



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 82

April 28, 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

- Because of the serious COVID-19 situation in the BC Lower Mainland a number of articles from **IMMUNIZE BC** are included at the front of this bulletin. Where appropriate notices will be sent out immediately. Thank you for using this information to help your clients who may not have access to important vaccine news.
- MAP Executive thanks MCC Office for its many years of devoted service to refugee claimants. We are truly sorry to see you close – please see a message from the Director, Sue Krupp, following.
- Whoops! Still need to complete the survey for an Emergency Response? Go to: <https://mapbc.org/map-emergency-plan-survey/>

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!

IMMUNIZE BC

We moved to age **59+** for booking across the province on Tuesday (April 27). Invitations to book will start to be sent out.

AS OF TUESDAY, APRIL 27:

- Registration: open to all
- Booking:
 - 59+ across the province (1962 or earlier)
 - 40+ in high-risk communities
 - + existing eligibility for CEV, Indigenous peoples and small communities

Immunize BC Project

Stay Informed: gov.bc.ca/COVID, bccdc.ca, 1.88.COVID19

First responder and worker program

Health authorities are contacting workplaces to arrange for workers to be vaccinated. This program continues to be phased in, focusing on communities that are at highest risk.

There have been a number of questions related to translated COVID-19 and vaccination material. Fraser Health is hosting a number of first language townhalls, with more coming.

Watch this link for more to come www.fraserhealth.ca/vaccinetownhalls.

Here is a list of the currently planned townhalls:

- 1.Urdu – Thursday, April 29 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- 2.Somali – Thursday, May 6 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- 3.Tigrinya – Monday, May 10 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- 4.Karen (SE Asian language) – Monday, May 17 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

In addition Fraser Health has translated material on its website here - [Translated resources - Fraser Health Authority](#).

Kind regards,

Lizette

Immunize BC Project

Stay Informed: gov.bc.ca/COVID, bccdc.ca, 1.88.COVID19

High-transmission communities

Specific AstraZeneca vaccine clinics will be established in the 16 communities with the highest identified in-community transmission. People 30 and older who reside in those communities will be able to get vaccinated there. For a complete list of the 16 communities, as well as information to assist in determining if you reside in one of these communities, go to: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/neighbourhood>

Anyone 30 and older in the following community health service areas can also be vaccinated at several specific clinics that are being set up. The service areas include:

- § Britannia Beach
- § D'arcy
- § Dawson Creek
- § East Newton
- § Fleetwood
- § Kensington
- § North Surrey
- § Panorama
- § Pinecrest Estates
- § Port Coquitlam
- § South Langley Township
- § Squamish
- § Whalley
- § West Abbotsford
- § West Newton

People living in these communities must register for their vaccine appointments using the Province's Get Vaccinated registration and booking tool and will be invited to book an appointment on the same day they register. The fastest way to register and book is online: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>

People can confirm whether they live in a high-transmission neighbourhood prioritized for immunization by entering their postal code: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/neighbourhood> Only those with eligible postal codes will be able to receive a vaccine through the high-transmission neighbourhood program.

AstraZeneca

In addition to the age-based and worker programs, vaccinations are expanding for people aged 30 and up who are now also eligible to receive their AstraZeneca vaccine at participating pharmacies, with supply. This is being done after a careful review of the evidence that initially led to a pause in the expanded AstraZeneca vaccine program for younger workers.

Participating pharmacies are listed on the BC Pharmacy Association website: <https://www.bcpharmacy.ca/resource-centre/covid-19/vaccination-locations>

There are a number of media articles that are appearing within the last few hours regarding the process for the second does of AstraZeneca. The below indent are some statements from these articles just in case you get questions. Below I have summarized what the process is in bold.

Ministry of Health says people who received first vaccine shot at pharmacy can begin registering online for second AstraZeneca jab on May 1

British Columbians who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at a pharmacy will have to register online for their second dose.

In order to receive the second dose, however, the Ministry of Health says people must register online, starting May 1,

at <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/>.

"They will then get a notification when they are eligible to book their second dose. It is important to note that people who have received their first dose in pharmacies will need to register in order to get their place in queue for their second dose," a ministry spokesperson said Monday.

Once registered, people will either receive an email, text message or phone call informing them when it is time to book a second dose.

