



**MAP** Multi-Agency  
Partnership BC  
*Working Together for Refugee Claimants*

# MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 79

April 7, 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](mailto:info@mapbc.org)

## MAP NEWS

- **‘Preparing for a possible increase in refugee claimant arrivals to BC’** following the presentation on March 25 a survey was 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](mailto:richard@inasmuch.ca). See further notes below.
- **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](#)
- Following MAP's report and dialogue with provincial and federal government funds for refugee housing are available via a Call for Responses **CFR22-RCH02** [posted on BC Bid](#) Please see instructions and support in this bulletin.

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**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!

# News highlights:

## Refugee claimant-related articles from Canada and around the world

April 7, 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*

- **'It's a dream come true' as Covid-19 rollout expands to city's refugee homes**  
Toronto Star
- **More than a million migrants expected at US-Mexico border this year**  
The Guardian
- **Canada supports Rapid Housing in Ontario**  
Government news release
- **Canada supports Rapid Housing in BC**  
Government news release
- **Canada expands efforts to welcome more Yazidi refugees and other survivors of Daesh**  
IRC news release

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 by **Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup>** 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

## Canadian Refugee Law: Who does it protect?



With a special introduction by UBC student, **Astitwa**, this upcoming lecture features **Dr. Arbel** as guest speaker and **Amanda Aziz** as moderator. 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.

**Date:** Thursday, April 15, 2021

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

**Link:** <https://bit.ly/3rCCD07>



**Speaker:**

Dr. Efrat Arbel,  
Associate  
Professor,  
Peter A. Allard Law,  
University of British  
Columbia



**Moderator:**

Amanda Aziz,  
Immigration and  
Refugee Lawyer,  
Staff Lawyer with  
Migrant Workers'  
Centre



**REGISTER HERE**

“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.

## IMMUNIZE BC - Current Announcements

Please find below a summary for your use/dissemination as needed:

**Breaking news:** registration and bookings for people aged 70+ are opening up at noon today (Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April).

**April 6, 2021** - [Province shifts to Phase 3: millions to book vaccine appointments online | BC Gov News](#) – vaccines as now available for 71+; however 65+ can book on the newly launched online system

**April 5, 2021** - [Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates | BC Gov News](#) "As of 8 a.m. tomorrow, all people 71 years and older, Indigenous peoples 18 and older, and those who have received their 'clinically extremely vulnerable' letter in the mail may book their vaccine appointment online, by telephone through B.C.'s new provincial call-in centre or in-person at a Service BC location.

**April 3, 2021** - [Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates | BC Gov News](#) "In partnership with the BC Pharmacy Association, we plan to expand the AstraZeneca vaccine program outside of the Lower Mainland by the end of next week to more communities throughout the province, including Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Parksville, Prince George, Quesnel, Terrace, Vernon and Victoria. You can find a list of pharmacies that are participating here - [Initial COVID-19 Vaccines in Pharmacies | BC Pharmacy Association](#)

Immunize BC Project

Stay Informed: [gov.bc.ca/COVID](http://gov.bc.ca/COVID), [bccdc.ca](http://bccdc.ca), 1.88.COVID19

**Lizette M. Parsons Bell, ABC\***

604 788 4170 | [lizette@umbrellastrategies.ca](mailto:lizette@umbrellastrategies.ca)

2 pages (previously  
circulated)



Dear stakeholders,

I am pleased to inform you that a newly revised version of [Chairperson's Guideline 2: Detention](#) has been published and comes into effect today. (April 1, 2021)

In early 2020, as committed to when the revised Guideline was initially launched, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) began consultations on the Guideline's implementation. This consultation sought feedback in order to assess whether the intended objectives of the Guideline were being achieved in practice, identify any unanticipated impacts on the conduct of detention reviews, and seek feedback regarding areas for improvement.

