



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 90

June 30, 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. 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

- **Search for a new MAP Co-chair**

With the sad news that Richard Belcham is leaving Canada to return to England MAP needs to find a new co-chair in time for Fall activities. Do you see yourself in that role? An opportunity to promote collaboration, speak to government on MAP's behalf, learn more about the refugee claimant serving sector and the issues. Please send your nominations to info@mapbc.org before the deadline of midnight, Tuesday July 13 to be considered. Do contact Richard or Jenny for more information about the role and helping our sector.

- **Does your agency want to be 'Agency of the Month' on MAP's website?**

MAP regularly features a member agency as 'Agency of the Month' on its website. The objective is to provide more detail about an agency for fellow members and the public. We have a standard set of interview questions and just require a little of your spokesperson's time plus 3-4 photos to make it live. You can see the current focus on South Vancouver Neighbourhood House [here](#). If you are interested, please contact Jenny at info@mapbc.org and we will get you on the schedule.

- **Bulletins over the summer months**

We hope that all of you will be taking some time off over the summer! MAP too! We will be reducing the bulletins to twice a month so please send in your submissions ready for publishing in July on: July 14, July 28. August dates will be shared once they are known! Hope your summers are healthy, peaceful, and not too hot!!

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

June 30, 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*

- **When refugees come knocking on our door, Canada can't turn a blind eye**
Ottawa Citizen
- **Canada to admit 45,000 refugees this year, speed permanent residency applications**
CBC News
- **Abusive conditions in Canada's immigration detention system: Amnesty**
Canadian Press
- **South Africa: 'Why I can't leave': refugee women stuck in abusive situations**
Daily Maverick
- **StatsCan: Immigrants at higher risk of death from Covid-19 due to work, overcrowded housing**
CTV
- **Fear, guilt, trauma and resilience: newly launched Story Bank of Canada shares stories by those who have sought protection in Canada**
Toronto Star
- **UN: Millions driven from their homes in 2020 despite Covid**
CTV
- **Smartphones helping Edmonton refugee seniors access Covid info**
Edmonton Journal



Dear stakeholders,

We have been informed by some stakeholders that they would welcome additional time to provide feedback on the IRB's review of *Chairperson's Guideline 4 on Gender Considerations in Proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board* ("Guideline 4" or "the Guideline").

Accordingly, please be advised that the **deadline has been extended to Friday, July 9th, 2021.**

We are hopeful that this extra week will allow you to provide us with fulsome comments and are looking forward to receiving your valued input.

Thank you,

Outreach and Engagement Team
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Engagement@irb-cisr.gc.ca

The 2 documents quoted above are attached

OPTIONS COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Please let your clients know about an online session for claimants TODAY on 'How to grow your career in the banking industry' on June 30 at 6:30pm.

Poster attached

options COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRIORITY GIVEN TO REFUGEE CLAIMANT

HOW TO GROW YOUR CAREER IN THE BANKING SECTOR?

HEAR FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS ABOUT EMPLOYER EXPECTATIONS AND HAVING A SUCCESSFUL MINDSET

RBC Royal Bank

JOIN OUR WEBINAR TO LEARN ABOUT:

- ♦ The mindset and attitude required for success
- ♦ How to stand out and be unforgettable
- ♦ What is expected to secure employment in the financial services industry
- ♦ The experiences of a newcomer who gained employment as a Banking Advisor
- ♦ How he prepared for and during his job search process
- ♦ What obstacles he overcame and how he overcame them

GUEST SPEAKERS
Solomon Iwegim
Banking Advisor
RBC Royal Bank

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Salveen Kaur
Call: 604.809.7618
salveen.kaur@options.bc.ca

INFORMATION SESSION
WEDNESDAY
JUNE 30, 2021
6:30PM
ZOOM LINK
<https://bit.ly/3wDVH1G>
Visit the Link to Register

ISSofBC announces appointment of new CEO

After a nationwide recruitment process, ISSofBC's Board of Directors is pleased to announce **Jonathan Oldman** as new Chief Executive Officer following the retirement of outgoing CEO, **Patricia Woroch**.

"CEO leadership transition is a critical moment for any organization, not least one that has had such stability and success in leadership," said Board President **Jack Wong**. "I know Jonathan will work hand-in-hand with the communities we serve, our staff, volunteers, funders and sector partners to continue to help immigrants and refugees build a strong and vibrant future in this country," he added.

