



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

# MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 94

August 25, 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](mailto:info@mapbc.org).

## MAP NEWS

**This week we have a number of separate, but important, official announcements. Please look inside for information on:**

- **CBSA PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO THOSE TURNED BACK AT THE BORDER DURING THE PANDEMIC**
- **IRCC addresses delays in processing claimant applications and provides a list of 'best practices'**
- **AFGHANISTAN CRISIS**
  - IRCC website links
  - IRB fast tracks Afghan refugee claims
  - UNHCR resources
  - **Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) Information Update**

Information about the response to the situation in Afghanistan changes rapidly and should always be checked for source and authenticity. MAP will send out information as it arrives knowing that many MAP members are very engaged with this tragedy.

- **LOCAL ASSISTANCE TO AFGHAN FAMILIES**  
**And on the brighter side there is an outpouring of local assistance – see inside for a Vancity/Neighbourhood House initiative**  
**Please let us know if you hear of any similar initiatives that MAP can share**

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**NEXT MAP BULLETIN:** Wednesday September 8 – please have your items in by Tuesday September 7, midday. Thank you!

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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!

# IMMUNIZE BC – COVID 19 VACCINATION INFORMATION

1.Vax For BC is a province-wide event to get everyone vaccinated against COVID-19. No appointments are required. To find a drop-in clinics across the province visit: [Vax for B.C. - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/vaxforbc). In addition the Vax for BC provincial website remains a provincial repository of the HA outreach, mobile and specialized clinics.

1.Walk-in Wednesdays: August 25, September 1 and 8, are being promoted as Walk-in Wednesday however really every day is walk-in as per item 1.

1.Walk-in creative: attached are two walk-in creatives that are in market and can be used by any organization. A number of organizations are sharing with their membership/networks and or are using on their inter

Immunize BC Project

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



A large yellow and pink graphic with the text "COVID-19 IS ON THE RISE IN YOUR COMMUNITY. GET VACCINATED." and a syringe illustration. The text is in bold black letters. Below the main text, there is a paragraph: "Vaccines are safe and effective against COVID-19 variants. 94% of recent cases were amongst those not fully vaccinated. Getting vaccinated with both doses is critical to help protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community. Let's get this done." To the right of the text is a stylized illustration of a syringe with a pink plunger and needle, and two vertical bars of different heights. At the bottom, there are three icons: a location pin, a calendar, and a heart with a bandage. Below the icons are the text "Visit a nearby vaccine clinic", "No appointment needed", and "First or second dose". At the very bottom, there is a pink banner with the text "To find your nearest vaccine clinic, visit gov.bc.ca/vaxforbc" and the British Columbia logo.

## **IMPORTANT REQUEST FROM CBSA REGARDING CLAIMANTS TURNED BACK AT THE BORDER DURING THE PANDEMIC**

People who attempt to make a refugee claim at the US-Canada border in between official ports of entry (for example, at Roxham Road) have since March 2020 been directed back to the US, as part of the pandemic border ban.

This direct back policy continues to apply.

**However, the Canadian government has started to invite people previously directed back to enter Canada with an appointment in order to pursue their claims. They have been contacting people by phone or email. They are unable to reach some people.**

**If you know of anyone who has been directed back and has not yet heard from CBSA, you can tell them to call 1-833-995-0002, Monday to Friday between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm AST to provide up to date contact information.**

<https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/refugee-asile-covid-eng.html>

