



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 75

March 10, 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

- Registration is open for Part 2 of Asli Kucukbumin's MAP Presentation: **'Our Well-Being on the Frontline'** on Monday March 22nd at 2:00 – 3:15pm. Register now and tell your co-workers: [REGISTER HERE](#) Registration will close March 19.
- If you missed **'A Bitter Pill – utilizing the talents of refugee women doctors'** you can watch it via [YouTube here](#) or on [MAP's In Focus page](#) where you can find lots of research, campaign contacts and a great FAQ about International Medical Graduates. Well done !WG team! A very successful event.
- Next MAP Meeting: **Thursday March 25 at 9:30 am** – registration information will be sent soon for this important 2-part MAP member event on preparing for any sudden surge in refugee claimants. Hear from the experts and start the collaborative planning process.
- CBSA held an update consultation about the **Alternatives to Detention Program** on march 8 and have shared the slides. MAP has gained permission to share the slides so they will be attached to the MAP Meeting Agenda announcement shortly.

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!



You are invited by the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) to attend a virtual regional town hall. The purpose of this town hall is to provide an update on our operations and to answer your questions.

I will be hosting the virtual town hall with my acting Assistant Deputy Chairperson, Negar Azmudeh and the Lead of the Gender-Related Task Force working group, Karin Michnick on **Thursday, March 18th, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (PST)** using the Microsoft Teams platform.

During the town hall, we will discuss the RPD's new operating model, with a focus on the following topics:

§Virtual remote hearings

§In-person hearings

§Less Complex Claims

§Gender-Related Task Force

Meeting material: Please find attached an overview of the RPD's new operating model.

Send in your questions - we would love to hear from you!

We encourage you to submit questions you would like the RPD to address during this town hall. Please send your questions to irbregionaltownhalls@irb-cisr.gc.ca by **March 12th, 2021**. We will address the most commonly asked questions during the presentation portion of the meeting. This will be followed by a moderated Q&A session when participants will be able to submit questions live.



Instructions to join the virtual town hall:

There is no RSVP requirement for this meeting. On **March 18th**, between 9:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (PST), simply CTRL click on the following link:
https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDRkNjUyZjQtNDRiMi00ZmY0LTg5ZjAtNzI3YWNjYzdiMzc5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22a65e50e1-a948-479b-8fed-f4e96b62098d%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2236639434-e7b9-4cf4-b858-c535328bfd11%22%7d

Or by phone:

Toll-free phone number: 1-833-227-2364

Conference ID: 458 616 108#

We look forward to engaging with you at this town hall and thank you for your continued support.

Roula Eatrides

Deputy Chairperson, Refugee Protection Division

COVID -19 VACCINATIONS: For all your clients:

The website links for vaccine clinic locations are now live. Below are the links as per the respective Health Authorities.

- Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/covid-19-vaccine-plan#nh-resources>
- Interior: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/covid-19-vaccines/>
- Fraser Health: www.fraserhealth.ca/vaccineclinic
- Vancouver Coastal: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>
- Island Health: www.islandhealth.ca/covid19vaccine

Kind regards

Lizette

Lizette Parsons Bell
Immunize BC Project

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

POSTER ATTACHED



Creating Accessibility Neighbourhoods March Workshops



Disability Awareness

(2 hour Zoom educational workshop)
Tuesday, March 9th, 6:00 - 8:00pm
Sunday, March 14th, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Thursday, March 25th, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Disability Justice

(1 hour Zoom educational workshop)
Thursday, March 11th, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
Saturday, March 27th, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Gender & Sexuality 101

(2 hour Zoom educational/conversational workshop)
Tuesday, March 16th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Sunday, March 21st, 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Imposter Syndrome

(2 hour Zoom educational/conversational workshop)
Thursday, March 18, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday, March 25th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Workshop information + dates on CAN's Facebook page and www.canbc.org

ASL is available with a minimum of 3 days advance notice.

Contact: info@canbc.org or phone/text 604.437.7331

Workshop accessibility: www.canbc.org/workshops/accessibility/



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Rainbow Refugee is seeking a permanent Managing Director to join the co-leadership team.**

See details here:

<https://www.rainbowrefugee.com/jobs>

Rainbow Refugee is a Vancouver-based community organization that supports people seeking refugee protection in Canada because of persecution based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression sex characteristics (SOGIESC) or HIV status. As demand for the Organization's services continues to grow, Rainbow Refugee seeks a Managing Director to join its leadership team.