Jonathan has over 20-years senior leadership experience in BC's not-for-profit sector, working with a range of organizations and systems serving populations including the homeless, individuals with mental health and addiction challenges, seniors, and those at end-of-life. Jonathan was formerly Executive Director of The Bloom Group, one of the largest community organizations in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. In the last two years he has been working in a variety of roles in the cancer care sector, including with the Canadian Cancer Society.

"I have spent my entire career working to strengthen communities and support systems. I'm humbled and proud to continue this journey with ISSofBC and look forward to building on the incredible success Patricia and the ISSofBC team have achieved to date," said Jonathan.

"As we continue to address the impact of COVID-19 and other critical challenges facing our society and country, I particularly want to make a strong commitment to furthering our diversity, equity, and inclusion as an organization, our broad work to promote social justice, and our support of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. This work will be a key priority for me."

As CEO, Jonathan will support leadership of all ISSofBC's operations including Settlement, LINC, Career Services and the fee-for-service Language and Career College. These programs are delivered by 400 staff and serve close to 20,000 immigrant and refugee clients annually in 14 offices in Metro Vancouver, Squamish and Northern BC.

Jonathan begins his new appointment on September 8, 2021.



Board President Jack Wong (left), sits with newly appointed CEO Jonathan Oldman at ISSofBC Welcome Centre.

From BIPT:

It is important to increase our understanding and supports to the LGBTQ2S+ community. As **Burnaby Pride** online celebration approaches (July 23 and July 24). We are offering sessions to learn about the history of Queer and Trans in Canada, and in BC.

Both events require registration so please use the links in the poster (**attached also**).

1. Queer + Trans History in Canada
July 6, 2021 at 5:30 pm
2. Queer + Trans History in BC
July 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Queer + Trans History in Canada and BC

Join us for a two part workshop that will take you through the highlights of Canada's history. We will journey from the 1950s, when homosexuality was considered to be a "curable illness" to today.

JULY 6TH 530PM

Part 1: Queer+Trans History in Canada

Did you know that Quebec was the 2nd place in the world to provide human rights protections? We will see just how far our laws and media have come in regards to 2SLGBTQIA+ consideration.

Registration Required: <https://tinyurl.com/ynxn8jwx>

JULY 13TH 530PM

Part 2: Queer+Trans History in BC

Explore some of British Columbia's milestone moments in 2SLGBTQIA+ history. Cover the many firsts in British Columbia, including the first gay rights protest, first dyke march, and the first Pride house in the Olympic Games. Learn about the people and organizations that fought for, and secured, the rights, freedoms, and protections we currently hold.

Registration Required: <https://tinyurl.com/3f2pduj5>

HONOURS & AWARDS



**The call for nominations is open for the
Province's Medal of Good Citizenship.
Nominate someone today!**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen incredible contributions from citizens across this province. This year the B.C. Medal of Good Citizenship will recognize people who have gone above and beyond to offer help and kindness to others during the COVID-19 pandemic without expectation of reward.

Please nominate people you feel meet the criteria and forward this information to others in your organization and/or community. You can also download or share a promotional poster by clicking [here](#).

To be considered for this year, nominations must be received by **September 19, 2021** and must have a **COVID-19 response focus**. Nomination forms and the details regarding the criteria are available [online](#).

Thank you in advance for your consideration in nominating exceptional citizens, students, community members and volunteers in your community.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Honours and Awards Secretariat at 778-974-6259 or bchonoursandawards@gov.bc.ca.

**Click here
to nominate
someone now!**

**MEDAL
of GOOD
CITIZENSHIP**



Dignidad Migrante Society

Announces its postcard campaign to demand rights for Temporary Foreign Workers from the Federal and Provincial government

I am **attaching the letter** that we sent to PM Trudeau and to Premier Horgan. If an organization wants to send a postcard please contact us to send them the card, and afterwards we will collect it and send to the authorities. I am attaching samples of the postcards that we have in order for people to request what kind of card they want.