<p>1. How many refugee claimant applicants in BC are waiting for eligibility interviews in this backlog?</p> <p>2. What is BC's timeline for completing backlog eligibility interviews?</p> <p>3. When will the virtual eligibility determination roll out start in BC?</p> <p>4. IRCC indicated there has been a high no-show rate for the biometrics and documents seizure meeting.</p> <p>a) We wonder, what is the local Vancouver, BC IRCC office experience of this?</p> <p>b) If there is a high no-show rate in BC, what is your analysis for why?</p> <p>c) Does IRCC have suggestions for how service providers can help?</p>	<p>1. IRCC continues to focus on reducing the refugee claim intake backlog nation-wide. As of June 29, 2021 there were 964 asylum claims in BC awaiting an eligibility interview from the 2020-2021 inventory. Data source and Date: IRCC-EDW (CBR) as of June 30, 2021.</p> <p>2. &amp; 3. We are currently scheduling appointments to complete eligibility interviews in person and IRCC has also launched a pilot to enable officers to conduct interviews virtually using Microsoft Teams. As a result of these efforts, IRCC aims to significantly reduce this inventory by the end of August 2021.</p> <p>4. a) &amp; b) The local BC office is currently experiencing a 14% no-show rate for appointments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main reason for the no-show rate is due to Epost. Clients are either not checking their epost conversations where we send their interview letter for their Biometrics/MDR appointments, or representatives are not contacting clients about their appointments.</li> <li>• The next most common reason for the no-show rate is clients will not attend appointments if they have Covid or if they have been directly exposed to Covid.</li> </ul> <p>4. c) Service providers are encouraged to share these 'Best Practices' with refugee claimants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide up-to-date contact information (including email addresses) throughout the process to ensure we are able to reach you when needed.</li> <li>• Check your epost messages regularly to see when appointments are scheduled.</li> <li>• Notify IRCC as soon as possible if you are unable to attend a scheduled appointment to allow time for IRCC to reschedule and provide the time slot to others waiting in the queue.</li> <li>• Clients can notify IRCC by email: the <a href="mailto:CIC-VancouverTRRU@cic.gc.ca">CIC-VancouverTRRU@cic.gc.ca</a></li> </ul>
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## IRCC NOTICE

### IMPORTANT RESPONSE TO MAP'S INQUIRY ABOUT DELAYS IN PROCESSING REFUGEE CLAIMANT APPLICATIONS AT IRCC

MAP received a response specific to our region from IRCC regarding our letter sent in May 2021 requesting explanations and suggestions regarding delays in processing eligibility to claim, work permits, IFH applications etc for refugee claimants.

Please note the 'Best Practices' as helpful

The notice is also attached.

## **AFGHANISTAN CRISIS (4 pages)**

Acknowledging that members see MAP as a hub for information dispersal and that we have received many calls and emails please see below important sources of accurate information that may be of help:

### **IRCC Communications for those seeking to help family members inside Afghanistan**

#### **Message from our MAP IRCC member representative:**

*IRCC is aware of the ongoing situation in Afghanistan and is actively exploring ways in which we can facilitate applications.*

*If you are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident who is eligible to sponsor a family member, we invite you to submit a sponsorship application as soon as possible.*

*Please consult our website for more information on ways to sponsor a family member, including:*

- [How to Apply](#)
- [Instructions Guide](#)

*We invite you to visit our website regularly; more details will be posted as they become available.*

#### **Specific IRCC webpages regarding Afghanistan:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/afghanistan/afghans-canada.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/afghanistan/how.html>

## IMMIGRATION REFUGEE BOARD RESPONSE TO THE AFGHAN CRISIS

### The IRB has announced its measures to prioritize claims of Afghans:

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) is aware of and monitoring the rapid changes in the political and security situation in Afghanistan. The Board is currently taking measures to expedite the resolution of all existing files relating to individuals from Afghanistan, across each of its divisions.

- All refugee claims from Afghanistan are being actively examined by the Refugee Protection Division's Task Force on Less Complex Claims.
- All refugee appeals from Afghanistan before the Refugee Appeal Division are now with or are being actively assigned to members for review.
- All admissibility hearings and immigration appeals related to Afghanistan are being actively scheduled before the Immigration Division and the Immigration Appeal Division respectively.

Given that the total number of files from Afghanistan represent a small proportion of the Board's overall inventory, these measures will not impact the processing of files from other countries.

Anyone believing they have a matter that should be expedited under these measures should contact the respective registry.

<https://irb.gc.ca/en/news/2021/Pages/measures-processing-files-afghan-nationals.aspx>

## From UNHCR regarding Afghan situation:

Afghanistan: there is not too much to tell at the moment as the government is working on the details re resettlement. They are concentrated on evacuations from inside Afghanistan, which UNHCR is not involved in. UNHCR is currently concentrating on humanitarian assistance for those who are internally displaced.

In terms of the programs set up by Canada, here is the message we are sending in response to inquiries:

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Canada has implemented [special measures for Afghan nationals](#). If you believe you qualify as an Afghan national who assisted Canada, you can find details on how to apply here: [Resettling Afghans who assisted Canada: How it works - Canada.ca](#).