In Summary:

Starting May 1, people who received their first dose of AstraZeneca in a pharmacy will need to register for their second dose

at <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/>. They will then get a notification when they are once eligible to book their second dose, people will be notified. It is important to note that people who received their first dose in pharmacies will need to register in order to get their second dose. Once registered, they will get an email, text message or phone call when it's time to book their second dose.

You can find information on the government website

at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register#AstraZeneca>.

Immunize BC Project

Stay Informed: gov.bc.ca/COVID, bccdc.ca, 1.88.COVID19



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 Thursdays in May-June

10 am-12:30pm

On Zoom

Contact: matias.hacker@vast-vancouver.ca

elena@vast-vancouver.ca

Poster attached also



Virtual English Conversation Circle for Refugee Claimants (Beginners)

Every Monday and Thursday from 6:00 PM –7:00 PM

April 29th - June 3rd, 2021

Join us online each week on Zoom to:

- Practice your English
- Meet and talk to new people
- Learn more about life in Canada

You can register any week!

To register please email proofigari@mosaicbc.org

We wanted to reach out and let you know about an exciting recurring event happening at MOSAIC over the next 5 weeks: **[“English Conversation Circle for Refugee Claimants-Beginner Level”](#)**.

From April 29th to June 3rd, we will meet online twice a week on both Monday and Thursday from 6:00 PM-7:00 PM.

**Registration is open any week. Email Parissa at proofigari@mosaicbc.org

For more information, visit the poster attached.



WelcomeBC



Our next Employment event: "Understanding Needs and Challenges in Recruitment in the Transportation and Logistics Sector"
May 13, 2021 at 9:00 am

Registration is required through the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpceioqjgpHdUs4UhAgykJaVF_RpuFbxbZ
Once you register you will receive the link to access the meeting.

Understanding needs and Challenges in Recruiting in Transportation and Logistics May 13, 2021 – 9:00 am



This event will provide immigrant and refugee seekers a better understanding of the needs, skills and qualifications required by the Transportation and Logistics Sectors. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask employers questions.

Registration is required: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpceioqjgpHdUs4UhAgykJaVF_RpuFbxbZ

Panelists:

Purolator – Andrew Graham

Mellohawk Logistics Inc. – Peter Mellohawkins

Maple Leaf Disposal- Taufiq Ahmadi

BOXHUB – Sylena Urbanoski

TransLink – Recruiter, Serisha Rai

Moderator: Nikola Mitrovic

Chat Monitor: Hanif Ladha

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



Mennonite Central Committee

It is with deep regret we announce that, due to budget constraints, we have made the difficult decision to close the MCC Vancouver Refugee Office as of May 31st, 2021.

This decision is in no way reflective on the valuable contributions made by our staff over the last 30 years, and in particular Gerardo's work in the past 10 years, and Andrew, who has joined us in the past few months.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to myself.

Sue Kupp

Director of Programs – BC

604-850-6639 | 1-888-622-6337 (toll-free) | mccbc.ca

suekupp@mccbc.ca

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CHANGING THE WAY WE WELCOME REFUGEE CLAIMANTS

Seeking an experienced community-based researcher for the *Changing the Way We Welcome Refugee Claimants* research project. Request for Proposals available [here](#) or attached.

Proposals will be reviewed and applicants interviewed on a rolling basis. The deadline to submit a proposal is May 14, 2021.



RFP also attached

Kinbrace Community Society is seeking proposals from experienced researchers to conduct community-based, qualitative research with refugee claimants as a first step in a systems change initiative. The title of the project is *Changing the Way We Welcome Refugee Claimants*. The purpose of this RFP is to select a research professional to perform the research under the direction of the Research Steering Committee (RSC).

I. Project Objectives

The project will undertake community-based, qualitative research to:

1. Acquire an understanding of the experiences of refugee claimants *during the months prior to their refugee hearings* that affirmed their dignity, belonging, and overall sense of wellbeing;
2. Identify actions that residents of Canada can take to amplify the dignity, belonging, and overall sense of wellbeing of refugee claimants;
3. Share the findings and resulting report as part of an action plan toward systemic change.