Reporting to the Board of Directors and working with the Programming Director in a co-leadership capacity, the Managing Director will play a key role in helping shape the strategic direction of the organization and realizing the Society's strategic vision by providing sound management of its finances and operations. The Managing Director oversees coordination of all financial, legal, and administrative functions of the organization as well as general daily operations, including all processes and procedures to support the organization's mission and programs. The Managing Director will work closely with the Programming Director in leading the fundraising and revenue generation opportunities of the Society.

Shortlisting starts March 15 and search will continue until the right person is identified.

- **Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op is seeking a Nurse Practitioner for their community clinic** – poster attached. No closing date
- **Burnaby Neighbourhood House: Settlement workers and case managers needed:** (multiple positions in Arabic, Cantonese/Mandarin, Dari/Pashtu and Vietnamese languages) – poster attached. Closing date March 15.
- **3 Industrial Sewers Needed – full time: Firetech Manufacturing** (www.firetechmfg.com) see poster attached.

Forwarded by Umbrella Multicultural Health Co-op

Please consider inviting your clients to participate in this cross-Canada study.

York University is recruiting participants for virtual refugee newcomer interviews about their access to formal virtual emotional or social well-being support. By formal, we mean support provided by a professional or agency or organization. For example, support group, social worker, physician/ doctor, counsellor, or a mental health professional. 30-minute interview by phone/remuneration provided. Please see the language-based posters for eligibility and more details.

- [Arabic- Recruitment flyers Interviews with Newcomer refugees.pdf\(~216 KB\)](#)
- [English- Recruitment flyers Interviews with Newcomer refugees.pdf\(~161 KB\)](#)
- [French- Recruitment flyers Interviews with Newcomer refugees.pdf\(~153 KB\)](#)
- [Somali- Recruitment flyers Interviews with Newcomer refugees.pdf\(~174 KB\)](#)
- [Spanish- Recruitment flyers Interviews with Newcomer refugees.pdf\(~163 KB\)](#)
- [Tigrinya- Recruitment flyers Interviews with Newcomer refugees.pdf\(~196 KB\)](#)
- [Farsi- Recruitment flyers Interviews with Newcomer refugees.pdf\(~224 KB\)](#)

Questions? Please contact:

Anna Oda, Project Coordinator: Promising Practices in Accessing Virtual Mental Health: Supporting Refugees during COVID-19
Centre for Refugee Studies, York University

E-mail: annaoda@yorku.ca

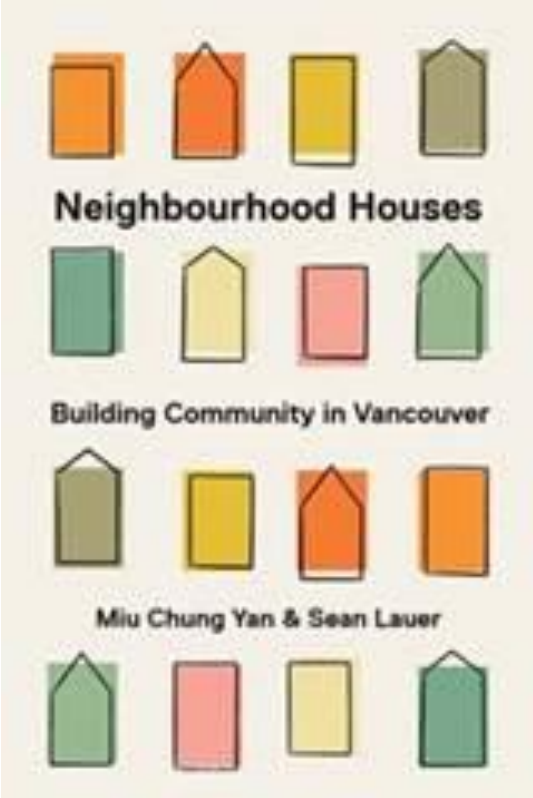
Project website: <https://www.eenet.ca/initiative/virtual-mental-health-access-refugees>



Good afternoon, We are thrilled to share the news about the release of a new book on Neighbourhood Houses, edited by Miu Chung Yan and Sean Lauer. When you click the link to order online you'll find information on pricing which also includes options to purchase an ebook.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this research! We are looking forward to reading the book.

