



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 83

May 5, 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

Covid-19 Vaccination campaign information:

- MAP is trying to gauge how successful your refugee claimant clients have been in registering for their vaccination? Have you helped clients by phone or online? Please share your experiences with MAP at info@mapbc.org so we can pass along challenges, requests, questions for responses.
- Don't forget that at this time clients need an MSP number to do the online registration. If they do not have one, then they can register by phone at: ☎ 1-833-838-2323 | translators are available. Say your language (e.g. 'Spanish') and the interpreter will be called. Clients will be given a temporary PHN for their first and second vaccinations.
- Right now, pregnant people of any age can book a vaccine immediately by calling the phone number and identify as being pregnant. Online booking for pregnant people is not available right now.
- If you or your clients are having problems with the registration system, feel free to contact Mei-ling, and she will pass the message on to public health, and try to help you troubleshoot the problem. Please email her at meiling.wiedmeyer@ubc.ca

MAP NEWS: INSIDE! MAP'S WORLD REFUGEE DAY PROGRAM DETAILS!

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!

All pregnant people age 16+ (2005) are now eligible to book their vaccine –

Press release: [Pregnant people in B.C. can safely get COVID-19 vaccine | BC Gov News.](#)

Please note:

- They have to phone in — can't book online
- They have to self-identify
- No further questions will be asked or proof required either at the call centre or at the clinic

Immunize BC Project

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

[Premier, community leaders working together to get everyone registered | BC Gov News](#)

Premier John Horgan is reaching out to community leaders this week to enlist their help as B.C. calls on all eligible people to register for their COVID-19 vaccine through B.C.'s Get Vaccinated online system.

"We're expecting to get over one million doses of Pfizer in May and we need everyone in B.C. to register today so they're ready to receive their COVID-19 vaccine," said Premier Horgan. "Community leaders have played a critical role in spreading awareness about health guidelines and the vaccination roll out. With the influx of new vaccines, we once again will seek their guidance to make our program accessible and inform actions to better reach and register all British Columbians."

There have been a number of requests for communication assets to use. This email provides you with a "toolkit" for your use. Please let IMMUNIZE BC know if there is anything else that could be of use: lizette@umbrellastrategies.ca

As you know as BC's vaccine supply increases and the vaccine program ramps up, we are asking everyone to help spread the word to get all British Columbians 18+ registered for their COVID-19 vaccine. This includes those that have already received their dose 1 but are not registered (for example vaccinated through pharmacies, pre-central system etc.). We need everyone registered in the system so that they can either get their first dose if they have not already received it, or to get their second dose, at the appropriate time.

Attached is a pdf with topline messages and suggestions for how you can help get the message out.

(From MAP: PLEASE NOTE CLIENTS WITHOUT AN MSP # MUST CALL IN TO **1-833-838-2323** WHERE THEY WILL BE GIVEN A TEMPORARY PHN FOR VACCINATION PURPOSES. INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE – JUST SAY YOUR LANGUAGE)

Please share and use these three assets attached:

- (1) register now animation
- (2) 1 million+ doses coming to BC in May
- (3) How to Register *poster* (*this is a print asset).
- (4) Toolkit

News highlights:

Refugee claimant – related articles from Canada and around the world

May 5, 2021

Please see a list of interesting articles gathered by MAP from across Canada and globally ([PDF attached](#))

*Thanks to Journey Home Volunteer **Barry Growe** for his research and compilation*

- **Number of refugee children who say they need mental health support triples**
World Vision
- **Even in hot spots, newcomers to Canada are missing out on Covid-19 vaccines**
Toronto Star
- **Vaccine priority for racialized communities is based on data**
Hamilton Spectator
- **Government of Canada expanding processing capacity to expedite family reunion**
CIC News
- **Midwives in BC: Immigrant and Refugee Care**
Midwives Association of BC
- **Greater Vancouver Food Bank locations/dates in May**
Food banks of BC
- **‘Spread the love and light’: WILA winner inspires ripple effect for pandemic charity**
Toronto Star



IRB Announcement Annonce de la CISR

Dear stakeholders,

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) recognizes the importance of an effective complaints mechanism in supporting quality adjudication.

In this context, the IRB has published its [Annual Report on Complaints 2020](#) which provides information and analysis regarding complaints finalized in 2020.

