



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 68

January 20, 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

MAP NEWS!!

- The first lecture in MAP's new series 'In Focus' will be revealed soon! Titled 'A Bitter Pill...' it will open your eyes! Join us on March 4th to celebrate International Women's Day and the contributions of women doctors to our communities.
- Did you know if you register with the '[Member's Only](#)' section on the MAP website you gain access to all MAP's resources and MAP member agency contacts? Sign up today
- Easier to navigate – MAP Bulletins have been sorted in an easier fashion – find them [here](#) or use the search tool in the Members' Only area
- MAP has a [Facebook page](#): Multi-Agency Partnership MAP. Why not link your agency and share posts and information? We help one another.

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

January 20, 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*

- **Fleeing the pandemic and two hurricanes, thousands of migrants walk toward the US**
Los Angeles Times
- **CBSA to begin tracking family separation**
CBC
- **Syrian refugees celebrate fifth anniversary in Canada with virtual event**
Toronto Star
- **Local group raises funds in anticipation of more Hong Kong asylum seekers**
Vancouver Sun
- **Newcomer groups face cash crunch and high need during pandemic**
Regina Leader- Post
- **‘People are traumatised and scared’: Germany’s student-run law clinics for refugees**
The Guardian
- **In a Brooklyn kitchen, a Statue of Liberty spirit offers a fresh start**
Christian Science Monitor
- **Canada says first Covid-19 vaccine for refugees in Jordan offers glimmer of hope**
CTV

REACH Community Health Centre has developed a **free COVID 101 workshop** that can be held either in person (as an essential health service) or online.

This workshop has been developed to empower individuals to understand what the facts of COVID-19 are and how to safely navigate our community during this time. There are interactive demonstrations as well as dialog and discussions.

The workshop is suitable for both community members and community organization staff.

If held online, participants have the option to come to REACH to pick up a kit with hand sanitizers, soap, hand lotion, reusable masks, and more. If held in person, we are able to bring these kits to hand out as well.

REACH can provide the workshop in English, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Spanish. If another language is needed, we can also work with your group to arrange this.

Please see the attachments with some more information but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Faith Tang (she/her), CTRS
Recreation Therapist, Program Development
REACH Community Health Centre
1145 Commercial Dr, Vancouver BC V5L 3X3
Phone: 604-251-3000

FTang@reachcentre.bc.ca

www.reachcentre.bc.ca





IRB Announcement Annonce de la CISR

2 pages
Previously emailed

Dear stakeholders,

I am writing to inform you that as of Monday, January 18, 2021, all Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) hearings will be held remotely until further notice.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the IRB has been guided by the dual objectives of protecting the health and safety of all those appearing before the Board while also ensuring meaningful access to justice.

As you are well aware, the IRB implemented strict health protocols, which were reviewed by the Public Health Agency of Canada and deemed robust to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. Throughout the pandemic we regularly monitored changing guidance and circumstances and adapted accordingly. As a result, I am pleased to report that there has been no evidence of any transmission of COVID-19 on any of our premises, to date. However, given the evolving health conditions throughout Canada, new provincial restrictions, and in the interest of service continuity, the Board has re-evaluated its adjudicative operating model.

As a result, **from January 18 until further notice, the IRB will, as a matter of general practice, only conduct remote hearings.** This approach will help protect the health and safety of those appearing before the Board by further minimizing the risk of transmission of COVID-19. In-person hearings can be requested for urgent and sensitive matters, but exceptions will be limited and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Those who are not able to participate in a hearing remotely will be prioritized once in-person hearings resume.

Considering the current context, we are also further reducing the number of employees working from IRB premises. Moving forward, the only employees accessing our buildings will be those performing services that cannot be done off site and that are absolutely critical for the effective functioning of the Board, and in particular, remote decision-making.



During this time, documents can be submitted electronically, through email, our portal or e-Post. I encourage those who have not already done so to sign up to the [MyCase portal](#) which facilitates the safe two-way exchange of documents. Documents can also be sent by fax and regular mail but we would prefer these communications channels only be used by those who do not have access to digital options. Please be advised that in-person submission of documents will not be possible during this period for any of our Divisions. Finally, access to the recently launched Hearing Rooms for Virtual Hearings will be limited to exceptional cases.

We will continue to monitor this situation and keep you apprised of developments. For planning purposes, we expect this approach to last until early September, which is when we expect community transmission to be significantly reduced because of inoculation. We will revisit our approach on or before July 5, 2021, to ensure that it aligns with health conditions across IRB regions and to determine if any adjustments need to be made to our planning assumptions.