In this context, the IRB undertook consultations with stakeholders, immigration portfolio organizations, and Immigration Division (ID) members, which garnered a great deal of comments and proved useful to our review. The thoughtful advice, diverse perspectives, and valuable recommendations gathered through this consultative process were helpful in further strengthening the Guideline and supporting the IRB in its objective of sustaining and improving the quality of adjudication. Thank you.

Importantly, parallel to substantive internal and external consultations, the IRB was guided in its revisions of Guideline 2 by the Federal Court of Appeal's (FCA) dicta in its decision last August in *Brown*. In its decision in *Brown*, the FCA upheld the constitutionality of Canada's immigration detention review scheme as found in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA). It also set out the defining characteristics of a detention review conducted by the ID to ensure compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Charter).

As a result of the FCA decision in *Brown* and the feedback received through our consultations, the IRB has revised the Guideline in the following ways:

- Clarify that there must be a nexus to an immigration purpose for detention to continue.
- Reinforce the Division's obligation to consider sections 7, 9 and 12 of the Charter in exercising its discretion concerning whether or not detention is warranted.
- Confirm that consideration of conditions of detention is an extension of the ID's Charter jurisdiction.
- Reinforce that the Minister has the legal burden to establish that detention is lawfully justified and remains on the Minister throughout the detainee's period of detention.



- Reinforce that the Division must decide afresh whether continued detention is warranted at each detention review.
- Recognize that there is no obligation on the person concerned to lead fresh evidence between detention reviews for the ID to reach a different result.
- Clarify that the Minister must disclose all relevant information in advance of the hearing and in a timely manner.
- Clarify that the potential for self-harm should not be a basis for a finding that the person concerned constitutes a danger to the public.
- Adjust the Guideline's section on minors to reflect the codification of best interest of the child considerations in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations.
- Outline considerations to be taken into account when determining whether a person concerned is unable to appreciate the nature of the proceedings.
- Clarify that a detention review should generally be concluded on the same day that it begins.

I am confident that through this revised Guideline, Members of the ID have the tools and guidance necessary to support them in carrying out detention reviews fairly and consistently.

Richard Wex  
Chairperson



# Practical Interview Tips for Newcomers

Free  
webinar



**Tuesday, April 13th | 2:00pm - 3:30pm**  
**Online Webinar**

Take away practical interview tips to impress Canadian employers and hiring managers at your next interview.

Topics include: How to do your research and prepare for interviews beforehand, tips for during the interview, and following up with the employer afterwards.

**Registration:** <http://bit.ly/BCSISRF>

For general inquiries: 236-333-8101 / [bcsis@success.bc.ca](mailto:bcsis@success.bc.ca)



*This event is hosted by S.U.C.C.E.S.S BC Settlement and Integration Services. This event is suitable for post-secondary international students, temporary foreign workers who hold a valid work-permit, PNP nominees, refugee claimants and naturalized citizens.*



Posters attached  
also

## BC TENANT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



**Thursday, April 22**  
**2pm-3:30pm**  
**Online Workshop**

Do you have questions about the rules around renting in BC? A speaker from the Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre will share crucial information about the rights and obligations tenants have under the Law.

**Topics include:**  
How to protect yourself  
Your Rights and Responsibilities  
Security Deposits  
Illegal Entry  
Repairs & Evictions

**Register here:** <http://bit.ly/BCSISRF>

[bcsis@success.bc.ca](mailto:bcsis@success.bc.ca) | [www.successbcsis.com/events](http://www.successbcsis.com/events)



*S.U.C.C.E.S.S BC Settlement and Integration Services supports international students, foreign workers, PNP nominees, refugee claimants and naturalized citizens.*

# English Conversation Groups



Poster attached

Practice and improve your English conversation in a supportive setting. Learn common vocabulary and phrases used at work and in everyday life. *Registrants are encouraged to attend all 6 sessions.*

**Dates:** Tuesdays: May 18, 25; June 1, 8, 15, 22

**Registration:** <http://bit.ly/BCSISRF>

236-808-2323 | 604-900-3532 | [bcsis@success.bc.ca](mailto:bcsis@success.bc.ca)  
[www.successbcsis.com/events](http://www.successbcsis.com/events)

*Suitable for foreign workers, PNP nominees, refugee claimants and naturalized citizens.*

Dear Community Partner,

In December, we promised some big news, which we're excited to share with you now:

as **Surrey and North Delta** work towards becoming a community of [Primary Care Networks \(PCNs\)](#), we are actively engaging with members of our community at all levels, from the Fraser Health Authority, to family physicians, to individuals to community organizations like yours.