During the reporting period of January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, the Office of Integrity received 12 complaints. This is within a context of 44,482 decisions rendered by 542 individual decision-makers. Included in the report are detailed case summaries of these complaints and information about how they are informing the broader functioning of the Board.

The *Annual Report on Complaints* is part of a suite of initiatives and processes introduced to help the IRB monitor, evaluate, and adjust its processes and procedures, strengthen accountability, and enhance the quality of adjudication. In 2020, because of these initiatives, we provided mandatory training for members on gender adjudication, we established a dedicated team for gender-related refugee claims, and we worked to update to the *Chairperson's Guideline 4: Women Refugee Claimants Fearing Gender-Related Persecution* and the *Chairperson's Guideline 9: Proceedings Before the IRB Involving Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE Guideline)*. Additionally, in 2020, the IRB created the Office of the Ombudsperson, which assumed responsibility for the functions previously under the Office of Integrity.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, in 2020, the IRB also commissioned a third-party research firm to evaluate its process for making a complaint about the conduct of a member. We look forward to sharing with you the results of the evaluation along with the Board's management action plan soon.

As in previous years, the Board will build on the results of the Annual Report on Complaints 2020 to ensure that our processes and procedures remain of the highest caliber. I look forward to your continued input as we move forward in ensuring the Board resolves immigration and refugee cases efficiently, fairly and in accordance with the law.

Richard Wex
Chairperson

world refugee day
2021

THE WORLD IS SHAPED BY TWO THINGS

stories told

AND THE MEMORIES THEY LEAVE BEHIND

MAP INFORMATION WORKING GROUP

Presents

‘Stories told and the Memories they leave behind’

Celebrating the talents and successes of refugees in our communities.

June 15 – June 20

- **June 15: Looking for home**

A roundtable discussion with refugee claimants, non-profit housing providers and settlement workers on providing a home to refugee claimants in BC.

- **June 17 at 7:00pm: Literary event with Vancouver Public Library**

In partnership with MAP – an evening with authors

- **June 18 12:00pm – 1:00pm: Stories told, and things left behind**

Join us at lunchtime to listen to three refugees from around the world share their journeys to Canada and what was left behind.

- **June 19 10:00am – 1:00pm: Story writing workshop with The Shoe Project**

Partnering with [The Shoe Project](#) MAP invites aspiring story writers who are also refugees or protected persons to join a writer’s workshop

- **June 19 7:00pm: World Premiere of *After Arrival***

In collaboration with MOSAIC and Victoria Coalition for the Survivors of Torture, see the screening of a heartening refugee arrival story.

- **June 20 2:00pm – 3:30pm: Concert of Music and Poetry**

a celebration of all the art and ideas, culture and beauty that refugees bring to our communities MAP invites you to attend a live concert of music and poetry.

[See more information here](#)

OUR PARTNERS



Registration information coming soon

Refreshed MyLawBC website walk-through

 May 12, 2021 |  3PM - 4PM PDT

MyLawBC is a website that provides free tools to identify, manage, and resolve legal issues in BC. Including: how to make a will, what to do if you're served with a court document, and making a parenting plan with the help of a mediator.

Webinars are free but space is limited. Click below to register:

[Register now!](#)

COVID-19 updates on immigration law

 May 20, 2021 |  10.30 AM - 12.30 PM PDT

Get the latest updates on immigration law by Deanna Okun-Nachoff, one of the most respected immigration lawyers in Canada.

Webinars are free but space is limited. Click below to register:

[Register now!](#)

Pathways for women with precarious status fleeing violence

 May 31, 2021 |  10:30 AM - 12:00 PM PDT

Women in abusive relationships who are also involved with immigration issues have a complex system to navigate. Come join Kamaljit Lehal as she talks about options and helps us be better positioned to help individuals navigate it and keep them safe.

Webinars are free but space is limited. Click below to register.

[Register now!](#)

**Excerpt from our Legal Aid BC newsletter
on training and new resources.**

**If you'd like to join our mailing list,
[please click here.](#)**

Survivor Advocate Capacity Building Program

Summer 2021

WHAT: An experiential-based learning program that bridges the personal and collective experience of social injustice with advocacy-informed skills building, and the capacity for social change. The program will focus on introducing participants to core advocacy skills, core advocacy themes, and opportunities to engage in advocacy work in the community.

