



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 106

December 1, 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.

NEWS!

See MAP's updated website: www.mapbc.org

MAP Executive has been busy updating the website – new additions include:

- NEW independent tab for [Fraser Valley MAP](#) – member agencies to be added soon
- MAP's Emergency Plan Report (Sept '21) added to the Member's Section (you must sign up to see this)
- NEWS section in the Member's area re-formatted so you can access all non-public documents
- [Events](#) area has been re-formatted so you can look back at past events and access recordings

MAP's In Focus #4 – See the humans behind the trauma: Indigenous and asylum seeker experience

Has understanding the concepts of displacement and trauma been part of your journey towards reconciliation?

Speakers:

Linda Epp (Native Education College)

Malena Mokhovikova (former refugee claimant)

Moderator: Mariana Martinez Vieyra (VAST).

December 2nd 2021, 7pm online

Sign up at: <https://bit.ly/30rB6Ck>

What do refugee claimants and indigenous people have in common?
Mariana Martinez Vieyra (VAST) will host a conversation with Linda Epp and Malena Mokolikova.



MAP BC's IN FOCUS event: 'See the humans behind the trauma': Indigenous and asylum seeker experience

Thursday December 2nd 7pm, online

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, Thanh Lam - and the other Jenny!

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Kinbrace

Dear Friends,

You may be interested - or know someone else who might be a good candidate - in this exciting 9-month, 40hours/week job opportunity: [Housing & Employment Worker](#).

The Housing & Employment Worker works to fulfill the mandate of Kinbrace's Housing and Employment Programs. This role will help newly arrived refugee claimants transition from homelessness into safe and secure permanent housing in BC's Lower Mainland, as well as help Kinbrace further develop and run the Employment program to help refugee claimants gain meaningful employment and increase their economic resilience.

Online event sharing research results of national significance.

We invite you to join us on **Friday December 10th at 1:30pm PST** (via Zoom) as we share the findings and recommendations for change that resulted from this unique project.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

About this event

What would a values-based, person-centered, and transformational welcome for and with people seeking refuge and protection in Canada look like?

The purpose of this event is to share the findings from a community-based, asset-oriented research project aimed at identifying what works. Instead of asking refugee claimants to recount challenges or name the barriers they have faced, we explored where and when people encountered dignity, empowerment, and mutuality from the time of submitting their refugee claim up to their hearing date in Canada with the aim of amplifying those "bright spots."

Individuals with lived refugee claimant experience from across BC shared their experiences in three ways:

1. Listening sessions
2. Poetry/prose workshops and writing submissions
3. Visual contributions

The creative contributions and thought-provoking insights shared by participants underpin a list of actionable recommendations we hope will move Canadian systems towards a more generous welcome for refugee claimants.

The *From Humanitarian to Human* project was initiated by Kinbrace (Refugee Housing & Support) and funded by Vancouver Foundation Systems and The Houssian Foundation. Research conducted by Alexandra Dawley Consulting.

Thank you

Jenny Francis, Independent Project Coordinator



BC REFUGEE HUB WEBINAR AFGHAN SPECIAL INITIATIVE

You are invited to attend this webinar hosted by the BC Refugee Hub providing updates on Afghan refugee resettlement to Metro Vancouver.

Speakers:

- Kathy Sherrell - Director, Settlement Services, ISSofBC
- Jennifer York - Division Manager, Settlement Program, ISSofBC

Date: December 3, 2021

Time: 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm PST

Online via Zoom - register below

REGISTER

•Questions or Comments? Send us an e-mail: refugeehub@issbc.org

•The BC Refugee Hub is a program of [ISSofBC](#)





Refugee Research Network

- RRN Research Digest - November 25, 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



Please see the flyers attached in a number of languages matched to the surveys that can be completed online.