The successful applicant will design and implement research methods to gather the experiences of refugee claimants that affirmed their dignity, belonging, and overall sense of wellbeing. Though the end goal of the project is systems change, the research will not dwell on what is wrong with problematic systems, but on what is working, and which, if amplified, could transform, displace, and overturn current systems. The following questions and grounding principles are provided for context and consideration in developing the research proposal.

- As refugee claimants interact with service providers, government agencies and the general public, what practices / postures / places do refugee claimants witness or experience that "make their days brighter" and/or improve their quality of life? We are interested in the full scope of interactions during the claim period that provide positive, hopeful insights which could be showcased as best practices.
- Which attitudes or values do refugee claimants appreciate in their interactions with service providers, government agencies, and the public because they promote feelings of safety, inclusion, and belonging?
- Acknowledging the complex, challenging terrain refugee claimants navigate in their quest for refugee protection, where and when (even if just a moment) do they witness or experience rest, confidence, acceptance, empowerment, respect, encouragement, success, hope, a sense of opportunity, a lightness of spirit, the feeling of being affirmed?

Grounding Principles:

- Listening to the personal experiences of of refugee claimants - primary voices
- Strengths-based and anti-oppressive
- Reflectively spacious, open, trusting, and non-judgmental; refugee claimants do not feel rushed or pressured
- Information drawn from lived experiences, not hypothetical or imagined
- Focused on bright moments, positive and affirming experiences, times when individuals experienced a distinct or noticeable sense of wellbeing
- Focused on what affirms refugee claimants' dignity or humanity
- Acknowledges the challenges refugee claimants face and uses these as stepping stones to deeper understanding of what works to overcome the challenges
- Action oriented - aims to encourage, stimulate, provoke systems change

We have provided additional background information at the end of this document.

We are excited to share that applications are now being accepted for the Vancity Community Partnership Program. This program is accepting applications year-round on a continuous basis. Please share with your networks and those who may be interested in applying!

The eligibility and criteria for 2021 is available on the attached documents and the [Partnership Funding Program](#) webpage - the grant focus areas are listed below for your reference. Interested applicants can submit their questions and applications to communitypartnerships@vancity.com

Financial Empowerment & Climate Justice

We seek to support organizations that will implement solutions that help underserved communities and local businesses build financial resilience to safeguard against the climate crisis, life's emergencies, reduce the risk of financial hardship, and withstand financial shocks. We are seeking to support initiatives that will:

- **Design and deliver economic activities that address the climate transition with a racial equity justice lens and will enable communities and businesses to build financial resilience, withstand financial shocks and take action on climate change.**
- **Increase access to safe & stable employment opportunities that will help underserved individuals and communities.**
- **Improve financial inclusion by increasing access to resources that will financially empower underserved communities.**

More information? Contact Diana Barry (she/her/hers)
Program Manager, Newcomers Community Investment, Vancity
diana_barry@vancity.com



Kinbrace job opportunity - Beyond Refuge Coordinator

The goal of the Beyond Refuge program is to tighten the weave of Canada's social fabric by bringing together, with their strengths, those who are displaced (refugee claimants) with those who are settled (Canadians), moving us beyond stereotypes through the transformative power of relationships.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2021, 5 pm PDT

Learn More / Apply

<https://kinbrace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Beyond-Refuge-Coordinator-Job-Posting-Kinbrace-2021-04-12-Final.pdf>

(Job information also attached)

Invitation to Leadership Panel re Combatting Anti-Asian Racism and Hate on May 1

Dear colleagues,

I hope you will be able to join us on the above Leadership Panel with 9 amazing speakers (from 3 levels of government and a representative from the Senate) on May 1 at 10:00 am -11:45 am (PT).

Registration link:

<https://successbc.ca/news/creating-transformative-change-together-a-leadership-panel-to-discuss-anti-asian-racism/>

Please take care and stay safe!

Warm regards,

Queenie Choo, RN, BScN, MN, HCapt(N)

CEO

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation



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

BC COVID-19 SPEAK: Your Story, Our Future – Round 2



We would like to invite you to participate in the BC COVID-19 SPEAK Round 2 Survey.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey>

In May 2020 over 400,000 British Columbians participated in the first survey known as *BC COVID-19 SPEAK: Your story, Our future*

This new survey will help us examine one year into the pandemic how British Columbians have been affected and how their experiences may inform recovery and re-opening.