WHEN: Summer 2021. Weekly for 10 Sessions. Starting June 2021 (exact date to be determined)

WHO: Offered by the Vancouver Association for the Survivors of Torture (VAST). Funded by the United Nations (UN), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Former clients of VAST (including anyone who has accessed groups or individual counselling sessions) who are Convention Refugees (CRs); Protected Persons (PPs); Government Assisted Refugees (GARs); Privately-Sponsored Refugees (PSRs); Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees (BVORs); Permanent Residents (PRs); or Citizens.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: The program will be delivered in English. Access to a stable internet connection. Access to Zoom (free virtual conferencing software). Brief interview to assess participant readiness. Upon completing the program participants will receive a joint certificate from VAST and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

NEXT STEPS: Those interested are invited to complete a brief (5 minute) application form at:
<https://forms.gle/Psfwf37ysacjM816A>

VAST | SUPPORTING
REFUGEE
MENTAL
HEALTH

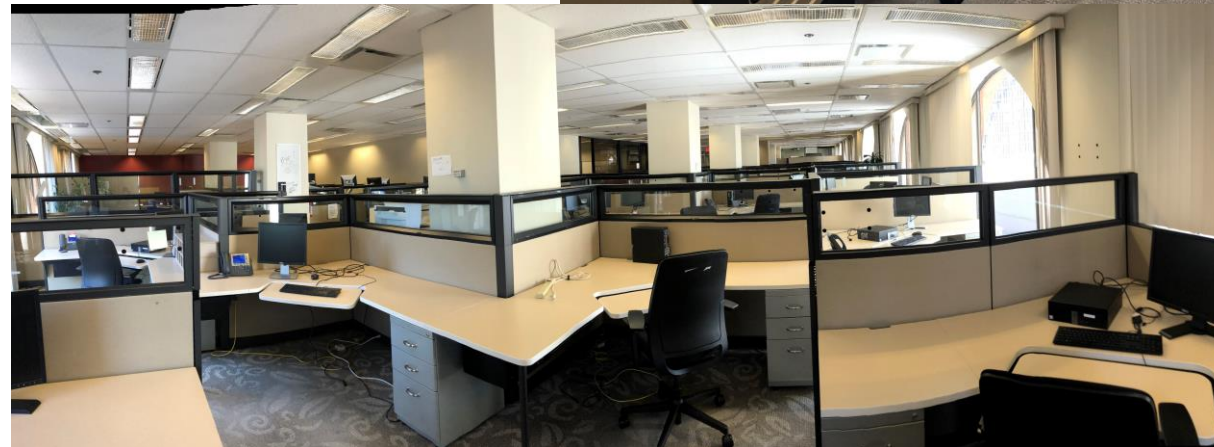


Poster also attached

Hello,
We have over 30 workstation setups available. No commitment on seats, but we may have some as well.
We need to remove it from site by May 24th and would really like to find a good/deserving home for it.
We also have a number of items from desks, to file cabinets, bookshelves, boardroom tables, etc.
Please let me know if you are interested
Thanks
Regards

Njeri (Jeri) Kontulahti BA MMCCU
Manager Community Investment
Community Business and Investment

Vancity
Tel: 604-709-5868 Cell: 604.347.7932 Njeri_Kontulahti@vancity.com





VOLUNTEERS WANTED

| DIGITAL SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS |
| COMMUNITY RESOURCE NAVIGATORS |
| GARDEN ASSISTANTS |

AND MORE.....



Frog Hollow
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
Creating Our Community Together

Our volunteers play a key role in building a community together at Frog Hollow. Even though there has been a drastic reduction of volunteer opportunities last year due to the pandemic, we are so grateful for those who have been side-by-side supporting us during these challenging times. We love and appreciate you all, our volunteers!

This Spring, we have [3 exciting volunteer opportunities](#) for you to consider. Whether it's supporting [isolated seniors in the Hastings-Sunrise area](#) or nurturing the [P'ipa:m Lelum Indigenous Garden](#), there is something for everyone to get involved with.

- **Digital Support Volunteers**

Are you patient and caring individuals with excellent computer savviness?

- **Garden Assistants**

Do you have a love for the natural world? Are you comfortable working in a garden and doing some physically demanding work?