For the special program for vulnerable Afghans, details will be shared as they become available. Please continue to check the [government website](#).

In general, if you are an Afghan refugee facing protection issues or in need of assistance, please visit [Information for Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Stateless People | UNHCR](#).

The situation remains complex and difficult – please check back with UNHCR for additional information



**Canadian Council for Refugees** has also produced an Information update (ATTACHED) regarding accurate information sources and their initiatives to promote government assistance to those needing assistance in Afghanistan

**SEE ATTACHED ONE PAGER**

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And some **GOOD NEWS!**

### **VANCITY FUNDS SUPPORT TO LOCAL FAMILIES VIA BURNABY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**

Announcement: Vancity has generously sponsored a project to be based at Burnaby Neighbourhood House in conjunction with other agencies, to support the local needs of Afghan individuals and families impacted and displaced during the current crisis in Afghanistan.

Initial plans include:

- Support with Mental health services – Trauma informed counselling in first language
- A pool of interpreters to support communication for those applying for refugee protection and extra settlement support.
- Group therapy sessions
- Other upcoming needs as they are identified

The project is just getting started but you can contact the program at Burnaby Neighbourhood House via the following:

Email: [settlementprogram@burnabynh.ca](mailto:settlementprogram@burnabynh.ca)

Tel: 604 431 0400

Address: **Burnaby Neighbourhood House (BNH South House)**, 4460 Beresford St. Burnaby (beside Metrotown Skytrain Station)

# News highlights:

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

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

*Thanks to Journey Home Community's **Barry Growe** for his research and compilation*

- CBSA says little to change at the border  
Toronto Star
- Airbnb opens up housing for 20,000 Afghan refugees  
Canadian Press
- Immunizations: Bringing newcomer children up to date  
Canadian Paediatric Society
- “We just think Canada can do more”: Afghan women in Vancouver  
CTV
- Canada has evacuated more than 1100 Afghans — immigration minister  
CTV
- Canada to speed up processing of Afghan refugees — minister  
Canadian Press
- Canada would consider accepting Afghan refugees on behalf of US, allies — minister  
CTV
- North of England leaders urge fair distribution of Afghani refugees  
Headtopics (Guardian)

## Settlement & Integration Program

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



### TOOLS TO SUPPORT NEWCOMER SURVIVORS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE FOR FRONTLINE SETTLEMENT STAFF

**SEPT 9TH, 2021  
10AM-12:30 PM**

#### Learn about

- Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- Types of GBV
- Barriers to reporting GBV for newcomers
- Common Responses of Survivors
- What to do during a disclosure
- Safety Planning
- Resources and Contacts

#### Biography:

Muna Zaid Alkilani specializes in trauma informed crisis settlement support and anti-violence work. Muna works with refugees that are survivors of war, torture, abuse, gender-based violence, and persecution including cases on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

RSVP by Monday Sept 6th 2021 to:

**[munaza@BURNABYNH.CA](mailto:munaza@burnabyhh.ca)  
PHONE# 1-236-878-6295**

**[WWW.BURNABYNH.CA](http://WWW.BURNABYNH.CA)**

Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a community driven and community funded agency located on the unceded territories of the Tsleil-Waututh (salilwata7), Kwikwetem (kwikweta7am), Squamish (sqwaw7mesh Uxwumixw) and Musqueam (muskwaka7am) nations with a unique focus on neighbours supporting neighbours.

This workshop on Gender Based Violence Tools is recommended to frontline settlement service providers.

For more information, please contact Muna Zaid Alkilani, Settlement Community Connection Coordinator at: [MunaZA@burnabyhh.ca](mailto:MunaZA@burnabyhh.ca)

**BURNABY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**

**POSTER ALSO ATTACHED**



**PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE SENSE OF BELONGING THROUGH VISUAL ARTWORK**

**ARE YOU AN ARTIST WITH LIVED REFUGEE CLAIMANT EXPERIENCE IN CANADA? WE ARE EXPLORING MEMORIES OF CONNECTION FROM THE TIME YOU SUBMITTED YOUR REFUGEE CLAIM TO THE TIME OF YOUR REFUGEE HEARING.**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE A MOMENT OF CONNECTION AND/OR BELONGING REPRESENTED IN A PIECE OF YOUR ART. THIS CAN INCLUDE: PHOTOGRAPHS OF OBJECTS, PLACES, PEOPLE, ABSTRACT IMAGES, PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, GRAPHICS, PHOTOCOPIES OR PHOTOS OF JOURNAL PAGES, CARVINGS, OR OTHER FORMS OF ARTWORK.**

