplishments. We welcome your feedback through the evaluation process.

Be sure to let me know if you require any additional information.

Lori Cameron, Provincial Integration Program Manager

Direct Phone: 604 718-2776

E-mail: [lcameron@amssa.org](mailto:lcameron@amssa.org)



We're hiring a Community Coordinator! Julie, our current Community Coordinator, will be going on maternity leave soon; we're excited for Julie as they anticipate the arrival of their little one, but we're also sad that she'll be away from us for some time. With that, we are looking to hire a Community Coordinator to cover for Julie's maternity leave. This is a one-year contract position with the possibility of a six-month extension.

The Community Coordinator is responsible for leading and stewarding Kinbrace's Community program to help build transformative connections: to the Host Community, the larger Community, the physical spaces of Kinbrace, and the Kinbrace staff team.

To find out more about the job, or if you are interested, or know someone who might be interested, [click here to see the job posting.](#)

Thanks so much!

Derek Chu



# THE STORY SHARER PROJECT – Refugee Stories

## Participants Needed!

Participate in a workshop on “How to share your Story”!

This 4 week workshop is carefully curated to guide participants to rewrite, reveal and own their personal narratives in a way that it helps them to tell their stories.

Join us to reflect on your legacy, your journey to Canada, your trials, and triumphs stories connect the past the present to the future.

Stories will be presented online to  
the community in March 2021!

Objective of this Storytelling initiative?  
Encourage community engagement!

The first step towards a more  
empathetic world is being willing  
to pay attention to the  
suffering of our fellow cohabitants  
on planet Earth.



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Refugees  
or Citizenship Canada

We need your help in identifying 8 refugees (claimants, GARs and sponsored) that would like to learn how to advocate for themselves and be willing to tell their stories in video to be presented online on March 21, 2021.

This includes a 4-week workshop carefully curated to guide participants to rewrite, reveal and own their personal narratives in a way that it helps them to tell their stories. The videos will reflect on your legacy, their journey to Canada, trials and triumphs that connect their past and present to the future.

This storytelling initiative will encourage community engagement and the first step towards a more empathetic world that is willing to pay attention to the suffering of our fellow cohabitants on planet Earth.

Once videos are finalized. The participants selected will receive a gift card for their contribution.

We would like to run the workshop in February.

**Please see poster and questionnaire attached**

### *Ana Maria*

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

BIPT / Burnaby Together Coordinator & CAT Supervisor

Burnaby Family Life

Phone: 604-419-6919 Mobile: 604-349-7158



The CCR has signed this petition calling on federal and provincial governments to ensure full access to the COVID-19 vaccine to all migrants regardless of immigration status:

<https://migrantrights.ca/vaccinesforall/>

If your organization has not already signed on, you might want to consider doing so!

The UBC Centre for Migration Studies presents - the Winter 2021 Speaker Series:

## Situating Intersectionality in Migrant Health

*Wednesday, February 10*

**Speaker:** Dr. Denise L. Spitzer (Professor, School of Public Health, University of Alberta; Adjunct Professor, Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies, University of Ottawa)

**Moderator:** Dr. Nancy Clark (Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of Victoria)

**Time:** 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (PST)

**Organizer/Sponsor:** The UBC Centre for Migration Studies

[RSVP Link](#)

## On the Road: Mobility and Social Differentiation

*Friday, February 19*

**Speaker:** Dr. Claudia Moatti (Professor, Université Paris 8 and University of Southern California)

**Moderators:** Dr. Gaoheng Zhang (Assistant Professor of Italian Studies, Department of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies, University of British Columbia) and Han Fei (PhD Candidate)

**Time:** 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (PST)

**Co-sponsored by:** The UBC Centre for Migration Studies' Mobilities Group and the UBC Department of Classical, Near Eastern and Religious Studies

[RSVP Link](#)

## Local Suffrage Increases Citizenship Acquisition: Evidence from the European Union

*Monday, February 22*

**Speaker:** Dr. Hannah Alarian (Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Florida)

**Moderator:** Lisa Akinyi May (Graduate Student, Political Science)

**Time:** 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. (PST)

**Co-sponsored by:** The UBC Institute for European Studies

[RSVP Link](#)