- **Community Resource Navigators**

Are you a self-motivated, flexible, and organized individual with excellent communication skills?

[SIGN UP TODAY](#)

Hello BCSIS Service Providers:



AMSSA is coordinating 6 Virtual Information Sessions that will address the training and information needs of BCSIS service providers as they arise. They will take place between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. Sessions will connect service providers, especially those on the front lines, with timely guidance, knowledge, and expertise in response to the most current concerns during another year of changeable conditions.

Your input is essential in determining the topics and timing, to ensure that sessions are meaningful and relevant. Sessions can focus on any topic that is appropriate for all BCSIS service providers. The format is ideal for any process, policy or technical training that's relevant at a pinpoint in time. Topics could include government benefits, immigration matters, technology or mental health. **We invite you to your share ideas for session topics through a very short survey, which is open now at the below link.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/bcsis-info-sessions>

The survey will be quick to complete. **Please share any initial topic ideas by Monday, May 10, 2021.** The survey will remain open throughout the year, allowing you to share more suggestions as new training and information needs emerge. Feel free to share this message and the link with your colleagues. We truly appreciate your input and will contact you if we require any further information about your submission.

I would also like to introduce Rebecca Ferguson, AMSSA's new Provincial Integration Coordinator. Rebecca is working with me to provide supports for BCSIS service provider organizations. Moving forward, Rebecca will be the main point of contact for the Virtual Information Sessions.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rebecca rferguson@amssa.org.

Thanks very much,
Lori

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! **DEADLINE IS THIS WEEK! PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CLIENTS TO RESPOND.**

Thank you,

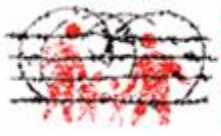
Imtiaz Popat

Program Assistant

Sehat Program | South Asian Health Institute

Fraser Health | Better Health. Best in health care.

www.fraserhealth.ca/sahi



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

CCR Webinars of interest to members:

You can still register to attend this webinar!

Free to the public: MEETING DETAILS – click image

When: May 11, 2021

11am Pacific

[Register here!](#)



Webinar

Challenging security
inadmissibility

11 May 2021

Virtual meeting

IRPA s. 91 and NGOs –
Townhall

13 May 2021



You can still register to attend this meeting!

MEETING DETAILS – members can find online at CCR

When: Tuesday 13 May 2021

11am Pacific

[Register here!](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CITY OF VANCOUVER

The posting for our Social Planner II - South Asian Apology and Cultural Redress is now broadcast live on the internal and external websites and will close on May 9, 2021.

Attached is a PDF of the posting, and below are the links to apply. Please feel free to share with your networks!

Internal Log-In: <https://hcm17.sapsf.com/sf/jobreq?jobId=28016&company=cityofvancP>

External Posting: <https://career17.sapsf.com/sfcareer/jobreqcareer?jobId=28016&company=cityofvancP>

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

INTERNAL / EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Vacancy Notice No. JO26739

Title of Post	Communications Officer	Category/grade	National Professional Officer (NPO), NOC
Post Number	10035349	Type of contract	Fixed-term appointment
Location	Ottawa	Date of Issue	29 April 2021
Effective date of assignment	ASAP	Closing Date	13 May 2021

Please see job details attached in PDF 'Operational Context'



Dear colleagues,

The [Your Rights in Research page](#) on the CCR website has been updated to include the following languages:

- English: <https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/ethical-considerations-en.pdf>
- French / français: <http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/rightsinresearch-final.formatted.fr .2018.02.21.pdf>
- Spanish / espanol: <https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/your rights in research - spanish.pdf>
- Somali: <https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/your rights in research - somali.pdf>
- Pashto: <https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/your rights in research - pashto.pdf>
- Swahili: <https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/your rights in research - swahili.pdf>
- Farsi: <https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/your rights in research-farsi.pdf>
- Dari <https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/your rights in research-dari-corrected.2021-04-29.pdf>

Hello, (2 pages)

equity@vancouver.ca

You are receiving this e-mail because you have expressed interest in the **City of Vancouver's Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress** work. There is no doubt that you have helped shape this work and that your continued support is important in moving forward. We will soon be starting to send quarterly e-newsletter updates on our work. To receive quarterly updates, we need your explicit consent to email you in accordance with anti-spam laws, please [sign up to receive this newsletter here](#). **If you do not sign up via our website then we will not be able to continue sending you updates.**

Anti-racism and cultural redress

We acknowledge the immense impact that racism has on all of us, especially Indigenous, Black, and other racialized colleagues, neighbours, friends, and family. Through both modest and comprehensive action, we are working to tackle racism and white supremacy within the City and Vancouver. This is an urgent priority. Our anti-racism and cultural redress work is being led by the Arts, Culture and Community Services Department through the Social Policy team, alongside and on behalf of Vancouver residents.