Dear Families

The Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS) in collaboration with the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) are conducting a survey on need assessment and local food access among the refugee and immigrant population in Metro Vancouver. The main goal of this project is to advance our unique needs of newcomers to Canada and their interest in local food system participation. The results will help us advocate for food policy related to refugees and immigrants as well as provide appropriate resources that may help them navigate through food environments in a new country. (This study has been approved by the KPU's Research Ethics Board under the file number KPU REB#2021-23.)



Hey! we need your opinion!

Agricultural Food Survey



scan here for the English version!

complete the survey to be entered in a draw to win a \$20 giftcard

The Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS) in collaboration with the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems (ISFS) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) are conducting a survey on need assessment and local food access among the refugee and immigrant population in Metro Vancouver. (This study has been approved by the KPU's Research Ethics Board under the file number KPU REB#2021-23.) You can complete the survey at the food hub site now or take home to complete later. It is also available online at: <https://www.kpu.ca/isfs/refugees-and-immigrants-local-food-access> If you do not wish to participate in the survey but still would like to enter a prize draw, please contact the principal investigator, Dr. Wallapak Polasub at wallapak.polasub@kpu.ca or 604-599-2533.

The survey is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. They can be accessed online at our study website at:

<https://www.kpu.ca/isfs/refugees-and-immigrants-local-food-access>

If you would like to receive paper copies of the survey or have questions about this study, please contact the principal investigator, Dr. Wallapak Polasub at 604-599-2533 or wallapak.polasub@kpu.ca or PIRS Program Coordinator, Valerie Lai at 604-726-7333 or vlai@pirs.bc.ca



The Ministry of Attorney General & Minister responsible for Housing is pleased to advise you that it is currently **accepting applications for the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grant program**. The application period is open now through to December 20, 2021 closing at 2:00pm PST.

Registered non-profit and charitable organizations, as well as other public and private sector organizations working in partnership with a BIPOC-led non-profit society, are invited to apply for grants up to \$5,000 to support activities across the Province that build intercultural interaction, trust and understanding, or challenge racism, hate and systemic barriers.

The Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grant program's focus in 2021/22 is to prioritize projects that seek to reduce systemic racism, hate incidents and/or build capacity in racialized communities, with a preference for applications submitted by racialized and marginalized groups.

Please review the updated guidelines before you apply for a BC Multiculturalism Grant at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/multiculturalism-anti-racism/multiculturalism/multiculturalismgrants>

An optional virtual information session on the Grant program is planned on December 3, 2021 from 11:30am – 12:30pm PST.

Please register via EventBrite here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bc-multiculturalism-and-anti-racism-grants-202122-info-session-tickets-217120943587>.

PLEASE NOTE: Applications must be submitted via the Ministry website indicated above in order to be considered. The Ministry cannot accept applications received by email, fax or mail. Thank you for your interest,

Multiculturalism & Anti-Racism Division
Ministry of Attorney General & Minister Responsible for Housing

Statistics Canada is delighted to invite you to our **free** upcoming information session: Intermediate Session on: Considerations for Displaying Data – A Case Study.

Please note: Advanced registration is required. We ask that you please register early, spaces are limited for the information sessions. If a session becomes full and you would like to attend a future session, please email us at WESTINFO@statcan.gc.ca. See below for more information.

Information Session: Intermediate Session on Considerations for Displaying Data – A Case Study

Description: Data visualizations are a powerful tool to explore and present ideas. In response to feedback from information session participants, this session uses a case study approach to illustrate how to explore your data and decide which visualizations help tell your audience a data story. Designed for a beginner to intermediate audience, the session focuses on one of the hardest parts of designing graphs and charts: knowing where to start.

Intended Target Audience: This is an **introductory** information session; it may be too basic for advanced data users.

Language, Dates, Times, and Registration Links

- **English:** December 9, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Eastern Time
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Mhd2BrPaRVONAEajyTjvrg
- **French:** December 16, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Eastern Time
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rfo5YwGIQRS5_wFe7bOruA

These sessions are offered by the Data Service Centre. Some of the services we offer include:

- assisting data users with simple and complex data requests;
- offering standard and customized workshops for data users of different levels of expertise;
- engaging in outreach activities through webinars, newsletters and presentations.

