



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

# MAP Member Agency News

Weekly Bulletin # 39

April 29, 2020

**Dear MAP members,**

How are you doing? That's a common question nowadays and one that MAP wants to focus on – 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 ([info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org)).

### **[World Refugee Day Celebrations](#)**

As mentioned at the MAP meeting there will unfortunately be no live World Refugee Day events this year at Vancouver Public Library. Instead MAP is hoping to host a number of interesting activities online on Thursday June 18.

Please send us your ideas on how to celebrate this important day for refugee claimants – and if you can volunteer to help out in the planning! Email Jenny at [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org) Thank you!

### **[Changes to the weekly MAP Bulletin during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)**

You will have noticed that very urgent messages that apply to refugee claimants and agencies have been sent out in the daily COVID-19 Special Updates (unless material arrives on Tuesday or Wednesday morning). We are trying to reserve this urgent bulletin solely for the most important pandemic-related material. At the same time the regular Bulletin carries information about pandemic-related workshops and support as well as general information.

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.

**MAP Co-Chairs**

**Mariana, Richard (& Jenny: Co-Chair Designate)**

**and the other Jenny!**

# News highlights: COVID-19 and refugee claimants April 28, 2020



Please see a list of interesting articles gathered by MAP from across Canada attached in PDF. TITLES:

- **Province secures safe shelters and supports in hotels for people living in encampments in Vancouver and Victoria BC**  
Government news release
- **Hotels ‘caught off guard’ by Victoria’s request to use rooms for the homeless**  
Canadian Press
- **UNHCR: Key information for asylum seekers in Canada**
- **New immigrants face special challenges adjusting to life in BC amid COVID-19**  
Toronto Star
- **Refugee claimants in London, Ontario and across Canada stuck in legal limbo**  
London Free Press
- **Canada is releasing immigration detainees at ‘unprecedented’ rates amid COVID-19 fears**  
Global News
- **Pandemic complicates life for hundreds of refugees hoping to stay in Sudbury**  
CBC News
- **Immigrant family pays it forward with \$1.6 million donation to hospitals**  
Montreal Gazette

**MOSAIC** will be offering online English Conversation Circles for Refugee Claimants on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:00 pm from April 29 to June 3, 2020. These online sessions will be hosted on Zoom (available on phone or computer). Clients can register and get the link to join the Zoom sessions by emailing Parisa at [proofigari@mosaicbc.org](mailto:proofigari@mosaicbc.org).

### Frequently Asked Questions:

- ✓ Every Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- ✓ Zoom – An online App (can be used on phone or computer)
- ✓ Clients can register any week
- ✓ Spanish and Farsi language support
- ✓ All refugee claimants welcome! Participants can attend even if they are still waiting for their ID

Please don't hesitate to contact Parisa via email at [proofigari@mosaicbc.org](mailto:proofigari@mosaicbc.org) if you have any questions. Have a great day!

## ONLINE: English Conversation for Refugee Claimants



MOSAIC

Every Wednesday

5:00 pm — 6:00 pm

April 29 — June 3, 2020

We will “meet” each week on Zoom



(an online app)



Practice your English, talk to new people, and learn more about life in Canada.

You can register any week!

To get the link to join on your phone or computer, please email Parisa at [proofigari@mosaicbc.org](mailto:proofigari@mosaicbc.org)



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.



WelcomeBC

# BC SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION SERVICES

Free **Employment, Immigration, and Settlement** services

Employment Services: Resume & CV Reviews, skills workshops, and more.

Immigration Services: Express Entry, BC PNP, pathways to permanency info.

Settlement Services: Information on Government Benefits and more.

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## Eligibility:

- Foreign workers *with a valid work permit*
- Post-secondary international students
- Refugee Claimants
- PNP Nominees
- Naturalized Citizens actively seeking work

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For all inquiries and workshop registrations:

Email us at:

[bcsis@success.bc.ca](mailto:bcsis@success.bc.ca)

or visit our website:

[www.successbcsis.com](http://www.successbcsis.com)

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*Want to speak with a staff? Find the number in your region below.*

**Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster:** 236-668-4953; 604-900-3538

**Richmond, South Delta.....** : 236-668-3474; 236-333-8101

**Surrey, Langley North Delta.....** : 236-808-2323; 604-900-3532

**Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam,  
Port Moody, Maple Ridge.....** : 236-333-2135; 236-668-1248

# FAMILY SUPPORT - WEEKLY WEBINAR

nurturing family resilience in times of uncertainty

**DR. TANYA BROESCH**

SFU Associate Professor of Psychology

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 3-4 PM**

**FREE!** Registration required--find the link at  
[www.bflgrowscommunity.org](http://www.bflgrowscommunity.org)

This talk will offer practical advice to foster well-being in children and parents during this time of crisis and chaos.



**BURNABY  
FAMILY LIFE**  
A PLACE TO GO... A PLACE TO GROW!

nurturing joy & love with home time!