Senior Social Planner – Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress

In November, we recruited Jennifer Reddy (she/her) for the full time, permanent position of Senior Social Planner - Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress. Jennifer brings her experience in social policy, public education, policy, governance, public engagement, and youth work to the important goals of anti-racism and cultural redress in the City's work historically, presently and proactively for the future.

Jennifer's immediate work as the Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress Planner will focus on the City's role and response to ongoing and [systemic racism](#) and the current rise in racist incidents. While addressing the broader issues of hate and discrimination will continue to be a priority for the City, as the Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress Planner Jennifer's area of focus will be on the specific issues of racism as they are connected to ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, or class of persons.

This work continues to inform, reflect and address a range of City priorities including, but not limited to: the [City of Reconciliation](#) Framework, [Healthy City Strategy](#), [Equity Framework](#) and [Intersectionality Toolkit](#)

Black and African Diaspora Communities Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress Planner

We are in the process of hiring a full time, temporary Black and African Diaspora Communities Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress Planner



The Black and African Diaspora Communities Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress Planner will work with the Senior Social Planner – Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress to identify and activate the City's role in honouring and advancing specific recommendations provided by Black Canadians and people of African descent through resourced actions, initiatives, and advocacy.

Areas of focus

The City's anti-racism and cultural redress efforts respond to direction from Mayor and Council, and community recommendations and calls to action. Below is our current list of eight key areas of focus as we move forward with this work. By signing up for our quarterly newsletters, you can expect updates on these key areas as the work unfolds:

- o [Access without fear policy](#) and [implementation](#)
- o [Anti-Black racism response and redress](#)
- o Overall anti-racism strategy including anti-Indigenous and anti-Asian racism
- o Anti-racism policy development
- o [Combatting anti-Semitism](#) and Islamophobia in Vancouver
- o [COVID-19 anti-racism incident response](#)
- o [Historical discrimination against people of South Asian descent](#)
 - § Including, but not limited to [Punjabi Market regeneration](#) and Komagata Maru Apology
- o Public partners and communities working group on anti-racism

[Click here to view the June 2020 memo to Mayor and Council that summarizes the City's ongoing efforts, and specific next step actions, to address equity, inclusion, and anti-racism.](#)

Anti-racism resources

We have put together a preliminary list of resources to support you if you have experienced or witnessed a racist or hate incident as well as learning tools for your own anti-racism work. [Follow this link to view anti-racism resources, located towards the bottom of the page.](#)

We are humbled and called to action by the continuous efforts and action of the communities most impacted by systemic racism and thank members of Indigenous, Black and African diaspora, Asian, and other racialized communities for their time and labour providing recommendations and analysis to the City to shape this work and move it forward. If you want to continue to receive updates like this, don't forget [to click here to opt-in receive our Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress newsletter](#)

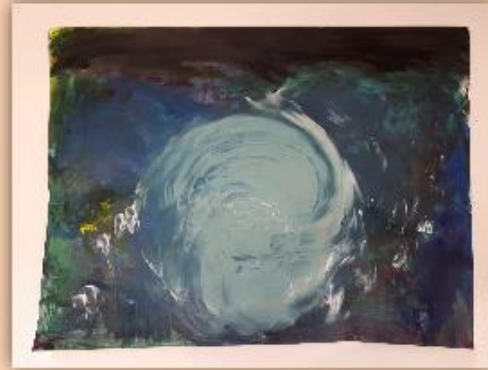
Sincerely,
Jennifer Reddy (she/her) | Senior Social Planner – Anti-Racism & Cultural Redress, Arts, Culture & Community Services (ACCS) | City of Vancouver





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

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.Somali – Thursday, May 6 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- 2.Tigrinya – Monday, May 10 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- 3.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



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

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>