If you have any questions about these sessions or the Data Service Centre, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to meeting you online!

Outreach Program / Collection and Regional Services Branch

Statistics Canada / Government of Canada

WESTINFO@statcan.gc.ca

REPEATS

IN FOCUS:

Thursday December 2nd, 7pm

Online

Registration:

<https://bit.ly/30rB6Ck>

Presented by MAP in partnership with:



MAP's In Focus Lecture Series Presents:

SEE THE HUMANS BEHIND THE TRAUMA

INDIGENOUS & ASYLUM SEEKER EXPERIENCE
Thursday, December 2nd at 7 pm Online

Warm welcome to our Moderator for this evening
Mariana Martinez Vieyra - VAST Counsellor

and our exceptional Speakers:

A portrait of Linda Epp, a woman wearing a brown hat and a red jacket, smiling.

Linda Epp
Sechelt Nation Member
(Shishalh First Nation)
Program Manager for
Essentials: Skills, Culture,
Knowledge, NEC (Native
Education College)

A portrait of Malena Mokhovikova, a woman with dark hair wearing a blue jacket, looking slightly to the side.

Malena Mokhovikova
Student and Advocate

Register now to learn about the shared experience of displacement and trauma of indigenous people and asylum seekers. How can we build a common understanding of the lived experience of the two populations in creating a better future?

Zoom Link
<https://bit.ly/30rB6Ck>



Upcoming workshops at Impact North Shore:

'How to Apply for a Work Permit Extension' – Presented in English and Farsi

Wednesday December 8

Register [here](#)



Impact NORTH SHORE IMMIGRANT SERVICE CENTRE

How to Apply for a Work Permit Extension (with Farsi Interpretation)

Wednesday, December 8
6:00pm – 7:30pm

Join this workshop to learn how to apply a Work Permit Extension by yourself in your online IRCC account.

Workshop Highlights

Learn how to apply for a Work Permit Extension online! In this workshop for Protected Persons and Refugee Claimants, you will learn how to:

- Create an IRCC account
- Fill out the immigration forms.
- Gather the required documents
- Submit your application online

Details:

This workshop will be presented in English with interpretation in Farsi.

This workshop is open to Protected Persons and Refugee Claimants.

Online via Zoom
Details to join this virtual session will be provided after registration.

This program is government sponsored and free of charge.

For more information and to register contact:
Masha Radamakers, mashar@impactnorthshore.ca or 604-988-2931

Impact NORTH SHORE IMMIGRANT SERVICE CENTRE

How to Apply for a Work Permit Extension (with Farsi Interpretation)

چگونه ویزای کار خود را تمدید کنیم

Wednesday, December 8
6:00pm – 7:30pm

Join this workshop to learn how to apply a Work Permit Extension by yourself in your online IRCC account.

Workshop Highlights

از شما دعوت می‌کنیم، جهت کسب اطلاعات در مورد نحوه ویزای کار خود به صورت آنلاین، در این جلسه شرکت کنید.

- نحوه ساخت حساب کاربری در وبسایت اداره مهاجرت IRCC
- نحوه پر کردن فرم های مهاجرتی
- جمع آوری مدارک مورد نیاز
- ارسال فرم درخواست به صورت آنلاین

Details:

This workshop will be presented in English with interpretation in Farsi.

This workshop is open to Protected Persons and Refugee Claimants.

Online via Zoom
Details to join this virtual session will be provided after registration.

This program is government sponsored and free of charge.

For more information and to register contact:
Masha Radamakers, mashar@impactnorthshore.ca or 604-988-2931

How to Apply for a Work Permit Extension

Wednesday, December 8

Join this workshop for Protected Persons and Refugee Claimants to learn how to get a Work Permit Extension by yourself in your online IRCC account. Presented in English with Farsi interpretation.