REPEATS



**Coming in FEBRUARY**  
**ART-MAKING IN COMMUNITY GROUP**

**The earth without “art” is just “eh”**



**Make art with us!**

**Explore different art modalities (Drawing, Painting, Collage, Modelling  
with clay, Movement, Poetry, Photography, Voice, Drama)**

**Art materials provided to participants**

**No artistic skills required**

**Interpretation available**

**Six consecutive Tuesdays from 10-1130 AM**

**On Zoom**

**Registration open**

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

Open to all  
Poster also attached



Poster and kit attached

## POP-UP CHILD CARE



### WHO WE ARE

- We are a women-run social enterprise project funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
- Pop-Up was launched in July 2019 by Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS), a non-profit organization helping immigrant and refugee women since 1975.
- We provide on-demand, on-site, child care services and connect immigrant and refugee women with child care training and employment.

### WHAT WE PROVIDE

- Substitute staff for daycare centers, preschools, and out-of-school care programs (licensed ECE or ECEA and Responsible Adult with current First Aid certificate and criminal record check)
- Childminding services with 3 children to 1 staff ratio (daytime, evenings, weekends) for non-profit and business organizations
- Safe and trauma-informed play-based children's program with age-appropriate toys (based on your needs)

### INQUIRIES? REQUEST TO BOOK?

[www.popupchildcare.ca](http://www.popupchildcare.ca) | [childcare@pirs.bc.ca](mailto:childcare@pirs.bc.ca) | 604-298-5888

*By booking our services, you're supporting hardworking newcomers and refugee women who want to make a difference in children's lives.*



Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

Celebrate [Pop-Up Child Care \[u14745508.ct.sendgrid.net\]](http://u14745508.ct.sendgrid.net), a social enterprise launched by Pacific Immigrant Resource Society (PIRS), that provides on-demand, on-site, child care services and connects immigrant and refugee women with childcare training and employment at their online showcase:

Thursday, February 18, 2021, from 2-3:30 PM PST via Zoom.

The 90-minute event will weave presentations from the Pop-Up Child Care team, testimonials from partners and clients, and commentary from leaders in BC's childcare sector with small group interactions, and collaborative problem-solving.

**REGISTER FOR FREE**

# Entrepreneurship Programs for Newcomers

February 4, 2021  
9:00-11:00am

This event will provide immigrants and refugees interested in self-employment /entrepreneurship information on a variety of programs. You will also hear from a successful entrepreneur about needs, skills and qualifications required to start. COVID-19 has offered challenges and opportunities and this event will provide information and a chance to ask questions.

Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/y5tdcwfe>

**Moderator:**  
Hanif Ladha

**Chat Moderator:**  
Mina Haghighi, Futurpreneur

**Panelists:**  
Ehtesham Azad, SUCCESS  
Lynne Brysdon, YWCA  
Maria Boubilil, Douglas College  
Vandad Sotoudehnia, ISSof BC



Poster also attached





Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés  
Canadian Council for Refugees

For CCR Members:

CCR will be holding a virtual meeting on issues for refugee claimants on **Thursday 4 February** - the regular quarterly meetings.

**Virtual meeting on refugee claimants**

**When:** Thursday 4 February 2021

11am Pacific

The meeting will last 60 minutes.

Register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAlc-CgqjgoG9NbiHCU7wUibnrDhawJQxlw>.

Multiculturalism & Anti-Racism Branch,  
Ministry of Attorney General & Minister Responsible for Housing

We are pleased to share that the call for nominations for 2021 B.C. Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards is now open. Online nominations can be submitted on the [BC Government Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards](#) website. The [press release](#) can be accessed in several languages.

Awards will be made in three categories: Intercultural Trust Award (2 awards), Breaking Barriers Award (2 awards), and Emerging Leader Award (1 award).

