



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 78

March 31, 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

- James Grunau announces his retirement from Journey Home Community – and his plans for the future (**see a letter from the JHC Board below**) James will be missed as he was one of the founding members of MAP and has informed and collaborated with fellow members since it's start in 2007. Thank you James for your wisdom and guidance – we're glad to hear we have your presence for a few more months yet! MAP welcomes Brad Kinnie as new ED at Journey Home Community!
- **Registration is open for In Focus 2 – 'Canadian Refugee Law – who is it protecting?'** on Thursday April 15 at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm online with Dr Efrat Arbel of the Peter Allard School of Law UBC. Sign up today for a deep dive into our refugee law and how it's changing – moderated by Amanda Aziz (RLG co-chair) and introduced by Astitwa, a student lawyer we will hear more from. More information inside – or [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Thank you to all who attended MAP BC and FV MAP meetings over the past few days. We made a great start with an attendance of 90 overall to start **planning together for any increase in the number of refugee claimant arrivals in BC**. The survey will be sent out on Tuesday April 6 with instructions, to be returned no later than Wednesday April 13. Do send any questions to co-chair Richard Belcham at richard@inasmuch.ca.

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 - Current Announcements

1. AstraZeneca in Pharmacies – links – these will continue to be updated as needed:

- [Initial COVID-19 Vaccines in Pharmacies | BC Pharmacy Association](#)
- [Get the AstraZeneca vaccine - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)
- Fraser Health - [COVID-19 Immunization clinic locations - Fraser Health Authority](#)
- Vancouver Coastal Health is also posting on their website

2. New: FAQ on change in use of AstraZeneca and COVISHIELD. Links available here: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19_vaccine/AstraZeneca_COVISHIELD_FAQ.pdf

- If you need translations of the FAQ, let us know what languages would be most helpful.

3. Vaccine Aftercare – Available here in 14 languages <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/getting-a-vaccine#after>

- A separate Aftercare document for COVISHIELD/AZ should be ready in the next couple of days.

Immunize BC Project

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

Lizette M. Parsons Bell,

604 788 4170 | lizette@umbrellastrategies.ca

Our Leadership is Changing!

The JHC Board of Directors is very pleased to announce the appointment of Brad Kinnie to the position of Executive Director, effective June 1, 2021.



Together, we have been assisting refugee claimants in Metro Vancouver for over 15 years, during which leadership as the founding Executive Director. Over a year ago, the Board began planning for a leadership transition, and after prayerful considerations and discussions, selected Brad based on his great leadership qualities and extensive experience with Journey Home Community.

Brad Kinnie joined us as Family Coordinator twelve years ago. He has served as Program Manager for the last few years, and in this role provided strategic planning and oversight of our programs.

[See the Video for a message from James and Brad](#)

Brad has been mentored by James in the development of our vision for growth and capacity to assist refugee claimants. The Board is looking forward to working with Brad and staff, and we are excited to see how God will continue to lead us during this transition.

The Journey Home Community Board extends its deep appreciation to James Grunau for leading the organization on an incredible journey for over 15 years. His excellent leadership and care led to our growth and progression. We are very thankful for his vision, commitment and many contributions which have resulted in our supporting close to 1,000 refugee claimants.

James hopes to be involved with refugee work at a more global level in the future and we wish him all the best as he pursues a new direction in his life.

Please join us in welcoming Brad Kinnie to his new role and in extending our deepest gratitude to James for his vision and leadership.

Sincerely,

Bert Wiens, Chair

On behalf of the Journey Home Community Board of Directors

MAP's In Focus Lecture Series Presents

Canadian Refugee Law: Who does it protect?



Join us for this special talk!

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021

Time: 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. online via Zoom

Speaker: Dr. Efrat Arbel, Associate Professor,
Peter A. Allard School of Law, UBC



Dr. Arbel will address recent changes in Canadian law that can be seen as slowly eroding the protections offered to those seeking asylum in Canada - notably border legislation during the pandemic and the Safe Third Country Agreement appeal.



“It is an established legal principle that refugees present at or within Canada's borders are entitled to basic protection under Canadian law. Where precisely these borders lie, however, is far from clear. Dr. Arbel will discuss how legal measures like the Multiple Borders Strategy and the Safe Third Country Agreement restrict access to refugee protection in Canada, and erode the protections that would otherwise be available to refugee claimants under Canadian law. Dr. Arbel will also discuss how access to refugee protection has been further restricted with the onset of COVID-19, and what we may expect when as pandemic measures begin to ease and the Canadian border re-opens.”
Dr Efrat Arbel

- Thursday April 15 at 7:00 pm
- Moderator: **Amanda Aziz:** Immigration and Refugee Lawyer and part-time Staff Lawyer with the Migrant Workers Centre
- Speakers: **Dr Efrat Arbel:** Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia Peter A. Allard School of Law. She publishes and teaches in refugee law and prison law.

The topic will be introduced by **Astitwa** who is about to graduate from the Allard School of Law and is looking forward to his articles at BC Prosecution Services.