[Read More](#)

Posters also attached

MOSAIC UPDATE! - upcoming event

Starting from December 1st from 4:30PM to 5:30PM (PST), RSIP is hosting an *in-person* **“Book Club”** Series every Wednesday to the wider community.

This series is open to Refugee Claimants, International Students, Temporary Foreign Worker and Naturalized Citizens with intermediate or advance English level.

The registration is limited, details can be found in the poster.

You're welcome to share this exciting series with folks who may be interested.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you as always, for your continued interested in MOSAIC event.

Mia Yu Christiaanse

Program Assistant,
Refugee Settlement & Integration|Legal Advocacy
Program|Family & Settlement Services
5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver V5R 2P9
T 604 254 9626 ext.1101
F 604 254 3932
www.mosaicbc.org

Poster attached



In-Person Book Club

Join us every Wednesday to go on a book adventure!

Every Wednesday starting December 1st

4:30 PM-5:30 PM

English Level: Intermediate or Advance Level is required

Location: 310-7155 Kingsway Burnaby, BC Canada

Registration is open for Refugee Claimants, International Students, Temporary Foreign Worker & Naturalized Citizens

Registration is limited, to register email srahnama@mosaicbc.org



WelcomeBC



In this Virtual Information Session, Ministry of Labour representatives will provide a comprehensive overview of B.C.'s new employer-paid sick leave.

In January 2022, the Government of B.C. will implement this new regulation for workers, which will allow all employees in the province to stay home when they are sick or injured, without losing wages, for a set number of days each year. It is essential for settlement service providers, especially those on the front lines, to understand employer-paid sick leave, in order to accurately inform and guide newcomer clients with the correct information.

This session will include detailed information on the public engagement process that took place prior to this legislation coming into effect and a clear explanation of how it will be implemented. Speakers from the Ministry of Labour will share updates on other topics that are relevant to settlement service providers, such as recent developments with respect to the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act and the Minister of Labour's mandate letter commitment regarding minimum wage.

Ministry of Labour speakers are John Blakely, Executive Director Labour Policy and Legislation; Michel Tanner, Director Labour Policy and Legislation; and Taylor Paulsen, Industrial Relations Officer, Employment Standards Branch.

Date: Monday December 6, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: Zoom Webinar - Event details will be emailed immediately after registration

[Click here to register](#)

NEW Employment Opportunities!

Communications & Administrative Coordinator, Vancouver Local Immigration Partnership

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House & Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House

Please see attached job description and application procedure.

Applications received until Dec 8th

Koyali Burman and Nova Chamberlin, VLIP Co-Managers

Email: koyali.burman@vancouverlip.org and nova.chamberlin@vancouverlip.org

Various positions at PIRS: Pacific Immigrant Resources Society

We are currently hiring for several positions - please see **the posters attached** or information can be found here as well: <https://pirs.bc.ca/join-us/job-opportunities/>

- **Outreach Support Worker - Dari/Pashto Speaking**
- **English as an Additional Language (EAL) Substitute Teacher**
- **ECE Assistant**
- **On-Call Early Childhood Educator**
- **RFP: Substitute Child Care Staffing Solutions Research Project**

We have an exciting new public health initiative at REACH beginning in the new year with a project called Photovoice to share with you. The purpose of Photovoice is to both raise awareness surrounding the **opioid crisis and mental health** and have a therapeutic group for participants. Our participant target are adults (18+) living in East Vancouver who are living with or have lived experience with substance use. We would love it if you would be able to help us promote this program to any individuals or community organizations that would work with clients that fit within our criteria (18+, living in East Vancouver, and has lived or living with experience with substance use). It can be through 1:1 conversations, a community board, or even an email. If you have any questions you can reach out to me at ftang@reachcentre.bc.ca. 😊

Thank you!

Faith Tang (she/her), CTRS
Recreation Therapist, Program Development
Work Days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
REACH Community Health Centre



We all have a story to tell.