The call for nominations will close at **5pm on February 22, 2021**. We hope you will consider sharing this request for nominations with partners, colleagues and community representatives.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed a significant rise in anti-Asian racism and calls for justice for government to do more to address the persistence of anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism, and systemic racism more broadly. We hope the awards provide an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the leadership, strength, and activism of individuals and organizations commitment to reducing barriers and eliminating racism.

For any query regarding the Awards please contact us at [multiculturalism@gov.bc.ca](mailto:multiculturalism@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you



The CCR is calling on members to participate in either or both of two of the projects we are currently working on. Below, you will find a description of each project, how you can contribute and who to contact if you are interested.

Do not hesitate to reach out, your contribution is always highly appreciated!

### **Review of IRB SOGIE Guideline**

The IRB is asking for input on its review of the implementation of [Chairperson's Guideline 9 - Proceedings Before the IRB Involving Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expressions](#).

*In particular, they are asking for feedback on:*

- draft revisions to the Guideline
- the Guideline's current lexicon.

If you would be willing to contribute to CCR comments, or for more information, email Janet at [jdensch@ccrweb.ca](mailto:jdensch@ccrweb.ca). (We need to send our feedback **by February 8, 2021**.)

### **Guide on sharing newcomers' voices**

Following the "Changing perceptions by centering newcomer voices" workshop held at the Fall 2020 Virtual Consultation, the CCR is creating a resource that aims to equip readers with tools, best practices and ethical considerations for encouraging newcomers to share.

Members who attended the workshop as well as those who have not had the chance are invited to send in case examples related to one or more of the following points:

- Ensuring your organization/workplace is a safe space
- Being transparent (committing to education about media literacy, information sharing rights, digital platforms rules, perhaps developing a code of ethics/guidelines for your org)
- Giving control of the narrative (giving the newcomer control over story, visual, channels, publication dates...)
- Offering support (before and/or after sharing their stories)

Your contributions will of course be credited in the guide. If you'd like to share, or if you'd like more detail, contact Andréa at [aviens@ccrweb.ca](mailto:aviens@ccrweb.ca).

Please be advised that the **Multiculturalism & Anti-Racism Branch** (Ministry of the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing) has recently posted a request for proposals (RFP) for diversity and cultural awareness training.

Specifically, the Ministry is seeking a qualified Contractor to develop and deliver a learning module on systemic, institutional and structural racism for senior-level BC public servants and Crown corporations and to redesign the current reporting template for the Province's annual Report on Multiculturalism. Building on the Province's existing diversity, inclusion and Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) resources and tools, the Contractor will be asked to support the development of a strategic approach for Province ministries and Crown corporations to improve their understanding and ability to identify and address issues of systemic, institutional and structural racism in B.C.

**Proposal submission deadline is 2:00pm on February 22, 2021.** A proponents' meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 3:00pm PST.

For additional details, please refer to the BC Bid posting: <http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca/open.dll/submitLogin?disID=46945925>



# BCEdAccess

BCEdAccess is currently hosting free online social groups for students with disabilities or extra support needs and their parents, running until February 19, 2021.

The Social Group Series is possible thanks to support from the Canadian Red Cross and the Government of Canada. These social groups foster connection and positive mental wellness for parents and children throughout the province who are feeling disconnected during COVID-19 will have a chance to get together and have fun.

BCEdAccess has engaged experienced facilitators with a criminal record check to create a fun and engaging space on Zoom for participants. Sessions include community discussions, art projects, trivia, dance and movement, vision boarding, and general inclusive parties! Our hope is to provide something for everyone.

[View upcoming events](#)

Have a question? Please get in touch with us at BCEdAccess Society.



## Update on the hate crimes video project from the Resilience BC Team

Resilience BC has renewed their partnership with the Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society to produce additional videos on hate crime in 6 additional languages: [Arabic](#), [Farsi](#), [Punjabi](#), [Hindi](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

This compliments the languages that were already available: [English](#), [Mandarin](#), [Cantonese](#), [Korean](#), [Tagalog](#), [Vietnamese](#) and [Japanese](#)).

Also updated are all of the videos to include in-language subtitles, making them more accessible to viewers. They are all available on the on the [Resilience BC](#) website and the [BC Government YouTube Channel](#).