See news from **DIVERSEcity** in their current [newsletter](#) – including the Cloth Facemask Initiative

### **The Cloth Facemask Initiative**

An immigrant women's sewing collective called Sewmates Craft has come together to launch The Cloth Facemask Initiative, sewing masks for vulnerable populations in BC during COVID-19.

One hundred masks have already been delivered to Mission Possible, which are being distributed them to the homeless community in the Downtown Eastside. DIVERSEcity has donated \$1,000 to buy 200 masks for clients as well as vulnerable populations in Surrey, BC, distributed by the Lookout Society.

Shayne Williams, CEO of Lookout Society said: "Their amazing generosity is helping to protect the lives of Lookout employees and the vulnerable people we serve." See more in the Newsletter



# Statistics Canada on Crowdsourcing survey and COVID-19 portal.

Statistics Canada have launched a new crowdsourcing survey (available now) looking at the impact of COVID-19 on Canadians. The survey takes 5 minutes to complete and they are asking this survey be shared with everyone to collect as many responses as possible.

The survey can be found at the following web-portal that provides the latest information and data related to some of the key economic trends and social challenges that are emerging as the COVID-19 situation evolves across Canada. You can access the portal via the link below:

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/covid19?HPA=1>

If there are any questions please contact: [desiree.ng@canada.ca](mailto:desiree.ng@canada.ca)

Telephone 604-349-3627/ 604-666-4996



**The BC Rural & Remote Regional Advisory Board** is currently accepting applications from organizations who are working directly attending to the **needs of the homeless or at risk of homelessness** during the COVID-19 pandemic, through activities that meet the Special Directive on COVID-19 (**Attachment: Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy Directives**).

Funding is for all non-designated communities and First Nation communities (on reserve) in BC. New-comer serving organizations, outside of designated communities, are also eligible. The list of (non) designated communities can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/find-community/bc.html>.

**Applications will be accepted up to 12:00 p.m. Tuesday May 5th, 2020.**

Please find attached the following items in relation to the Request for Applications:

1. Application Funding Guide
2. RH Canada's Homelessness Strategy Directives (PDF)
3. BC Rural & Remote COVID-19 Part I Application
4. BC Rural & Remote COVID-19 Part II Application Workplan
5. BC Rural & Remote COVID-19 Part II Application Budget

Should you have any questions or concerns pertaining to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact myself (contact information below), or Nicole Doucette, Program Manager via email at [nicoled@pgnaeta.bc.ca](mailto:nicoled@pgnaeta.bc.ca) or telephone at 250-561-1199 or 1-800-510-0515.

Dawn Murphy, BCHPS Project Officer

[dawnm@pgnaeta.bc.ca](mailto:dawnm@pgnaeta.bc.ca) Ph: 250-561-1199

Dear member,



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés  
Canadian Council for Refugees

Join us for a virtual meeting re: **supporting precarious status migrants during the pandemic Thurs 7 May** at 2:00pm EDT. With or without status, migrants in Canada are sometimes in exploitative situations, and are particularly vulnerable to labour violations, gender-based-violence, human rights violations, human trafficking and other types of abuse.

Their precarity is amplified during the pandemic crisis, and are in need of urgent support.

**The objectives of this meeting are** to share information, exchange front-line strategies and encourage collaboration on:

- Issues/barriers facing migrant workers and migrants with precarious status during the pandemic
- Tools and strategies being used to support migrant workers and migrants with precarious status during the pandemic

During the virtual meeting, resource people will highlight issues, case studies and possible solutions, and will invite participants

to share their own cases and front-line strategies.

Participants are encouraged to a) come to the meeting with a specific question they are seeking to address on one or more of the

issues below b) bring forward a case they would like to share in order to get input on best practices for front-line workers.

**Issues and barriers facing precarious and non-status migrants during the pandemic:**

- Access to federal benefits (what are the gaps?)
- Living/working conditions for: caregivers, migrants with newly obtained TRPs and refugee claimants, health and safety considerations for migrant workers
- Access to immigration status: TRPs for Victims of Human Trafficking, TRPs for Victims of Family Violence, Open Work Permit for Vulnerable Workers

The meeting will last 90 minutes with a section for participants to ask their questions and share their cases.

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1206277911938207503>

Questions? Contact Alice Alvarez-Pereyre | Members Services Coordinator at [aalpereyre@ccrweb.ca](mailto:aalpereyre@ccrweb.ca)



# RESEARCH at a Glance RECHERCHE en un coup d'oeil



External publication alert / Avertissement de publication externe

## Policy Previews

Various authors

Building Migrant Resilience in Cities/Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain (BMRC-IRMU) – York University

Released April 2020 | Diffusion : avril 2020

### Social Characteristics of Temporary Foreign Workers Living in Ontario and Quebec

Valerie Preston (York University) & Marshia Akbar (York University)

#### Overview | Aperçu

“The precarious legal status and limited rights to social services of many temporary foreign workers affect their transitions to permanent status. Access to permanent residency differs based on skill level and type of work permit. Holders of open work-permits and live-in caregivers are more likely to gain permanent residency than other groups of temporary workers (Ci, Hou and Morissette 2018). In addition, highly skilled workers may apply for permanent residence from within Canada. In contrast, lower-skilled workers, with few exceptions, have very limited opportunities to migrate permanently (Nakache and Kinoshita 2010). Although variations in access to permanent residency have been discussed at length, little information is available regarding the social characteristics of foreign workers who transition from temporary to permanent status in different provinces. The distribution of foreign workers is uneven across Canadian provinces. In addition, different rules and regulations are often applied at the provincial level to hire temporary foreign workers. Provincial analysis is, thus, important to understand the social characteristics of foreign workers in relation to specific social and policy contexts.”