Raul Gautica

imfarmworker@gmail.com

778-683-3419 || 778-791-3419 || 604-754-3419 || 778-536-3419

dignidadmigrantesociety.org

Vancouver, BC, June 20, 2021



Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

As you may know, Dignidad Migrante Society (DIGNIDAD) is the only organization across Canada led and run by Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW), mainly farm workers from Mexico, Guatemala, Caribbean Island and other Latin American countries, that since 2006 have been fighting for better working and living conditions.

In 2020 we bravely continued to labour in Canadian fields, homes, factories, and construction projects during the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic while we suffered from routine workplace abuses and from crowded and unsanitary living conditions that are a direct consequence of the discriminatory laws governing our employment.

On this Father's Day, the vast majority of us will spend this day away from our loved ones while providing essential services to Canadians. Meanwhile, we continue to endure terrible living and working conditions that pose significant risks to our health, similar to the conditions that we experienced 50 years ago. To end this suffering for hundreds of thousands of us, who you have called essential to the Canadian economy, we urge you to adopt the following measures:

Open Work Permits

All temporary foreign workers should be employed on Open Work Permits, permitting us to leave behind abusive, unsanitary, or dangerous work environments and living arrangements. The current system to get Open Work Permits for vulnerable workers (OWP-VW), is not enough to stop us experiencing abuse. That system gives an unconscionable degree of discretion to government authorities, who may decide to withhold Open Work Permits or to grant us only for brief periods of time. TFW – we usually don't speak French or English and we are not always literate – should not have to struggle with bureaucratic red tape in order to flee from situations of mistreatment, such as the sexual abuse that our female Guatemalan members suffered in 2018 in Golden Eagle Farm. The current system is inherently unjust and discriminatory. By tying us to specific employers, it creates relationships of extreme vulnerability and dependence that incentivizes abuse and rule-breaking on the part of employers. The lack of an Open Work Permit, furthermore, means that many of the regulations designed to protect us from egregious abuses exist only on paper. So we propose that any worker



Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Trudeau,

We have our families, our homes, and our lives every year, we come to Canada to work in the Canadian economy. Farm workers services have been deemed "essential". However, after many years of our presence in this country, we continue to face discrimination, harassment, and unsafe working conditions.

This Father's Day we ask you to put ourselves in our shoes. After working many years in Canada, the majority of us will never have a chance to spend this day with our families.

Would that discipline as "essential" should be accompanied by concrete actions to better the lives and conditions of workers.

Sincerely,

Name: _____ Signature: _____
 (Please print name and sign over the line)

Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2



Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia

Dear Mr. Horgan,

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Sincerely,

Name: _____ Signature: _____
 (Please print name and sign over the line)

Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
P.O. Box 9041 St. Prov. Govt.,
Victoria, B.C. V8N 9E1



Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

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Sincerely,

Name: _____ Signature: _____
 (Please print name and sign over the line)

Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A2

These and others attached also



REPEATS

The **US-Canada Cross-Border Network** has written a short text explaining the current conditions on the US-Canada border, along with links for more information.

If your organization is near the border or receives inquiries from people in the US, we would encourage you to put a notice on your website (using our suggested text or similar) to inform people about the current conditions at the border.

TEXT BELOW – please email if you would like it as an attachment to kathryn.dennler@gmail.com Kathryn

This information is valid as of June 23rd, 2021

The U.S. and Canadian governments are making changes to rules at the border, and more people are allowed to enter Canada. **However, at this time, the US-Canada border remains closed for most asylum seekers - this includes official ports of entry and unofficial crossings such as Roxham Road in Champlain, NY.** If you wish to travel to Canada to apply for asylum, you should talk to a qualified Canadian refugee lawyer or support organization first.

If you attempt to cross the border and are not eligible to cross, you will be directed back by Canadian authorities, and there is a real risk that you will be detained and placed in removal proceedings by U.S. authorities.

