



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

Weekly Bulletin # 36

April 8, 2020

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (2 pages)

The IRB continues to monitor the evolving situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has created challenges for parties and their counsel preparing for proceedings. The IRB recognizes that it is appropriate to take measures to help those who have matters before the Board and their counsel follow the proper health protocols required by the pandemic, as well as to ensure proceedings are conducted fairly and in a timely manner when they resume.

The IRB has further issued a [Practice Notice implementing Special Measures due to COVID-19](#). Division-specific Practice Notices have also been issued.

The following special measures **apply to all four of its Divisions, except where noted.**

Postponements of in-person hearings and mediations

The IRB is suspending, until further notice, all in-person hearings and mediations, except detention reviews and some admissibility hearings involving detained persons.

Hearing Resumption

The IRB will issue a Resumption Notice to provide at least 30 days' notice before proceeding with a previously scheduled in-person hearing or scheduling a new in-person hearing, except detention reviews and some admissibility hearings involving detained persons, subject to specific exceptions.

When hearings resume, the IRB will be flexible with respect to the application of its rules where the parties have difficulty complying with them due to the COVID-19 situation. However, the IRB seeks the parties' and their counsels' cooperation to comply with the requirements of the rules of the Divisions, to the extent possible, to ensure the proceedings will proceed in a fair and timely manner. (Continued over →)

Time Limits

Time limits for the filing of various forms and submissions and notices of appeal across various Divisions are being temporarily extended. For the [Refugee Appeal Division](#), [Refugee Protection Division](#) and the [Immigration Appeal Division](#), time limits for certain documents are being extended until 30 days after the Resumption Notice.

Communication

The Immigration Division is now accepting communication by email, as set out in its [Practice Notice: Communicating by email at the Immigration Division \(ID\)](#) joining the Immigration Appeal Division which released its [Practice Notice: Communicating by email at the Immigration Appeal Division](#) January 31, 2020. The RPD continues to accept documents by Canada e-Post. Divisions continue to explore various options to facilitate communication and will provide updates as and when available.

Finally, the IRB recognizes the critical importance of the open court principle, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the media wishing to access proceedings should contact IRB Media Relations.

I commit to sharing with you any future developments. Please share this email with your membership and continue to refer to [IRB website](#) for regular updates.

Richard Wex, Chairperson

IRB Refugee Protection Division (RPD)

Practice notice – Special measures due to covid-19 <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/legal-policy/procedures/Pages/special-measures-covid-19.aspx>

The Refugee Protection Division (RPD) has extended the time limit for filing the Basis of Claim Form, as set out in its [*Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension of Time Limits for Filing the Basis of Claim Form*](#).

The Refugee Appeal Division (RAD) has extended the time limit for filing and perfecting an appeal, as set out in its [*Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension of Time Limits for Filing a Notice of Appeal and Perfecting an Appeal*](#).

The Immigration Appeal Division (IAD) has extended the time limit for filing a Notice of Appeal, as set out in its [*Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension of Time Limits for Filing a Notice of Appeal*](#).

Thank-you for sharing this.

Bridget Bell

City of Vancouver letter: TEMPORARY EMERGENCY CHILDCARE UPDATE (2 pages) [Please see translated versions attached](#)

Thank you for your patience, as we work to support the health and safety of all residents during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

As you know, the City has been focused on maintaining essential services, and many of you have been required to continue working, without access to childcare.

In response, the City's emergency taskforce, comprised of individuals from the City of Vancouver, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, the Vancouver School Board, the Vancouver Parks Board, and Vancouver Coastal Health, have developed a system to refer essential workers **who are living or working in Vancouver**, and have no other alternatives for appropriate childcare, to licensed childcare providers with spaces temporarily available for the duration of the public health emergency. This referral system will connect parents or guardians of children aged 0 to 12, including those with special needs, with licensed childcare providers operating in or near their preferred Vancouver neighbourhood. Access to temporary emergency childcare services are reserved exclusively for children of essential workers who are required to respond to this health emergency and have no other childcare alternatives. At this time, the Provincial Health Officer has advised that all parents or guardians who can, should care for their children at home, while recognizing that child care services must be provided in a safe manner for those families whose parents work in critical roles.

Our goal with this initiative is to help connect temporary emergency childcare to those who need it most during this public health emergency. Unfortunately, as available spaces are limited, receiving a referral does not guarantee a spot.

Eligibility

Parents or guardians who are living or working in Vancouver, who have no other alternatives for childcare, and who are working in essential services as [defined by the Province](#) are eligible for the program.

Note: As requested by the Province, priority will be given to health and health services workers, law enforcement, public safety, first responders, emergency response personnel, and vulnerable population service providers.