Photovoice is a 2 month project for adults (18+) living in East Vancouver where photos are used as a method to raise awareness and reduce stigma among people who use substances. Participants will participate in 6 in-person sessions where they learn to take digital photos of their daily lives to tell their story, share their experiences in a safe space, and curate a photo exhibition to amplify their voices.

This project will run from January - February 2022. Please inquire or register for the project before December 31st, 2021.

For more questions or details on how to register, please contact Faith Tang at ftang@reachcentre.bc.ca or 604-245-3838.



Poster attached

Dear MAP,

As promised in previous meetings, we are delighted to share our first published study from the IRIS Project, where we evaluated the mandatory three-month wait period for newcomers in BC.

In collaboration with our community partner, Sanctuary Health, we are also launching a petition to pressure the BC government to end the mandatory three-month wait to receive health care coverage for migrants on arrival to BC. The wait period is **unfair, discriminatory** and **costly**, as [new research from the IRIS Project](#) and the experiences of migrant women and communities in BC routinely show.

We would really appreciate it if you [shared our petition](#) through your networks, with other organizations. We are excited to announce our petition has been endorsed by the BC Federation of Labour! We have received more than 380 signatures and are hoping to reach 1000 in order to better lobby the government.

Not only does the 3-month wait policy violate migrants' human rights, our research indicates that its impacts directly **harm the health of migrant women and their children** the most.

We know it is possible to eliminate the three-month wait period because the BC Medical Services Commission already did it. In March 2020, the Medical Services Commission suspended the 3-month wait period, only to reinstate it five months later. Now that we are in the grips of the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the enforced wait period for health insurance is downright dangerous.

We would be grateful if you could help us encourage the BC government do the right thing and call on the Medical Services Commission to completely eliminate this harmful and discriminatory policy once and for all.

If you're able, please [sign and share](#) our petition broadly! And, please keep an eye out for the social media launch of our campaign under the handle @CGSHEquity on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Elmira Tayyar, MPH (She/Her)

Co-Project Coordinator- IRIS

Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity (CGSHE)

T| 604-369-4210 W| www.cgshe.ca



MAP (Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin December 1, 2021



"Access to Justice for Refugees: How legal aid and quality of counsel impact fairness and efficiency in Canada's asylum system".

We will be launching our project report on 9 December, 12-1 pm.

Registration details can be found here: <https://www.ryerson.ca/cerc-migration/events/2021/12/a2j-for-refugees/>.

Thank you for offering your expertise, helping connect us with claimants, or offering feedback on our research. Please feel free to be in touch any time if you have any questions or comments once the report is publicly available.

Best wishes,

Craig Damian Smith, PhD

Senior Research Associate

Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration & Integration

<https://www.ryerson.ca/cerc-migration/>

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES

How legal aid and quality of counsel impact fairness and efficiency in Canada's asylum system

Join us for the launch of a new study that examines how refugee legal aid and the quality of representation affect the fairness and efficiency of Canada's asylum procedures. Researchers from the Centre for Refugee Studies, York University; Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, Osgoode Hall Law School; and the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration (CERC Migration) program, Ryerson University, undertook an in-depth study to understand barriers to justice through funding for refugee legal aid and poor-quality or abusive counsel, and propose policy changes to strengthen Canada's asylum system to ensure access to justice for vulnerable refugee claimants.

Their report includes original data from a range of stakeholders, including refugee claimants, lawyers, representatives of legal aid plans, front-line refugee support staff, and a first of its kind survey with IRB decision-makers.

Authors and presenters include:

- **Craig Damian Smith**, Ryerson University and York University
- **Sean Rehaag**, York University and Osgoode Law School
- **Trevor Farrow**, Osgoode Law School and Canadian Forum on Civil Justice

Thurs. Dec. 9, 2021, 12-1 PM EST
CERC in Migration & Integration



MAP (Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin December 1, 2021