This new operational model is a natural evolution of the steps taken by the Board over the past few months. Our ability to continue to prioritize health and safety as well as access to justice under these exceptional circumstances has been made possible through your engagement and collaboration.

Please share this information with your network as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Richard Wex
Chairperson



We are happy to share that MOSAIC ONLINE: English Conversation Circle for Refugee Claimants (Beginners) is back for 2021!

English Conversation Circle for RC is one of the MOSAIC recurring events facilitated by our amazing staff.

Please kindly find poster attached also.

You are welcome to circulate this poster to your client and outreach community.



ONLINE: English Conversation Circle for Refugee Claimants (Beginners)

Every Tuesday 11:00 am -12:00 pm

January 5th - February 16th, 2021

We will “meet” each week on Zoom (an app on your phone or computer)

- Practice your English
- Talk to new people
- Learn more about life in Canada

You can register any week! To get the link, please email Parisa at proofigari@mosaicbc.org



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

Latino American Families Group is back:
Thursday Jan 28, 2021 at 10 am - 11:30 Via Zoom

For more information please email:
Matias Hacker matias.hacker@vast-vancouver.ca
Rosa Sevy rosa.sevy@vch.ca

or WhatsApp message to 778 372 6593

The logo for VAST is rendered in a large, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are bold and have a slight gradient, with the 'V' and 'S' being slightly darker than the 'A' and 'T'. The 'A' is a simple, blocky shape, and the 'S' is a thick, rounded curve.

Poster attached
also



Work Experience Opportunities Grant

- Provides a 12-week work experience placement for individuals with disabilities and people facing multiple barriers to employment
- Non-profit organizations and federally registered charities can receive \$5,000 per participant, up to a max of 5 participants
- Participants receive a stipend
- Apply by February 16, 2021

Submit your application today!



Ministry of
Social Development
and Poverty Reduction

Flavours of Hope invites your clients – posters are also attached



flavours of Hope

Overcoming isolation together, one cup at a time!

Intercultural Tea Time

CROSS CULTURAL LEARNING
MEET AND CONNECT

We welcome newcomer women to connect and join us for tea and conversations

January online meetings:

Wed, Jan 13, 20 & 27
from 4 - 5 pm

A Zoom link will be sent after registration

Register: Sign up by emailing trixie@flavoursofhope.com

The poster features a top-down view of three glass teacups filled with yellow tea, a glass teapot with a tea bag, and various tea leaves and spices scattered around.



flavours of Hope

Healthy Cooking Together

Get inspired with healthy, fast and affordable meals!

Learn new cooking skills and cultural dishes from newcomer women

ONLINE COOKING AND STORYTELLING SESSIONS

Monday Jan 11 & 25
from 5 to 6pm

A recipe and zoom link will be sent after registration

Register: Sign up by emailing trixie@flavoursofhope.com

The poster includes a photograph of two women, one in a white sweater and one in a pink shirt, both wearing black aprons and smiling in a kitchen setting.



flavours of Hope

Creative Coffee

Connect, drink coffee & create art

Connect with newcomer women over coffee and use art to express yourself

Guest Artist:
Marian's Art Studio
Souls in Action

ONLINE SESSION
Saturday Jan 23
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Register: Sign up by emailing trixie@flavoursofhope.com

The poster features a hand holding a white coffee cup filled with dark coffee, with a green fern frond growing out of the top of the cup.



BC
Refugee
Hub



INVITATION TO REGISTER
BC REFUGEE HUB WEBINAR
REFUGEE RESEARCH - NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Presented by the BC Refugee Hub, join this webinar session where presenters will share their recent research findings on a variety of topics concerning refugees in Canada.

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.

DATE: Wednesday, January 27, 2021

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. PDT

More than \$8.4 million in funding approved to support the cultural growth and recovery of Vancouver

Today, City Council approved a total of \$8,406,150 in grants to 144 cultural organizations to help them continue providing critical programs and services to artists, the cultural community and the public.

In light of the financial impact COVID-19 has had on Vancouver's non-profit arts and culture sector, the full amount of this funding will be provided to most recipients straight away to help ensure they can remain sustainable. Under normal circumstances, the City would award 40 per cent of the grant in January and the remaining 60 per cent in April.