People who can prove they meet an exception to the Safe Third Country Agreement will be permitted to enter at official ports of entry. If you think you might be eligible under the Safe Third Country Agreement, **you should still seek legal advice before going to an official port of entry.**

For up-to-date information about conditions at the border and who can enter Canada:

Bridges not Borders/ Créons des ponts - <http://www.bridgesnotborders.ca/info-1.html>

UNHCR Canada - <https://www.unhcr.ca/in-canada/making-refugee-claim/>

New York Office for New Americans - 1-800-566-7636

Information and resources for asylum seekers:

About the refugee process in Canada - <https://www.unhcr.ca/in-canada/making-refugee-claim/>

Exceptions to the Safe Third Country Agreement - <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/refugee-protection/canada/processing-claims-protection-safe-third-country-agreement.html>

Settlement & Integration Program

Burnaby Neighbourhood House located on the traditional unceded territories of Coast Salish Nations

TEA PARTY FOR ARAB WOMEN

**EVERY THURSDAY
11:30 AM -12:30 PM**

- Learn about the migration/settlement-related issues, challenges and support systems
- Connect with your community
- Meet new friends while enjoying your tea.

- تعرفي على القضايا المتعلقة بالهجرة / الاستيطان والتحديات وأنظمة الدعم.
- تواصل مع مجتمعك.
- التقى بأصدقاء جدد مع استمتاعك بكوب شاي.

تجمع للمجتمع العربي عبر الزوم

Virtual gatherings in Arabic language

For registration, please email Siham at:

sihamaa@burnabynh.ca
PHONE: 236-877-2517

WWW.BURNABYNH.CA

The Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a Charitable Non-Profit Organization. We are a volunteer driven community-funded agency with a unique focus on Neighbours supporting Neighbours.



Hope you are well. FYI and help with sharing through your contact networks, attached please find a poster about **Newcomer Women's Conversations in Arabic**.

For more details, please contact Siham, our Settlement Case Manager for Arab communities at sihamaa@burnabynh.ca

Poster attached



BC Newcomer Camp is open for registration!

2 attachments!

The camp is open to children from refugee claimant backgrounds.

We are excited to be recruiting our 2021 cohort of children (from refugee backgrounds) for our BC Newcomer Camp this summer.

We are holding sessions in-person in Vancouver and Surrey. Sessions begin July 5th - August 27th.

The camp is free for all children.

All of the information is attached, along with the application form.

Complete application forms can be sent to: info@bcnewcomercamp.org

Free summer camp for those in the Sunset area of East Vancouver.

Registration

Link: SherbrookeMennonite.org/SummerBridge/

Questions? Contact:

Kevin Barkowsky, Pastor
Sherbrooke Mennonite Church
250-863-5987

POSTER ATTACHED

MCC
SUMMER BRIDGE
Kids Day Camp
For Kids Ages 4-13

Afternoons
1 - 4 pm

3 weeks to choose:

- July 12-16
- July 26-30
- Aug 9-13



Fun Times



Crafts



Bible Stories



Games

Cost: Free of Charge Location:
Sherbrooke Mennonite Church
7155 Sherbrooke St.
Vancouver BC

Limited spaces available.

Register online at SherbrookeMennonite.org/SummerBridge/
All COVID protocols will be in place. Please do not bring your child if they are exhibiting any COVID symptoms.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Journey Home Community: (2 PAGES)

We're hiring three key positions

Please take a look at these job descriptions, and if you or someone you know might be interested in these positions, please apply and feel free to share widely within your network.

1. Settlement Supervisor (perm. full-time: 40 hrs/week)

[download the full position description \(PDF file\)](#)

This permanent full-time position will provide an exciting and challenging opportunity for an individual interested in providing oversight of Journey Home's housing and settlement program, supervision of a small settlement team, and engaging with volunteers and sector partners.

Mandate: Provide leadership, support, and training for the Settlement Team, oversee/manage the organization's transitional housing spaces, and provide coaching and mentorship for Communities of Welcome partners.

Position to commence as soon as a suitable candidate is found. Please send a resume and cover letter as soon as possible to employment@journeyhomecommunity.ca. Be sure to reference the position title in the email subject line.

2. Volunteer and Event Supervisor (perm. full-time: 35 hrs/week)

[download the full position description \(PDF file\)](#)

This permanent full-time position will provide an exciting and challenging opportunity for an individual interested in building excitement and inspiring others to support Journey Home Community through volunteerism and by participation with us in organizational events. 

Journey Home positions contd.

Mandate: Oversee and supervise all aspects of Journey Home Community's volunteer program AND plan and coordinate development events and key social gatherings.

Position to commence as soon as a suitable candidate is found. Please send a resume and cover letter as soon as possible to employment@journeyhomecommunity.ca. Be sure to reference the position title in the email subject line.