We expect a lively Q&A and an opportunity to thoroughly explore predictions for the post-pandemic refugee scene.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



MENTAL HEALTH

Asli Kucukbumin provided MAP with 2 presentations titled: **‘Our Wellbeing on the Frontline’** – assistance for ourselves, our staff and volunteers while working through the pandemic.

The presentations were fully subscribed and very popular. Asli has graciously shared her presentation with us in the **PDF attached**; and has provided the following resources for our members:

Child and Youth Mental Health (each community has a different one, they all share this name in BC)

CYMH: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/child-teen-mental-health>

Youth Crisis Programs:

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/Service-Directory/Services/mental-health-and-substance-use/mental-health---child-and-youth-services/start-team---short-term-assessment-response-treatment#.YGPCDEhKjeo>

Above is a link for START, they serve Fraser Health region

This is a link for CART for Vancouver: http://www.vch.ca/locations-services/result?res_id=304

Here is a link for Richmond: Their program is called TRACC <https://ridge-meadows.pathwaysbc.ca/programs/561>

Adult Mental Health

<http://www.vch.ca/your-care/mental-health-substance-use/community-mental-health-services>

Above has links to different programs.

There is a lot more, but it depends on community and the issue. Above are the ones I mentioned during my presentation.

Poster also 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



We are pleased to announce the launch of the Refugee Story Bank of Canada (<https://www.refugeestorybank.ca>).

The Refugee Story Bank of Canada is an online repository for stories by those who have sought refuge in Canada from violence, war, oppression, discrimination, and persecution.

The Story Bank is an initiative by Christina Parker and George Melnyk, co-editors of *Finding Refuge in Canada: Stories of Dislocation* published in February 2021 by Athabasca University Press.

For more information on the book see

<https://www.aupress.ca/books/120296-finding-refuge-in-canada/>

We established the story bank in order to provide the public, researchers, journalists, and students with a searchable data base of refugee stories and to further the cause of refugees in Canada.

We invite you to read the stories currently posted. We also need your help in letting your contacts know about the site and to encourage refugees to contribute to building this valuable resource.

You are welcome to contact us directly if you need more information or have suggestions on how we might promote the site.

Yours in solidarity, Christina Parker christina.parker@uwaterloo.ca George Melnyk gmelnik@ucalgary.ca

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CONCERNING OWNERSHIP OF THE STORIES AND CONDITIONS OF USE:

Terms and conditions: <https://www.refugeestorybank.ca/terms-and-conditions>

Recommended reading:

Supporting Canada's COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery Through Robust Immigration Policy and Programs March 2021

https://rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/Immigration%20PB_EN.pdf

Also attached

REPEATS

Dear Valued Community Partner,

Would you like to know what's happening with health care in our community? As part of the ongoing [Primary Care Network](#) (PCN) development process, we invite you to attend the following online session:



Surrey North Delta PCN and the Community Moving Forward

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m

[RSVP Today](#)

The session will bring together community, family physicians and Fraser Health leaders to hear what emerged from our initial community engagement, to understand how it informs and aligns with the developing PCN plan, and to define and confirm the future engagement process. The goals of the session include:

- Creating common understanding of community engagement process and inputs to date
- Creating common understanding of PCN Service Plan development and submission process and planning to date, including how community engagement inputs align
- Gaining input into PCN Plan/Service Plan development and potential scope
- Present and confirm further engagement process

If you have any questions or input prior to the session about the session itself or the PCN plan, please don't hesitate to connect:

Jody Friesen, PCN Director for SND Division jfriesen@divisionsbc.ca

What is a Primary Care Network?

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) are local networks of primary care service providers. This means greater access to the type of care that patients need - including specialized services.

PCNs allow family physicians to work with other health care providers and community partners to provide the best possible care for their patients.

Some benefits of PCNs for patients include:

- *extended hours
- *quicker access to urgent care
- *culturally safe care

Hello Service Providers:

AMSSA's **BCSIS Informal English Language Learning Podcast** mini-series promotes the sharing of expertise, innovative approaches, programs, and resources in ELL delivery. The third episode, **Volunteers and Supporting Specialized Learner Needs in ELL Programming** is now available now on the AMSSA website Resource Centre at the following link: <https://www.amssa.org/resource/informal-ell-podcast-episode-3-volunteers-supporting-specialized-learner-needs-in-ell-programming/>

This podcast touches on two important themes. Volunteers contribute to organizational capacity and can be essential in the delivery of informal English language learning. In the podcast, ELL experts explain how they recruit volunteers and provide orientation and training to make sure they get a strong start. They describe the ways they retain volunteers through ongoing support, professional development, and recognition. Volunteers as well as service providers support literacy learners, newcomers with multiple barriers, and learners with low digital literacy skills. Speakers discuss improvisations made to program delivery during the pandemic and a post-COVID future that will likely include in-person and online blended learning, in the context of the needs of multi-barriered individuals.