Some of the key highlights from the first round of the SPEAK survey included:

- Families with children were struggling the most and had significant concerns about their child's overall well-being with school closures and significantly reduced social connections.
- Young adults were disproportionately affected by the pandemic in relation to employment, financial insecurity and disruption to significant development and life goals.
- Societal impacts have not been distributed equitably during the pandemic and are compounded for those already experiencing the most stress and with the least resources.

We hope you will lend your voice to this important survey to help further our understanding on the priorities for British Columbians as we seek to recover from the pandemic.

And finally, thank you for your continued efforts to help protect yourself and all British Columbians during COVID-19.



BC Centre for Disease Control



BCCDC Foundation
for Public Health

BC COVID-19 SPEAK Survey Round 2 is live now and we have been requested to share it with our partners and networks. **Please find more details attached.**

The survey is available online in English, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi and French in Qualtrics and translation guides are available for Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Arabic, Spanish, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language.

The translation guides can be found on the main page: <http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey>

Here is the direct link to the

survey: https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6SjI9cihPXJrcx0

Please share widely!

Thank you,

Imtiaz Popat

Program Assistant

Sehat Program | South Asian Health Institute

Fraser Health | Better Health. Best in health care.

www.fraserhealth.ca/sahi

UBC Virtual Job & Volunteer Fair

Interested in hiring UBC talent? Register for the *Your Next Step: UBC Virtual Job & Volunteer Fair* to connect with students, new graduates and alumni from a variety of disciplines. To learn more about this event, visit our website [here](#).

Event Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, June 9, 2021
 - **Time:** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (PDT)
 - **Platform:** Symplicity Virtual Fair on CareersOnline using your own videoconference tool of choice
- **Register on [CareersOnline](#) by May 10, 2021** to receive the early bird rate.
- We look forward to having you at the fair! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at recruit.talent@ubc.ca

If your agency is interested in collaborating with MAP to attend the Job/Volunteer Fair in shifts contact Jenny at info@mapbc.org.

Last year there were a number of very talented students who approached MAP for volunteer roles.



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés

Canadian Council for Refugees

We are happy to invite you to a webinar on **Challenging security inadmissibility in Canada's immigration system** on **Tuesday 11 May 2021**, co-presented by the Canadian Council for Refugees, the [International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group](#) and the [Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers](#).

This webinar will focus on a discussion on how Canada labels non-citizens as security threats based on broad and vague grounds, the severe impacts that this has on individuals, and ways we can challenge the provisions and fix the system through the courts and through public advocacy.

Plan of the session

Three resource persons will be presenting on context and ongoing legal cases. Following these presentations, participants will be invited to discuss opportunities to challenge the security inadmissibility system and organize.

Sharry Aiken, Associate Professor at Queen's Law and former CCR President;

Warda Shazadi Meighen, refugee, immigration and human rights lawyer, and partner at Landings Law;

Washim Ahmed, refugee and immigration lawyer and co-founder of OWS Law.

For a more detailed description of the webinar, [please visit the event's page](#).

WEBINAR DETAILS

When: Tuesday 11 May 2021

11am – 12:30 pm PT

Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2419302028354106892>



FREE
ONLINE TRAINING
FOR YOUTH
15-29

Start it Right! Employment Program

For temporary resident youth

Not eligible for WorkBC or other employment programs? Get the **job support and **confidence** to **START** your career **RIGHT!****

Join our free program to:

- Develop your leadership skills by participating in a community project
- Enhance your skills and confidence to access the job market in Canada
- Receive industry-recognized training certifications
- Gain insights into the Canadian workplace culture
- Network and develop peer connections by participating in group workshops

Who's eligible?

- Youth aged 15-29
- Refugee claimants, international students and temporary workers or residents
- Unemployed or working less than 20 hours per week

REGISTER

- 📞 604-547-2753
- ✉️ youthjobs@dcrs.ca
- 🌐 dcrs.ca/youthjobs



FUNDING BY:



VISIT US AT [DCRS.CA](https://dcrs.ca) | FOLLOW US @[DIVERSECITYBC](https://twitter.com/DIVERSECITYBC)    



Save the Date!

Thursday May 27th, 2021
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

RESERVATIONS

- We will begin our time together by sharing an online experience called "A Walk in Refugees Shoes"
- Then you will hear the stories of those who have had to flee and what they experienced in their leaving and their arrival to Canada.
- In break-out rooms you will interact and discuss what you have experienced with others gathered around their own kitchen tables.