**YOU CAN SUBMIT UP TO THREE PIECES OF ART FOR THE PROJECT. PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PIECE (NO LONGER THAN 120 WORDS.)**

**THERE IS AN HONORARIUM OF \$50 FOR EACH PIECE SELECTED FOR OUR REPORT.**

**FOR QUESTIONS OR TO EMAIL SUBMISSIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:  
DAWLEYCONSULTING@GMAIL.COM  
BEFORE FRIDAY AUGUST 27TH AT 12:00PM**

THIS IS PART OF THE CHANGING THE WAY WE WELCOME REFUGEE CLAIMANTS RESEARCH PROJECT LED BY KINBRACE COMMUNITY SOCIETY WITH PARTNERS, FUNDED BY THE VANCOUVER FOUNDATION.

We are excited to launch our call for submission for "**Personal Reflections on the Sense of Belonging through Visual Artwork.**" This is part of "**Changing the Way We Welcome Refugee Claimants**" research project led by **Kinbrace Community Society** and its partners, funded by Vancouver Foundation.

We would be very grateful if you could circulate our poster (**attached**) with any emerging artists with refugee claimant experience in Canada.

- Artists can submit up to three pieces of art for the project, including a short description of the piece (no longer than 120 words.)
- Artwork forms accepted include photographs of objects, places, people, abstract images, paintings, drawings, graphics, photocopies or photos of journal pages, carvings, or other forms of artwork.
- There is an honorarium of \$50 for each piece selected for our report.

**For questions or to email submissions, please contact:  
dawleyconsulting@gmail.com (Before Friday August 27th at 12:00pm)**

**Tess Acton** will be leaving the **Immigration & Refugee Legal Clinic** at ISSofBC to take up a position at the IRB – RAD.

IRLC are hiring a full-time Staff Lawyer to fill her position. ([See here](#)). Closing date Sept 3.

Tess will be at the clinic until Sept 15.

Tess

Tess Acton (she/her)



Note from MAP – Tess will be missed as a wonderful resource for our member agencies, but hopefully our paths will cross in the future. Good luck Tess!



JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

## **UMBRELLA MULTICULTURAL HEALTH CO-OP**

Community Health Workers - All Communities. Please circulate to anyone who may be interested.  
Information and application **attached**:

4 communities targeted – separate files attached:

- Eritrean/Tigriyan community
- Latin American/Spanish community
- Afghan/Iranian communities
- Middle eastern / Arabic communities

Apply asap – work to start by September 1 if possible.

In Memory of the esteemed **FRANCISCO RICO-MARTÍNEZ, 1958-2021** (FCJ Refugee Centre)

Dear friends, we want to thank you for all your solidarity, consoling messages and beautiful tributes. Please find the information on the funeral arrangements here: <https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/2021/08/francisco-rico-martinez-1958-2021/>

Thank you

FCJ Refugee Centre



## Open letter on Afghan refugee protection and resettlement to Canada

Thank you to all who have signed. The letter is now public and can be shared on social media, etc.

**In just 12 hours, more than 100 leading researchers and advocates from across Canada signed an [open letter](#) to Canadian federal party leaders calling on greater Afghan refugee protection and resettlement to Canada. You can add your name [here](#).**

For media enquiries about this open letter, please contact:

English-language interviews:

Jamie Liew, Director, Institute of Women and Feminist Studies, University of Ottawa: [Jamie.Liew@uottawa.ca](mailto:Jamie.Liew@uottawa.ca)

Jennifer Hyndman, Professor, York University:

[jhyndman@yorku.ca](mailto:jhyndman@yorku.ca)

For information on the situation in Afghanistan, we defer to our Afghan and Afghan-Canadian colleagues, including The Afghan Women's Organization, <https://afghanwomen.org/> Afghan Association of Ontario, <https://www.aaocanada.ca/>





## Canadian Council for Refugees Summer Working Group Meetings

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES  
CONSEIL CANADIEN POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

If you have missed [our email that went out in July](#) we are happy to remind you about our **Summer 2021 virtual Working Group meetings!**

The Working Groups will meet:

- Tuesday 14 September: **Overseas Protection and Resettlement (OPR)**. [Register here](#)
- Wednesday 15 September: **Immigration & Settlement (I&S)**. [Register here](#)
- Thursday 16 September: **Inland Protection (IP)**. [Register here](#)

CCR members and refugee-serving NGO's are invited.