Warmest regards, Nadia Carvallho, City of Vancouver



Neighbourhood Houses draws on a five-year study to document and contextualize the neighbourhood house network in Vancouver. Globalization and migration are creating disconnected societies in modern urban cities and urban communities are at risk of becoming fragmented. Nonetheless, the local community is where most aspects of everyday life occur, where people establish their homes and pursue their ambitions. It offers a secure haven in an unpredictable, globalized world.

Order online at ubcpres.ca [ubcpres.ca]

And, free shipping is applicable to all Canadian orders over \$39.95 (before taxes).

If you should have any trouble with your order, please contact frontdesk@ubcpres.ca. Thank you!

REPEATS

MOSAIC will be hosting a free tax clinic for refugee claimants.

Please feel free to circulate in the MAP bulletin.

Due to the health risks, we only will be open for scheduled documents delivery and it won't be in person appointments this year.

To be eligible for the filing services:

- Refugee claimants
- Total family income must be below:
 - 1 individual: \$35,000
 - 2 individual: \$45,000 + 2,500 for each additional person (up to \$52,500)
- We are unable to file for individuals who have business or rental income and expense, capital gains or losses, disability claims, filed for bankruptcy, are self-employed or filling for a deceased person.

Language support available upon request.

To register or for questions, please email taxclinic@mosaicbc.org.

POSTER ATTACHED

Free Income Tax Clinic

Need a hand preparing your 2020 Tax Return?



MOSAIC Volunteers are providing virtual filing support for immigrants with modest incomes!

Starting Mar. 1, 2021 MOSAIC will begin processing returns for eligible and interested individuals.

To be eligible for our filing services...

- You must be a Permanent Resident, Work Permit Holder, Refugee Claimant, International Student or Naturalized Citizen
- Total Family Income must be below:
1 Individual: \$ 35,000 | 2 Individuals: \$ 45,000
+\$ 2,500 for each additional person (up to \$52,500)
- We are unable to file for individuals who have business or rental income and expenses, capital gains or losses, disability claims, filed for bankruptcy, are self-employed or filing for a deceased person.



MOSAIC

Engaging Newcomers, Enriching Communities

*Due to health risks, we only will be open for scheduled document delivery. MOSAIC will not be holding in-person appointments this year.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

MOSAIC Headquarters
5575 Boundary Rd, Vancouver

Newcomers Welcome Centre
7134 King George Blvd, Surrey

CONTACT US TODAY!

MOSAIC Volunteer Income Tax Clinic

Email: taxclinic@mosaicbc.org

Phone: 604 254 9626

Language Support available upon request



WelcomeBC



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



INVITATION TO REGISTER

BC REFUGEE HUB WEBINAR

The Importance of Storytelling in Refugee Advocacy

Join speakers Shanga Karim, Leila Shifteh and Richard Belcham for this webinar on the importance of storytelling in refugee advocacy and representation. The webinar will cover the following topics:

- Storytelling as a tool in refugee advocacy
- Why it's important to centre refugee voices and experiences
- Best practices for facilitating spaces for folks with lived refugees experience to tell their stories in their own voices
- The difference storytelling makes in people's lives, both the storyteller and listener
- The importance of documentation and representation of refugee stories

DATE: Wednesday, March 17, 2021

TIME: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. PDT

Speakers: Leila Shifteh - multimedia storytelling and human rights law and policy.

Richard Belcham – ‘Along the Way’ podcast of refugee stories

Shanga Karim – The Shoe Project

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

REGISTER

Join us in celebrating

International Women's Day!

**March 18, 2021
6:30 – 8:00 pm**

Choose to Challenge!

We aim to encourage everyone to be responsible for their thoughts and actions all day, every day. We invite everyone to call out gender bias and inequality and celebrate women's achievements.

We all can help create an inclusive world!

Registration Required:
<https://tinyurl.com/4vxsvvrx>

Presenters:

- Cicely Nicholson, Writer and Organizer
- Fancy Poitras, City of Burnaby, Indigenous Relations Manager
- Haleluya Hailu, Singer and Songwriter
- Otoniya Juliane Okot Bitek, Acholi Poet and Writer
- Seham Gedrabo, Artist-Painter

Funded by:  **BIPT** BURNABY INTERCULTURAL PLANNING TABLE

Financed par:  Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

POSTER ATTACHED ALSO

Bursaries available

FIELD ART ACADEMY
SPRING SOCCER
CAMP

**WE COMMITTED TO MAKING SOCCER
ACCESSIBLE TO REFUGEE AND NEWCOMER
CHILDREN AND YOUTH.**

Join our coaches, they speak
several languages, including
Arabic, Farsi, French and
Spanish

Hello MAP members

Please see the **UNHCR**: '[Making a Refugee Claim](#),' webpage which includes useful resources about the Canadian asylum system – you can find more information on how to make a refugee claim, find out what happens when you claim asylum at the border, and more. We are currently looking to improve this section, and we have developed a survey for refugees and asylum-seekers to provide their feedback.