#### Key findings | Principaux résultats :

- Ontario was the destination for almost half of temporary foreign workers arriving in Canada between 1980 and 2015.
- Most temporary foreign workers did not become permanent residents. Between 1980 and 2015, only a minority, 36%, obtained permanent residence in Canada.

Download the full document | Télécharger le document complet (en anglais) :

[https://bmrc-irmu.info.yorku.ca/files/2020/04/MA\\_VP-FINAL-Report-on-Foreign-workers\\_April-2020.pdf?x82641](https://bmrc-irmu.info.yorku.ca/files/2020/04/MA_VP-FINAL-Report-on-Foreign-workers_April-2020.pdf?x82641)

### Social Characteristics of International Students in Ontario and Quebec

Valerie Preston (York University) & Marshia Akbar (York University)

#### Overview | Aperçu

“The number of foreign students in Canada continues to grow rapidly. Canada was the destination for 7% of the world’s international students in 2017, one of the top three countries that host the largest shares of international students in comparison to their total higher education populations.”

## Provided by Burnaby Immigrant Partnership:

Research on Building Migrant Resilience in Cities  
(attached in full)

Dear member,

I am writing to tell you a little about our plans for the spring, given that we have had to postpone our hoped for visit to Moncton, New Brunswick, for the Spring Consultation.

The Executive has agreed that we will hold a virtual consultation, spread over several weeks. We will begin the week of May 18 and continue until late June. There will be webinars, caucus sessions, Working Group meetings and the General Meeting, all held virtually. We will even see if we can manage a virtual social event!

Sessions will generally be at: 11am Pacific

Many of the sessions are adapted from those we were planning for the regular Spring Consultation, but often with a new focus on how we respond to the impacts of the pandemic.

The Spring General Meeting will be held on **Friday June 12, at 2pm Eastern**. Since our bylaws do not allow a General Meeting to be held entirely by electronic means, we will hold the General Meeting in Winnipeg, at IRCOM (the organization of our President, Dorota Blumczynzka). Anyone wanting to attend in person will need to respect all public health rules applying at that time. All members will be able to attend the General Meeting through electronic means.

The General Meeting will consider any resolutions forwarded by the Working Groups, which will meet in the **week of June 1**.

Details about the virtual consultation and how to register will follow next week.

Janet Dench

Executive Director

## **MOSAIC and Inasmuch will be hosting 2 more online Career Workshops for refugee claimants:**

- May 1<sup>st</sup> - Getting the Job: The Best Answers to Top Interview Questions
- May 8<sup>th</sup> - Workplace Culture and Integration: Stating Your New Job

All scheduled at 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, on Zoom (phone or computer).

Please register for any of them by email at [refugeclaimant@mosaicbc.org](mailto:refugeclaimant@mosaicbc.org),

Please circulate the information too!

2 pages - see over for May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup> workshops



**ONLINE WORKSHOP**  
for Refugee Claimants

### Getting the Job: The Best Answers to Top Interview Questions

Friday May 1st 10:30 am—12:00 pm  
Workshop on ZOOM (phone or computer)

- How to prepare for common interview questions and answer confidently: advice from a former Head of Human Resources
- Following up after an interview

To Register: Email [refugeclaimant@mosaicbc.org](mailto:refugeclaimant@mosaicbc.org)



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.

ONLINE WORKSHOP

For Refugee Claimants



## Workplace Culture and Integration: Starting Your New Job

Friday May 8th 10:30 am—12:00 pm

Workshop on ZOOM (phone or computer)

- What to consider before starting with a new company: advice from a former Head of Human Resources
- Feel comfortable and confident in a new Canadian workplace

To Register: Email [refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org](mailto:refugeeclaimant@mosaicbc.org)



MOSAIC

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness.



**DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society** is expanding its **Community Development team** through 2 new leadership roles- Senior Manager of Community Development and the Surrey Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator. Please see the links to the job postings below:

Senior Manager of Community Development:

<https://canada.easyapply.co/a/1afc9aa9-c6ef-442f-b4ae-e7c796669eb8>

Surrey Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator:

<https://canada.easyapply.co/a/a3fb11ce-a45a-4ec9-acaf-73e60d1fcb6d>

If you have any questions pertaining to these job opportunities, please connect with Laura Mannix at [lmannix@dcrs.ca](mailto:lmannix@dcrs.ca)

Thanks,

Laura Mannix | Director, Community Development

13455 76 Avenue, Surrey, BC V3W 2W3

T: 604-954-4009 | C: 604-349-4054