## REPEATS

Hello Community Partners,

FYI, Fraser Health now offers second dose walk-in options for residents in FH. Various locations available.

Please visit the FH link for most up to date information: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/vax#.YQs70cMTFSB>

Thank you

**Alan Huang**

*Physician Engagement and Practice Support*



**WWW** [divisionsbc.ca/surrey-north-delta](http://divisionsbc.ca/surrey-north-delta)



NEWS from Inasmuch Community Society:

Please welcome our newest team member and Settlement Worker: **Catherine Jantzen!**

She will be continuing to provide support to refugee claimants in Abbotsford, Mission and Chilliwack.

Catherine's email is [catherine@inasmuch.ca](mailto:catherine@inasmuch.ca) and her phone number is 604-768-8079.

Find out more about Inasmuch at: <https://www.inasmuch.ca/>

## SURVIVOR ADVOCATE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

*Fall 2021*

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

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

**WHO:** Offered by the Vancouver Association for the Survivors of Torture (VAST) in collaboration with the Victoria Coalition for Survivors of Torture (VCST). Funded by the United Nations (UN), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:** Persons 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 conversation 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/hD7Mj8BDENW3VoDr8>. Please email: [fatima@vast-vancouver.ca](mailto:fatima@vast-vancouver.ca) for more information, or call Luke at 604.283.6618



Poster attached  
also



UNHCR Canada just released videos that provide a very simple explanation of asylum and why it's important. The longer video also has additional explanations about the process in Canada.

You can find the links to the videos here:

- Long English version: <https://youtu.be/2LBjmr2fRw>
- Long French version: <https://youtu.be/G7NZOGuBN0Q>
- Short English version: <https://twitter.com/UNHCRCanada/status/1420434125132025859?s=20>
- Short French version: <https://twitter.com/UNHCRCanada/status/1420479374185406466?s=20>

Please feel free to share!

Warm regards,

***Azadeh Tamjeedi***

Senior Legal Officer / Head of Protection Unit

UNHCR Canada

280 Albert Street, suite 401

Ottawa, ON K1P 5G8

Phone: 613-232-0909 ext.236

[www.unhcr.ca](http://www.unhcr.ca)

From the BC Government:

The 2021 B.C. Newcomers' Guide is available to download at <https://www.welcomebc.ca/Start-Your-Life-in-B-C/Newcomers-Guides>

It is available as a PDF in eight languages:

- [English \(PDF, 7KB\)](#)
- [Arabic \(PDF, 5KB\)](#)
- [Simplified Chinese \(PDF, 5KB\)](#)
- [Traditional Chinese \(PDF, 5KB\)](#)
- [French \(PDF, 5KB\)](#)
- [Korean \(PDF, 5KB\)](#)
- [Punjabi \(PDF, 5KB\)](#)
- [Tagalog \(PDF, 5KB\)](#)

Print copies of the B.C. Newcomers' Guide are not currently available. When print copies become available, the page will be updated with a link to the order form. Copies can be ordered for free within British Columbia.



## **Kristi Pinderi is a finalist in the Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards**

Kristi Pinderi, DIVERSEcity's LGBTQ+ support worker and a human rights activist in BC and his home country of Albania is a finalist in the 13th annual Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards!

The Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards, a national awards program presented by *Canadian Immigrant* magazine, will be given to 25 inspirational immigrants, who have made a difference to Canada, whether they are a community advocate, a successful entrepreneur, an artist or a volunteer. We can view all the 75 finalists online and vote for them at [canadianimmigrant.ca/top25](https://canadianimmigrant.ca/top25).

Originally from Albania, Kristi Pinderi was forced to leave his country in 2017, together with his partner because of his activism for gay rights. He co-founded both ProLGBT and the Alliance Against Discrimination, the two major LGBTI organizations in Albania. He also co-launched with his partner, Erjon Tela, an online news portal dedicated to human rights that remains the main source for human feminism and LGBT issues in Albania.