We recognize that in order to create a truly holistic, full-spectrum health care system, **we need to work with organizations like yours** to address the many concerns facing our community members that primary care alone cannot solve.

We also acknowledge the **vital role community organizations play in helping their clients to navigate the health care system** - especially those clients who may feel unsafe in traditional health care institutions such as hospitals and doctors' offices.

For this reason, **we are inviting you to join us** in planning and building our PCN, to partner with us in assessing the needs in our community and working towards meaningful solutions.

### **What Will This Partnership Look Like?**

- We have already begun to [reach out to community organizations](#) for input into our PCN planning. But this is just the first step.
- We are committed to keeping you informed about health care updates in our community, and about our progress with PCN planning, through regular email updates like this one.
- We welcome and will occasionally solicit your feedback regarding the PCN planning. We hope you will take this opportunity to help us understand your clients' needs.
- We envision this partnership as a two-way dialogue between our organization and yours - please reach out at any time with your questions, concerns or suggestions.

We are looking forward to deepening our relationship with your organization and learning from you as we move forward.

Below, you'll find some information about an upcoming information session, as well as helpful resources to share with your clients regarding the COVID-19 vaccination.

**Jody Friesen,**  
**PCN Director, SND Division of Family Practice**  
**[jfriesen@divisionsbc.ca](mailto:jfriesen@divisionsbc.ca)**  
**778 387-6009**

MAP (Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin April 7, 2021



**2 pages**

Join Us: Surrey-North Delta PCN and the Community Moving Forward

**Date: Wednesday, April 7**

**Time: 5:00pm to 8:00pm**

*Do you want to know more about what the PCN is, how it might impact your clients, and what we have heard so far from the community partners who have shared with us?*

*This online session will bring together community, family physician and Fraser Health leaders to discuss the issues that were uncovered during our initial discovery phase.*

*Join us to learn more, and to find out how to become more involved in PCN planning in Surrey-North Delta.*

### **COVID-19 Vaccination: Helpful Resources**

Are you or your clients uncertain about the COVID-19 vaccine or unsure about how to book an appointment?

We've created a webpage with trustworthy information about the COVID-19 vaccine, including:

- who is eligible
- how to book an appointment
- additional information for Indigenous individuals
- links to information in multiple languages

The page also includes a [helpful fact sheet](#) and a [printable poster](#) that can be displayed in your office.

**[View COVID-19 Webpage](#)**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Dear MAP Members and Stakeholders,

Please be advised that a Call for Responses **CFR22-RCH02** has been [posted on BC Bid](#) outlining how to submit a response for the approximately 4.8M Refugee Claimant Housing Fund.

Questions concerning this procurement will be collected and responses posted publicly on BC Bid. Please see the CFR for more information on how to submit an enquiry. We encourage you to review the call documents and submit questions early to assist your preparation of a response. **All questions should be submitted to [PROCECON@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PROCECON@gov.bc.ca)**

To find the CFR on [BC Bid](#) go to [this link](#) or:

1. Browse for the opportunity under the organization “Ministry of Municipal Affairs” and click on the link.
2. Go to the folder “Supplier Attachments Exist” to download the documents.

For more information and resources on participating in a procurement process, please see the resources at [this link](#).