This event provides funds for the support of refugee claimant families. "Round the Kitchen Table" is by donation - we encourage you to consider joining the many who choose to support refugee claimants through their monthly giving. See www.journeyhomecommunity.ca

Book Launch: *A Companion to Greeks Across the Ancient World*
edited by Franco De Angelis for the series Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World

Friday, April 30

Speaker: Dr. Franco De Angelis (Professor of Greek History and Archaeology, UBC)

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (PDT)

Mobility, migration, and diaspora have become central themes in the humanities and social sciences, and the study of the ancient Greeks as a history of mobility and connectivity is no exception.

RSVP Link: Please register [here](#). For more information please visit our website [here](#).

New Book

***The Comparative Politics of Immigration: Policy Choices in Germany, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) by Antje Ellermann (UBC)**

About the book: Many governments face similar pressures surrounding the hotly debated topic of immigration. Yet, the disparate ways in which policy makers respond is striking. *The Comparative Politics of Immigration* explains why democratic governments adopt the immigration policies they do. Through an in-depth study of immigration politics in Germany, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States, Antje Ellermann examines the development of immigration policy from the postwar era to the present. The book presents a new theory of immigration policymaking grounded in the political insulation of policy makers. Three types of insulation shape the translation of immigration preference into policy: popular insulation from demands of the unorganized public, interest group insulation from the claims of organized lobbies, and diplomatic insulation from the lobbying of immigrant-sending states. Addressing the nuances in immigration reforms, Ellermann analyzes both institutional factors and policy actors' strategic decisions to account for cross-national and temporal variation.

Available for purchase at [Cambridge](#), or [Amazon](#).

Receive 20% discount at Cambridge using this code: (TCPOI2021)



Hathaway

- *Acknowledging Rivka Augenfeld (CCR member) for sharing this excellent interview with Prof James Hathaway concerning the UN Refugee Convention and issues of current concern.*

- *See:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9dYwmnBphs>

The Ethics Centre

Federal Court of Appeal decision disappointing but acknowledges ineffectiveness of review process

The Canadian Council for Refugees, Amnesty International and The Canadian Council of Churches responded with disappointment to the Federal Court of Appeal's decision overturning the lower court's ruling that the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) is unconstitutional.

Although it allowed the government's appeal, the Court pointed to potential shortcomings in the review process for the Safe Third Country Agreement. The evidence is overwhelming that the US is unsafe for many refugees – yet Canada's review process has not led the government to revoke its designation of the US as a safe third country. We call on the government to recognize that the US is not safe and suspend the Agreement.

As was the case in the first legal challenge of the Safe Third Country Agreement, the Federal Court of Appeal overturned the Federal Court's finding that the Agreement was unconstitutional on the basis of how the arguments were framed. The Court suggests an alternative way the case could have been presented – by attacking the review process for the Safe Third Country Agreement. However, this approach would be impractical, given that the government asserts a right to confidentiality of the evidence about the reviews it conducts.

The organizations are particularly disappointed that the Court does not engage with the substantial evidence before it that people sent back to the US under the Safe Third Country Agreement suffer serious rights violations in detention in the US. Shockingly, the Court even suggests that because refugees are already suffering psychologically, the impact of suffering caused by detention may not need to be considered when determining whether their treatment is "cruel and unusual".

Neither the Federal Court nor the Federal Court of Appeal addressed the evidence that the Safe Third Country Agreement has particularly negative consequences for women because the US does not properly protect people fleeing gender-based persecution.

Under the Safe Third Country Agreement, most refugee claimants who arrive at an official border post seeking protection in Canada are denied entry and turned back to the US. Because the agreement only applies at official border crossings, many refugees have been forced to cross the border in between ports of entry, sometimes in perilous conditions. Withdrawing from the Agreement would not only ensure that Canada meets its Charter and legal obligations, but would also allow people to present themselves in an orderly way at ports of entry, ending the need for irregular crossings.