Today, as a new Canadian, he leads Together Now, a peer support group for LGBTQ+ newcomers and offers one-on-one support services to LGBTQ+ newcomers, as part of a unique service launched by DIVERSEcity.

[Read more about Kristi and the awards here ...](#)

participate in the 02 October 2021

## [Kinbrace Ride for Refuge](#)

It may be your most exhilarating and effective way to influence the wellbeing of people seeking refugee protection this Fall



Questions?

Contact

Laura Wallis-Wood

[laura@kinbrace.ca](mailto:laura@kinbrace.ca)

[REGISTER HERE](#)



(Sent in by City of Vancouver *Equity* Office)

Hi everyone:

I hope everyone is having a good summer. We are going to be hiring a few new positions at the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Division in the coming weeks and months, including a mix of unionized and managerial staff. This Program Advisor position is first out the gate. Could you please share this across your networks? Thanks very much.

<https://bcpublicservice.hua.hrsmart.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/78666> [bcpublicservice.hua.hrsmart.com]

Alison

**Alison Dudley (she/hers)**

Executive Director | Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Division | Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing  
Suite 301 – 865 Hornby St., Vancouver, BC V6Z 1T9

*Territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓ílʷitulh (Tsleil Waututh) peoples*

Email: [Alison.Dudley@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alison.Dudley@gov.bc.ca); Cell: 236-818-1150; [www.resiliencebcnetwork.ca](http://www.resiliencebcnetwork.ca) [resiliencebcnetwork.ca]

*A wonderful opportunity for refugee women to learn how to share their stories:*



**The Shoe Project** will be offering a **Writing Workshop** starting in September in Vancouver for any immigrant and refugee woman who wants to write her story with the writer **Caroline Adderson** [www.carolineadderson.com](http://www.carolineadderson.com) who will help women write their journey to Canada.

It's a 10-day, free writing workshop to learn how to write their stories in 600 words and then read the story at a performance in January.

All applicants will be interviewed first.

Please see the **attached poster** for more information about the workshop and the **interview questions** for the women who want to participate. Applicants should answer the questions and send them back to this email, please [theshoeprojectvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:theshoeprojectvancouver@gmail.com)

Warm Regards,  
Shanga Karim

Vancouver Local Coordinator  
[www.theshoeproject.online](http://www.theshoeproject.online)

*PS This is the wonderful writing group who provided a very successful workshop at MAP's World Refugee Day! Highly recommended!*

There is a lot of confusion about the re-opening of the Canadian border. Our podcast **Borderless Voices** is looking to clarify some of the questions we are receiving from Spanish speaking people. Please feel free to share it.

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/podcast/spanish-episode-24-apertura-de-fronteras-entre-canada-y-ee-uu/>



Dear Community members: Asalaamelykum wr. wb.

InshAllah you are well and in good spirits. As October approaches we have started getting ready for Islamic History Month Canada. The IHMC Board has decided on the theme for 2021:

**"Anti-Indigenous Racism and Islamophobia: Coming Together -Sharing Stories and Healing"**

We encourage communities to organize information sessions, joint healing circles, inviting Indigenous people to mosques, hosting art exhibits, highlighting artists, and hosting any other relevant, COVID-safe gatherings.

These are just some ideas please feel free to share yours, we have put together a [short guide](#) to hosting IHMC events for community organizers. We encourage you to register your events by emailing [IHMC@ihmcanada.com](mailto:IHMC@ihmcanada.com) with the event name, date, time, and link for further details to be shared on our national calendar and social media accounts. If you haven't done so already, be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

There is a growing need for us to be brave and courageous in our conversations, being respectful and honest. There cannot be any healing when we have not acknowledged the pain, the harm, and the generational trauma that has impacted the lives of those colonized here in North America and across the world. Please consider the importance of leading these difficult conversations with the utmost respect and utmost sincerity. If you're interested in virtual facilitator training for these events, please contact the IHM team.

The IHM team is moving to a model with advisors, board members, and community organizers. If you'd be interested in a commitment to any of these roles please see the following links:

- [Call for Advisors](#)
- [Call for Board Members](#)
- [Call for Community Organizers](#)

Let us make this IHMC about healing and rejuvenating our social connections; listening to Muslim and Indigenous women and youth; celebrating our cultures, accomplishments, and facing challenges together.

