



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 69

January 27, 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!!**
 - MAP Meeting tomorrow! January 28 at 9:30 am – if you haven't **signed up for a breakout room** – an informal chat at 'break time' with similar-minded folks, here are the choices: Refugee Mental Health – Settlement – Housing. Email MAP at info@mapbc.org to let us know your selection and you will be automatically placed in that group.
-

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!



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

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 | 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.

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



Funded by:
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :
Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



skilled immigrant
infocentre NETWORKING EVENT

Career Readiness: Skill Building Workshop for Refugees

Are you a **refugee** or **refugee claimant** in B.C.?

Are you looking to find **meaningful employment** that aligns with your previous work experience and/or educational experience?

Join this workshop to explore effective **career navigation strategies for refugees** and learn about available **Refugee Employment Support** by Jumpstart Refugee Talent.

Held on Zoom

Register online
 (www.vpl.ca/events)

Presented in partnership with:

Free!

Vancouver Public Library | vpl.ca/events | @vpl | /vancouverpubliclibrary

Join the conversation

PHOTO: J. SMITH

Jumpstart Refugee Talent is partnering with Vancouver Public Library to host a Career Readiness Workshop for Refugees on the 28th of January 2021 at 3:00 pm PST.

You can find the flyer attached to this bulletin, and below is the URL page for more information and registration details.

<https://jumpstartrefugee.ca/career-readiness-workshop/>

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.

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. (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.

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](#).

REPEATS

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, consisting of the letters 'VAST' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a 3D appearance as if they are floating above a surface.

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

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](#).