3. Meanwhile Spaces Supervisor (contract: 37.5 hrs/week)

[*download the full position description \(PDF file\)*](#)

Meanwhile Spaces are vacant buildings, homes, or housing units that are awaiting demolition for the purpose of redevelopment. Relationships will be formed with the owners/property managers/developers and prior to demolition, these units will be repurposed - in the "meanwhile" - to provide housing for vulnerable, homeless refugee claimant individuals/families.

This contract position is perfect for an entrepreneurial individual interested in exploring this new initiative and innovative approach to solve a challenging homelessness problem in Metro Vancouver. An extension of this contract is dependent on further funding and revenue leading to sustainability.

Mandate: Locate and utilize Metro Vancouver's empty buildings to provide transitional housing for refugee claimants facing homelessness. Position to commence on August 1, 2021. The position remains open and applications will be received until a suitable candidate is found and the posting is removed. Interviewing will commence with qualified candidates as they emerge.

Please send a resume and cover letter as soon as possible to employment@journeyhomecommunity.ca. Be sure to reference the position title in the email subject line.

Brad Kinnie - Executive Director

Journey Home Community: www.journeyhomecommunity.ca

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

UMBRELLA MULTICULTURAL HEALTH CO-OP

See attached PDF's for all positions



Umbrella Multicultural
Health Co-op

- Part time **Physiotherapist** position
- **Nurse Practitioner** (updated posting)
- **Mobile Clinic Medical Office Assistant** (temporary)
- **Clinics+ Medical Office Assistant** (temporary).

PeaceGeeks – 3 Question Survey on Settlement



Dear PeaceGeeks Community Members:

What are your thoughts on priorities for Canada's Settlement Sector?

Settlement 3.0 is a project which asks how we can empower newcomers to be agents in their own settlement journey and build the overall capacity of the sector to embrace technology, innovation, and collaborative processes.

PeaceGeeks led a national team of researchers conducted key informant interviews and focus group consultations across Canada. The project's research produced the following **six high-level recommendations**. We want to know which of these recommendations you think are most important and why, so we are asking for a few minutes of your input.

Take the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TSKXXM7>

As we'd like to hear from newcomers, people working in the sector, and funders, please share this survey with your networks. We'll be sure to share the report when it's published in the coming weeks. Thanks for your time!

Alysha Baratta, *Community Engagement (she/her/hers)*

p. (Canada) 604.349.5221

e. alysha@peacegeeks.org



Your provincial government has the power to give all doctors an **#EqualChance**

Implement **equity-based changes** and **democratize access to residency positions.**

Let's stop the discrimination.
Everyone deserves an equal chance.



Dear MAP

We are pushing forward to get internationally trained doctors to work in their profession in Canada.

Thanks to your support, we're continuing to gain momentum and attention to the fact that 70% of Canadians feel that they need more doctors in their communities, and we have the solution waiting on the sidelines.

Change requires **consistent passionate advocacy**, and we're grateful that you share this desire for change. Please take a moment to learn more about the challenges doctors are facing:

[Learn about Vahid's story](#)

- [Read our Media Release](#)
- [Watch the story of Wegdan](#)
- [SpiceRadio Interview](#)

Please consider making a gift to the campaign, as little as \$5 allows us to advocate for equity for internationally trained doctors. [Click here to help.](#)

Our community is growing: Alberta International Medical Graduates Association, The Canadian Arab Institute, IMG Career Counselling, Immigrant Services Calgary and Windmill Microlending have joined as Community Partners.

If you are an internationally trained medical doctor navigating the process to practice in Canada, we want to hear from you. Contact us at advocacy@inclusion.ca

Thank you from all us, #EqualChance Team at The Institute for Canadian Citizenship





Refugee Research Network

RRN Research Digest – June 17, 2021

[Read digest on RRN Website](#)

The RRN digest is issued bi-weekly to highlight the latest academic and non-academic resources on Refugees and forced migrants. We encourage readers to [email us](#) any articles, reports, or research related to refugee/forced migration studies to be considered in the forthcoming editions. Open-access versions are always a preference. This will be the last issue before we break for the summer. Please continue to share with us your work, especially if open access. We hope you have a wonderful summer and see you back in the Fall.