The speakers share their top ELL resources in the Podcast Show Notes information sheet that corresponds to the video. Be sure to download the infosheet, and look for the other podcasts in the series:

Everyday Adaptations for Innovative ELL Programming

<https://www.amssa.org/resource/everyday-adaptations-for-innovative-ell-programming/>

Employment Related Supports in ELL Programming

<https://www.amssa.org/resource/employment-related-supports-in-ell-programming/>



Lori Cameron lcameron@amssa.org

Currently, PeaceGeeks is conducting research on how people give feedback about their experience using settlement services. I suggested the team share the survey with MAP to ensure the experiences of settlement agencies working with refugee claimants in BC are well represented in our research.



Do you have something to say about your settlement experience?

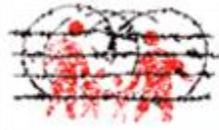
PeaceGeeks is conducting research on how people give feedback about their experience using settlement services. We're looking for newcomers and settlement workers alike—how do you give and receive feedback? How does your organization respond to feedback?

Take the survey: <https://lnkd.in/gTHWnit>.

Thank you so much in advance.

Meaad Alharbi, *International Projects Manager (she/her/hers)*

E: meaad@peacegeeks.org



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

The CCR is asking everyone involved in an NGO that offers immigration and refugee services to participate in a survey on a proposed framework for high quality immigration and refugee services.

At the recent CCR Working Group meetings, everyone was encouraged to complete the survey, and to share it with colleagues and other NGOs that may be interested:

<https://ccrweb.ca/en/survey-quality-immigration-services>

Background information

This survey is part of a project focused on work done by NGOs to assist people with refugee, immigration and citizenship processes. Some argue that NGOs' activities in this area should be restricted through Section 91 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. We take the position that this approach is harmful to people who need support, especially the most vulnerable. Instead of restricting NGOs, we should support NGOs in constantly aspiring to the highest quality immigration and refugee services, with measures put in place to make sure people are not abused.

Do you want to be a resident advisor to Vancouver City Council?

Resident Advisory Committee Applications are now open!

What are they?

Resident advisory committees function as spaces where volunteer residents, or those who work or have significant experience of life in Vancouver, can come together to problem-solve various public policy issues the City is facing, and provide strategic advice back to Council and staff. These are unpaid volunteer positions, but some accommodation costs may be covered and others may be considered.

What is the City looking for in candidates who want to apply?

The City is looking for individuals passionate about and willing to be a voice that values:

- Equity and Civic Participation
- Representation and Open-Mindedness
- Lived Experience and Empathy

Preferred skills and abilities are:

- Being able to work in a team environment
- Being able to communicate effectively across different cultures and perspectives
- Being able to provide strategic policy advice and transmit community input to City Council and Staff

What do I get out of it?

You will be a resident advisor to Council and staff on many different issues the City is facing. If you are interested in advising City Hall and our local government, this is a great way to sharpen your policy advising, team building, and problem-solving skills!

Where and when can I apply?

Applications are open from Tuesday, March 16th to Wednesday, March 31st at 11:59pm.

Please go to vancouver.ca/volunteer to apply for the committee you would like to join and learn more about our resident advisory committees. Only successful applicants will be contacted and orientation/training will be provided to all new and returning members.

Please also see the info-sheets attached for more information and list of vacancies, or to forward to friends, family, community members, or other individuals who may be interested in this opportunity!

#MHFORALL
A WEBINAR SERIES

When? Tuesday April 6 or Tuesday April 20 at 6 am – 7 am PDT
Recordings available at: <https://bit.ly/3ritLNS> afterwards

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Presentation: Mental Health and Marginalised Communities: Migrant Populations

This session will be focused on **migrant populations, examining some of the barriers to care and the urgent action needed to overcome them.**

This session's line up of speakers includes:

- Gulli Schininà, IOM
- Monica Blotevogel, Coreszon
- Dr. Juliet Cohen, Freedom from Torture
- David Karorero, Youth Activist and Founder of Burundian Youth for a Brighter Future
- Prof. Dinesh Bhugra (Chair)

If you have any questions you'd like to ask our panelists, please submit them to our Webinar Team at webinars@unitedgmh.org before tomorrow.

This series of fortnightly webinars is run by United for Global Mental Health, The Lancet Psychiatry, Mental Health Innovation Network, and MHPSS.net. These webinars are designed to provide policymakers and the wider health community with the latest evidence on the most pressing and often neglected issues of mental health around the world, including the impact of COVID-19 on mental health. The webinars provide practical solutions to the challenging issues we are all grappling with. Participants are encouraged to join from around the world, including those with lived experience of mental health, and of COVID-19. UPCOMING TOPICS - March 23rd – Mental Health and Marginalised Communities: Migrant Populations The full webinar recordings and summary notes will be posted on our website: <https://bit.ly/3ritLNS>

Want to share the registration link for this webinar? Please direct registrants to this link: <https://bit.ly/387UuoQ>

If you have any questions or would like to submit a question to our panel, please contact us at: webinars@unitedgmh.org