Thank you,

Immigrant Integration Unit  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs



- **Storytelling as Research: Unsettling the Cultural Politics of Diversity through Filmmaking**  
**Wednesday April 7 – Friday April 9**

This roundtable event is part of the Storytelling as Research: Unsettling the Cultural Politics of Diversity through Filmmaking program. All content will be available upon registration. Please note that all Webinars will be open to the public. However, active participation in the talking circle discussions of Webinars 1, 3, and 4 will be by invitation only. Please go to the [full program](#) for further information. If you would like to learn more, contact organizers [Erin Goheen Glanville](#) and [Markus Hallensleben](#).

- **Other Europes in Moments of Post-Otherness - Thursday, April 8**

Speaker: Dr. Regina Römhild (Professor, Institute for European Ethnography, Humboldt University of Berlin)

Moderator: Dr. Markus Hallensleben (Associate Professor, Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies, UBC)

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

Organizers/Sponsors: The UBC Centre for Migration Studies, UBC Institute for European Studies and UBC Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies (CENES). This event is part of the Storytelling as Research roundtable above. [RSVP Link](#)

- **How does the subaltern speak? A critical humanist response for the times of migrant hypermediation - Tuesday, April 13**

**Speaker:** Dr. Myria Georgiou (Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science)

**Time:** 9:00 AM (PDT)

**Organizer/Sponsor:** The UBC Centre for Migration Studies. This event is part of the New Media Aesthetics of Migration workshop organized by Dr. Elizabeth "Biz" Nijdam.

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



- **Face and the ethics of the refugee selfie** - *Wednesday, April 14*

**Speaker:** Dr. Lilie Chouliaraki (Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science)

**Time:** 9:00 AM (PDT)

**Organizer/Sponsor:** The UBC Centre for Migration Studies. This event is part of the New Media Aesthetics of Migration workshop organized by Dr. Elizabeth "Biz" Nijdam.

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

- **Between Loss and Recovery: Cross-Confessional Health Culture in Ottoman Bosnia** - *Wednesday, April 14*

**Speaker:** Dr. Amila Buturovic (Professor at the Department of Humanities, University of York)

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PDT)

**Organizers/Sponsors:** The UBC Interdisciplinary Histories Research Cluster, UBC Centre for Migration Studies, UBC Institute for European Studies and UBC Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies (CENES)

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

- **Canadian Refugee Law - Who does it Protect?** - *Thursday, April 15*

**Speaker:** Dr. Efrat Arbel (Associate Professor at the Peter Allard School of Law, UBC)

**Moderator:** Amanda Aziz, Refugee Lawyer

**Time:** 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (PDT)

**Organizers/Sponsors:** Multi-Agency Partnership BC (MAP) and the UBC Centre for Migration Studies

**RSVP Link:** Please register [here](#). For more information please visit MAP's website [here](#).

More Migration events will be posted in next week on this bulletin



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés  
Canadian Council for Refugees

For CCR Members only

CCR will be holding a virtual meeting on issues for refugee claimants on **Tuesday 4 May** - one of our regular quarterly meetings.

### **Virtual meeting on refugee claimants**

**When:** Tuesday 4 May 2021 11am Pacific

The meeting will last 60 minutes.

Register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJltf-uhqjMuGN0KhEuxhBAd4AEUZjjdwV9T>

Janet Dench



Hi Everyone,



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

Canada

Thank you again for your assistance in sharing our [Making a Refugee Claim in Canada](#) survey!

To allow for more responses, our team will be extending the duration of this survey to **Friday, April 16**. We wanted to ask if you could kindly remind your networks to complete the form before then, please?

Here are the links to the survey again, in English and 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>

We appreciate your continued support with this initiative!

Take care!

**Sabrina Gill**

Communications and Public Outreach Intern

she/her | [gill@unhcr.org](mailto:gill@unhcr.org)



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

## 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](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

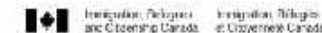
Email: [taxclinic@mosaicbc.org](mailto:taxclinic@mosaicbc.org)

Phone: 604 254 9626

**Language Support available upon request**



WelcomeBC



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](mailto:christina.parker@uwaterloo.ca)      George Melnyk [gmelnik@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](https://rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/Immigration%20PB_EN.pdf)

Also attached