"The arts and culture sector has been deeply impacted by COVID-19 and the City is committed to supporting Vancouver's artists, creators and cultural organizations through these difficult times," said Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director of Cultural Services at City of Vancouver.

"This investment provides over a hundred groups with the essential resources they need to deliver critical programs and services in support of the cultural growth and economic recovery of the city."

The grants will help a broad range of non-profit organizations to cover their core costs, and ensure that they can keep contributing to Vancouver's vibrant and diverse cultural scene.

One of the grant recipients is Indian Summer Arts Society who will receive \$35,000 to sustain their distinctive arts and culture programming. In response to the COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders, the Indian Summer Arts Society pivoted their annual festival to be entirely virtual. The festival featured predominately IBPOC artists and reached audiences across six continents and 45 countries.

"We are grateful to the City for continuing to prioritize arts organizations during this pandemic year, recognizing that the arts are as needed as ever to imagine, narrate, and build the world we want to grow – not back to what was, but to what we might become. We are heartened that the City continues to recognize the importance of People of Colour-led arts organizations to continue to centre and amplify voices of racialized artists, resourcing us to operate while project funding (and ticket sales) became so precarious. Annual Assistance keeps the lights on, paying the costs of unsexy things, like the equipment and people we need in order to function as an organization," said Laura June Albert, Grants and Community



Initiatives Manager for the Indian Summer Arts Society.

Pacific Legal Education and Outreach Society (PLEO) are set to receive \$15,000 to continue to offer resources, workshops, and clinics for low-income artists throughout British Columbia and across Canada.

"Many arts organizations have been thrust into legal crises as a result of the pandemic and are seeking resources and advice they can afford. This money from the City will ensure we can continue to provide Vancouver's struggling arts and culture sector with free programs and resources they can use immediately, as we prepare to launch the country's first full service legal clinic for the arts," said Martha Rans, founder and Legal Director of PLEO, which operates Artists' Legal Outreach.

These grants align with the City's key civic policy and strategic directions, such as [Culture | Shift](#), [the COVID-19 Economic and Business Recovery program](#), the [Reconciliation framework](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives](#).

The City has supported Vancouver-based, professional non-profit arts, cultural and creative organizations through cultural grants for more than 20 years.

For the details of the grants approved today, visit [Vancouver.ca](#).

REPEATS

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT COVID-19 TESTING (as emailed earlier to MAP members)

- **All Covid-19 tests are free**, except for those done for travel-related reasons.

Therefore, refugee claimants and anyone without MSP coverage or a PHN can still get a free Covid-19 test and call in for their results.

Testing information re: sites, etc., is available here: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/covid-19/testing>

Please share with ALL your clients – some may be hesitant to get tested if they think a cost is involved.

- **Claimants do NOT need to provide their employer a paper/hard copy of the result.** Employers have no right in requesting a "hard copy" or asking to be CC'd in Covid-19 tests. It is private medical information. It is extremely difficult for someone who does not have a PHN to get a hard copy. The only two services for people to get hard copy results are My eHealth and BC Health Gateway and they require a PHN to register. Therefore, for those without a PHN, they will have to CALL for a result via the phone and then request a text be sent to them. That is the only option available.

Thank you for sharing this information that will keep both clients and the community at large safe.

The CRA is launching a new grant program for organizations that host free tax clinics!

Every tax season, community organizations partner with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to offer free tax clinics. This is made possible through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP).

Currently, community organizations that run tax clinics must cover the cost of these events. The CRA knows that these costs can be a challenge for participating organizations and that they may be a barrier for encouraging others to sign up.

To offer more support to community organizations and to encourage others to sign up, the CRA is piloting a new grant program for the upcoming tax season. The grant program will help organizations offset some of these costs and provide funding for returns filed so they can focus on what they do best – helping people in need.

The CRA will be investing more than 10 million over three years toward the new grant program. Organizations will be able to submit grant applications starting in May 2021.

You can find more information about the grant program, including eligibility criteria, at canada.ca/free-tax-clinics-grant.

If you're interested in running a free tax clinic in 2021, visit [Host a free tax clinic](#). With more organizations offering the service, more Canadians will have the support they need to get their taxes done cost- and stress-free, and receive their benefits and credits.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

I am sharing job postings for 2 positions that are currently available at IEC-BC.

The application deadline for the Coordinator, Learning and Inclusive Workplaces is Jan 21 and Jan. 20 for the Project Coordinator, SPRINT. Kindly share with your networks. Thank you.