If possible, we were wondering if you could kindly share this survey with your networks, please? Two versions are available of the same survey, one in English and one in French:

English Survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJ0n4EkVggrZieisfRtjh947j-Jo8IP7MlfXvWgm19TCIu5Q/viewform>

French Survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJ-m-hTYIPWR8wLFsOMNJg4sTnNWxwdbPETPWINFwMxNJJ2A/viewform>

The survey would take approximately 10 minutes to complete; and will close on March 31.

Thank you so much for your support with this initiative. We are very grateful for our continued partnership!

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns at gill@unhcr.org

Please find the materials from Monday March 1 provincial media announcement, along with some FAQs that have been developed by the Health Authorities; you can also find a summary of the material posted online at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/seniors>. In addition the government has posted 1 hour and 13 minutes on Facebook from the press conference; <https://fb.watch/3Z2PINoXRW/>. The information in the FAQs is being updated, so we will share with you as those documents are updated to share with your networks.

We recognize that there is a great deal of detailed information here, so appreciate that you may have questions in the days and weeks to come.

If you could send specific questions to lizette@umbrellastrategies.ca we will collate these questions and do our best to gather the information that you need to keep your members and network updated. In addition, if you could please provide us with a contact name and email address for future information that would be most appreciated.

Thank you again for your patience and support during this vaccination program roll-out.

Best regards,

Lizette Parsons Bell

Immunize BC Project

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

Lizette M. Parsons Bell, ABC*

604 788 4170 | lizette@umbrellastrategies.ca

March Update
Winter 2021 Speaker Series



Mexico's New Slavery: A Critique of Neo-Abolitionism to Combat Human Trafficking (*la trata de personas*)

Monday, March 29 Time: 12:30 - 2:00PM (PDT)

Speaker: Dr. Grace Peña Delgado (Associate Professor, History Department, UC Santa Cruz)

Moderator: Dr. Benjamin Bryce (Assistant Professor, Department of History, UBC)

Organizer/Sponsor: The UBC Centre for Migration Studies

[RSVP Link](#)

Canadian Immigration Interrupted : A Look Ahead into 2021

Andrew Agopsowicz

RBC Economics

February 16, 2021

RESEARCH at a Glance
RECHERCHE en un coup d'oeil



External publication alert | Alerte de publication externe

Overview

"Immigration in 2021 is likely to see 275,000 new permanent residents as COVID-19 headwinds continue, falling short of new 401,000 target.

Immigration into Canada slowed significantly in 2020 following restrictions limiting travel across the international border. Only 184,000 new permanent residents entered Canada in 2020, just over 50% of the 341,000 that was targeted at the beginning of the year. Temporary immigration, both of international students and workers on temporary work permits declined as well. Combined, this led to a *decline* in net international migration in the third quarter resulting in Canada's lowest quarterly population growth on record (an increase of only 2,767).

In response, the federal government renewed its commitment to maintaining high levels of immigration, announcing new targets for 2021 through 2023 that could see over 1.2 million new permanent residents settled over this period, fully making up for the 2020 shortfall. However, announcing these targets, especially for 2021, may be putting the cart in front of the horse as strong headwinds limiting the number of newcomers are still in play."

Download the full report https://thoughtleadership.rbc.com/canadian-immigration-interrupted-a-look-ahead-into-2021/?_ga=2.25002233.2108494278.1614008081-579383536.1614008081

New series : [*Identifying the Barriers to Racial Equality in Canada*](#)

"Systemic racism is pervasive in Canada. Data confirming the barriers to equity that Black, Indigenous and other people of colour face have been shared time and time again. But a variety of sectors have been slow to initiate or complete recommended policy measures.

Our neighbour, the United States, is in a profound period of reckoning with its own history of racial inequality. While it's tempting to compare the two countries, Canadians deserve nuanced, informed, country-specific conversations about race. Anita Li, a media consultant, journalism instructor and advocate for equity in Canadian media, is the guest editor for this feature series of articles, which takes a close look at the obstacles to dismantling systemic racism in Canada."