Media contacts:

Lucy Scholey, Media Relations, Amnesty International Canada (English branch), 613-853-2142, lscholey@amnesty.ca

Andréa Viens, Communications Coordinator, Canadian Council for Refugees, media@ccrweb.ca

Dr. Nicole Roccas, Communications Coordinator, The Canadian Council of Churches, 416-972-9494, communications@councilofchurches.com

For more information:

• Testimony of STCA Refugee Claimants: [amnesty.ca/blog/refugee-claimants-speak-testimonies-stca](https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/refugee-claimants-speak-testimonies-stca)

• Summary of the decision of the Federal Court of Appeal: [fca-cf.gc.ca/fca-cf/pdf](https://www.fca-cf.gc.ca/fca-cf/pdf)

• Decision of the Federal Court: decisions.fct-cf.gc.ca/fc-cf/decisions/en/item/482757 Backgrounder: ccrweb.ca/en/why-US-not-safe-challenging-STCA

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) called today on the federal government to **establish a standard of 6 months to reunite separated children with a parent in Canada**. Currently, many children wait years to be reunited with one or both parents in Canada, while the government processes the immigration application.

One mother, who has already been waiting almost two years for immigration processing in order to reunite with her children, says:

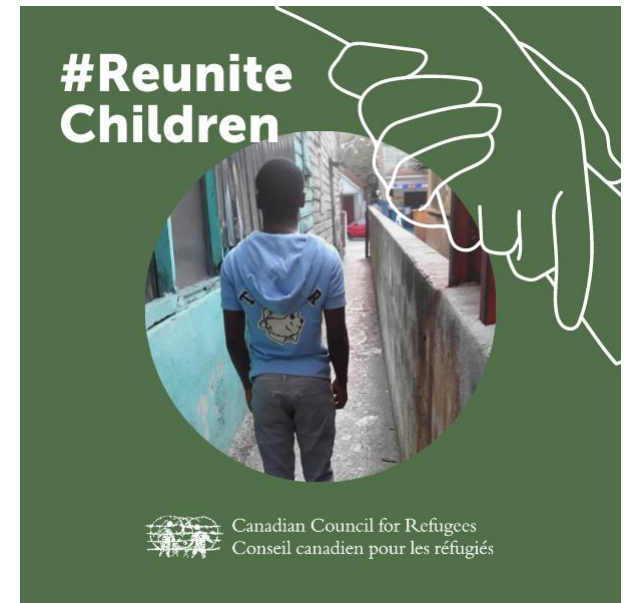
"I am frightened for my children, they are not safe, they cannot go to school, they are at risk of being kidnapped. They are constantly saying that they want to see me ... it breaks my heart."

Another mother says:

"Nowhere in the whole world should parents and children be separated for such a long time. The children I carried are not with me. What I feel inside me every day, the emotional pain, prevents me from being the person I can be. My children are at risk and I live in fear and desperation."

We invite you to amplify the conversation by:

- Sharing [our media release](#) in your networks
- Reading and sharing [the stories of children and parents awaiting reunification](#)
- Support our call by [writing to your Member of Parliament](#)
- Sharing our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts



Dear MAP Members and friends

At the last MAP meeting we began the process of planning for what would happen if there was a sudden increase in the number of people arriving in BC to seek refugee protection.

Part of the planning process is to map what services currently exist for refugee claimants, how they can be expanded through community connections and networks, as well as some of the gaps and challenges that exist. We also want to provide space for ideas and innovations from our membership and beyond to respond to any increase.

Like many other organizations that are planning how to respond, we have no definitive data on what will happen. There are many variables that might affect any increase, including a decision about the Safe Third Country Agreement, COVID vaccines, travel restrictions and the re-opening of the Canada/US border. We aren't making any predictions – but we are working to create a plan that will help us all to respond.

Therefore, we are writing to ask if your organization would please complete our emergency planning survey. You can find the survey here:
<https://mapbc.org/map-emergency-plan-survey/>

Some notes about the survey:

- Please complete only one survey for each organization
- Please forward the link to other organizations who you know that might not be members of MAP, but may provide services for refugee claimants
- Remember, this is for planning purposes only, and so when submitting ideas or suggestions please don't be concerned about funding
- Please complete the survey in conjunction with other members of your organization – it's important that everyone is involved

We are so grateful to be working with such amazing people who are working together to serve refugee claimants across BC. Thank you in advance, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Jenny Lam, Richard Belcham and Jenny Moss
MAP BC Executive