[Coordinator, Learning and Inclusive Workplace \[iecbc.ca\]](#)

[Project Coordinator, SPRINT \[iecbc.ca\]](#)

[https://iecbc.ca/opportunities/ \[iecbc.ca\]](https://iecbc.ca/opportunities/)

Daisy Quon

Senior Manager, Programs and Stakeholder Relations
Immigrant Employment Council of BC

T. 604.629.5364 ext.106

E. daisy.quon@iecbc.ca | [www.iecbc.ca \[iecbc.ca\]](http://www.iecbc.ca)

Statistics Canada is delighted to invite you to our **free** upcoming information sessions. This is a new series to Statistics Canada. They are live online presentations that may include interactive components during the sessions, a Q&A period, and conclude with a poll.

Please note: Advanced registration is required. As spaces are limited, please register early! If a session becomes full and you would like to attend a future session, please email us at statcan.westinfo-ouestinfo.statcan@canada.ca.

Information Session: Considerations for Displaying Data using Graphs

Description: One of the main objectives of statistics is to distill data into information which can be summarized and easily understood. Data visualizations, which include graphs and charts, are powerful ways of doing so. The purpose of this information session is to provide examples of common graphs and charts, highlight practical advice to help the audience choose the right display for their data, and identify what to avoid and why. An overall objective is to build capacity and increase understanding of fundamental techniques which foster accurate and effective dissemination of statistics and research findings.

Intended Target Audience: This is an **introductory** information session; it may be too basic for advanced data users.

Language, Dates, Times, and Registration Links:

- **English:** January 21, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CBTc0bK6ST2pOFLYENmFrg
- **English:** January 26, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PeumWakSSHkd_AV49MdOMw
- **English:** February 3, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1CVhrt--SfK7VukgiAj9TA
- **French:** January 28, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ohvgGOQRRci2cnvAcUh7OA

Once on the registration page, the language that is displayed can be modified using the option at the bottom of the web page. We recommend that you join the session at least 5 minutes before the scheduled starting time.

Statistics Canada strives to accommodate and make our services accessible to all people. If you have any accessibility requirements, please let us know when you register for a session. These sessions are offered by the Data Service Centre. Some of the services we offer include:

- assisting data users with simple and complex data requests;
- offering standard and customized workshops for data users of different levels of expertise;
- engaging in outreach activities through webinars, newsletters and presentations.

Questions? statcan.westinfo-ouestinfo.statcan@canada.ca

UBC Centre for Migration Studies is thrilled to announce the **Winter 2021 Speaker Series** schedule. Please find a brief overview of the upcoming virtual talks below and in the attached PDF. You can view the full calendar and RSVP on our website [here](#).

- **Friday, January 29th, 2021** at 12:00-1:00pm (PT): "Viral Borders" by [Dr. Nicholas De Genova](#)
- **Wednesday, February 10th, 2021** at 12:30-2:00pm (PT): "Situating Intersectionality in Migrant Health" by [Dr. Denise L. Spitzer](#)
- **Friday, February 19th, 2021** at 11:00am-12:30pm (PT): "On the Road: Mobility and Social Differentiation" by [Dr. Claudia Moatti](#)
- **Monday, February 22nd, 2021** at 12:15-1:30pm (PT): "Local Suffrage Increases Citizenship Acquisition: Evidence from the European Union" by [Dr. Hannah Alarian](#)
- **Friday, February 26th, 2021** at 10:00-11:30am (PT): "Social exclusion, symbolic boundaries and convivial labour in East London's context of ongoing immigration" by [Dr. Susanne Wessendorf](#)
- **Thursday, March 4th, 2021** at 12:30-2:00pm (PT): "The Politics of South-South Migration" by [Dr. Nikhar Gaikwad](#)
- **Monday, March 8th, 2021** at 12:30-2:00pm (PT): "Re-settler society: Refugee sponsorship as Canadian narratives" by [Dr. Audrey Macklin](#).
- **Monday, March 29th, 2021** at 12:30-2:00pm (PT): "Mexico's New Slavery: A Critique of Neo-Abolitionism to Combat Human Trafficking (la trata de personas)" by [Dr. Grace Peña Delgado](#).
- **Thursday, April 8th, 2021** at 11:00am-12:30pm (PT): "Other Europes in Moments of Post-Otherness" by [Dr. Regina Römhild](#)

Please feel free to circulate this announcement widely and we look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

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 | [@UBCMigration](#)
<https://www.migration.ubc.ca>