Sincerely,

Shahina Siddiqui LLD , Chair, Islamic History Month Canada Email: [shahinasiddiqui@hotmail.com](mailto:shahinasiddiqui@hotmail.com)

The Refugee Law Lab has just released our 2020 data on the annual recognition rates of IRB members in the Refugee Protection Division and the Refugee Appeal Division.

You can access the data via links here: <https://refugeelab.ca/projects/refugee-law-data/>

As with past years, the 2020 data shows substantial variance for some decision-makers between the recognition rates that would be predicted based solely on the average recognition rates for the countries of origins in the cases they decided, and their actual recognition rates. For instance, R. Khalifa (predicted 48.5%; actual 79.5%), G. Pagidas (predicted 48.0%; actual 76.3%) and J-G. Jam (predicted 63.9%; actual 91.5%) had much higher recognition rates than predicted, whereas K. Gibson (predicted 71.1%, actual 15.1%), L. Stewart Ferreira (predicted 70.3%; actual 17.8%) and G. Brien (predicted 47.0%; actual: 1.8%) had much lower recognition rates than predicted. All decided at least 30 cases.

Like the variations seen in RPD decision-making, RAD decision-makers also have very different rates at which they grant appeals. For example, in RAD cases decided on the merits, claimants were much more likely to succeed in their appeals before J. Pollock (77.8%), J. Bousfield (75.9%) or C. Maxwell (69.1%) than before J. Sadek (3.8%), M. Lamani (5.5%) or M. Jobin (5.6%). All decided at least 30 cases.

Note that, unlike past years, the IRB initially declined to provide the data requested in our annual Access to Information Request, pointing to the new Treasury Board Privacy Implementation Notice and the need to protect the privacy of refugee claimants. The IRB did, however, agree to enter into a data sharing agreement to facilitate this research. While we are grateful to the IRB for engaging with researchers in this way – and while we share the view that it is important to protect the privacy interests of refugee claimants – the agreement limits how much data we are able to publicly share. Thus, for example, we are not posting the raw data we obtained. We are also only posting statistics relating to outcomes in cases decided on the merits by Board Members (leaving hundreds of claims decided on other grounds out of the reported figures). We are also only posting recognition rates, rather than counts of cases and breakdowns of outcomes. If you are interested in general statistics on refugee claim outcomes, including breakdowns for all claims from particular countries, we encourage you to consult the statistics webpages of the IRB and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Best,

SEAN REHAAG  
Director, Centre for Refugee Studies  
Director, Refugee Law Laboratory  
Associate Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School  
York University, Toronto, Canada



We are glad to announce the following opportunities for **Work Learn** candidates to join us:

1. Project Assistant, Centre for Migration Studies. [Learn more.](#)
2. Project Assistant, Narratives Group, Centre for Migration Studies. [Find out more.](#)
3. Research Assistant, Narratives Group, Centre for Migration Studies. [Learn more.](#)

### EVENTS CALENDAR

We're looking forward to welcoming you back this coming year, and we have a full calendar of **in-person** and **virtual events** scheduled for the coming fall.

Details are still being finalized but check our [calendar](#) and [Twitter](#) account for the latest updates.

See the full UBC Migration August Update at:

<https://mailchi.mp/e0e49741ac5a/june-update-5629344?e=9fba11ae0c>

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**Follow us on Twitter at [@UBCMigration](#) for more updates and announcements!**

*From City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation Board:*

As you may have heard, Park Board is developing a citywide strategy to guide community centre renovations, additions, and renewals. As part of our public engagement, we have prepared a survey on [Shape Your City](#) and have translated versions available in the following languages: **Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Spanish**. Digital copies are available for print in these languages and includes **Arabic**. Please let us know which languages would be appropriate for your organization and we can forward it to you.

We would very much appreciate if your organization could distribute through your channels and invite people to participate in this survey **before September 10, 2021**. Your feedback will help inform and guide the future planning and investment of community centres in Vancouver for generations to come.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to connect with Leila Todd, our project manager, or myself if you have further questions.

Best regards,

Angela

**Community Centre Strategy**

[ccstrategy@vancouver.ca](mailto:ccstrategy@vancouver.ca)

[Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation](#)