How to Access the Temporary Emergency Childcare Referral System for Essential Workers

Parents or guardians of children ages 0-12 who are eligible for this program, should [submit the online request form](#) to the **Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre**. Please note that this will be the only accepted method for submitting a request. Once submitted, a representative from the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre will be in contact by email to provide a referral to one or more operators temporarily accepting children in your area.

When you have received your referral, please contact the operator(s) to inquire about available programs and fees.

If you have questions or require additional information on this process please contact: <https://www.wstcoast.org/contact>.

Emergency Childcare Task Force

Additional Information

- [Provincial Affordable Childcare](#): Families that earn up to \$111,000 (or more with deductions) may qualify for a childcare benefit
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [HealthLink BC](#), and the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#): For general information about the COVID-19 pandemic and how to keep your family safe
- [Province of BC](#): Find supports being offered by the Province
- [Ministry of Children and Family Development](#): Get COVID-19 Information Updates
- [Province of BC's Action Plan](#): get government resources and updates
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) MAP (Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin April 8, 2020
- [Ministry of mental health and addictions](#): For resources to help manage COVID-19 related stress, anxiety and depression

BC TENANTS RIGHTS DURING COVID-19

- Temporary Rent Supplement
- Temporary Freeze on Rent Increase
And on Evictions
- Measures to Protect Renters and
Landlords Health and much more!

Zoom Meeting

Download the Zoom App on your Phone
or Computer

To register, contact Patricia
604-954-0611
patricia.castillo@options.bc.ca

DATE:

THURSDAY
APR 16, 2020

TIME:

1:30 PM- 2:30
PM

LOCATION:

ZOOM MEETING

- Download Zoom
on your Phone
or Computer
- Don't need to
make an
account
- Registrants will
receive a Code
to join the
Webinar

DERECHOS DE LOS INQUILINOS EN BC DURANTE COVID-19

- Suplemento de Renta Temporal
- Congelamiento Temporal en aumento
de Renta y desalojos
- Medidas de Protección de Salud para
los inquilinos y propietarios de vivienda

Reunion en Zoom

Descargue la aplicacion de Zoom en su
teléfono ó Computadora

Registrarse, con Patricia
604-954-0611
patricia.castillo@options.bc.ca

FECHA:

JUEVES
APR 09, 2020

HORA:

1: 30 -2: 30 PM

LOCATION:

EN-LINEA

- Descarga Zoom
en su teléfono ó
Computadora
- No necesita
hacer una
cuenta
- Al registrarse
usted recibirá un
Código para
inscribirse en el
Seminario en Red

BC SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION SERVICES

**ERES SOLICITANTE DE REFUGIO
TIENES PREGUNTAS?**

- **SEGURO DE EMPLEO**
 - **BENEFICIO DE EMERGENCIA - CERB**
 - **BUSCANDO EMPLEO DURANTE COVID19**
 - **CURSOS GRATIS EN LINEA**
 - **AYUDA CON EL RESUME**
 - **INDUSTRIAS QUE ESTAN CONTRATANDO**
 - **PERMISO DE TRABAJO Y NUMERO SOCIAL**
-

604-809-7618

SAVLEEN

REFUGEE CLAIMANT SPECIALIST



WELCOME BC



British Columbia is creating a new information hotline solely dedicated to answering non-medical questions about COVID-19.

Service providers at the new phone line will help answer questions about travel recommendations, social distancing, and what kinds of support, resources and assistance are available from the provincial and federal governments.

The new hotline, which can be reached by calling 1-888-COVID19 or 1-888-268-4319, will be staffed from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day with information available in more than 110 languages.

COVID-19 Related Consultations

April 5, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for all members of Canadian society, but that refugee claimants, permanent residents, and other non-citizens may face particular challenges as a result of the pandemic and the resulting shutdown, including social isolation policies.

In particular, the closure of many international borders, including the Canada/U.S. border, to most travel may mean a longer period of separation of families who are already coping with the challenges of maintaining relationships across borders. We are also aware that noncitizens who are eager to advance to the next step of their immigration application, whether it be a refugee hearing, a Federal Court judicial review hearing, or any other matter, might be anxiously wondering what's coming next.

Our team of lawyers and support staff are committed to assisting you in your time of need. That is why **we are offering free half hour phone consultations to those who have immigration and refugee law questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and who are unable to afford the cost of legal services at this time.**

We understand that many individuals are in a difficult financial situation as a result of the pandemic and that some persons may be disproportionately impacted, including persons with lower incomes, refugee claimants, persons who recently lost their status or their employment, migrant workers, racialized individuals, persons with disabilities, and others. Preference will therefore be given to these persons in accordance with our availability.

If you would like to schedule a free consultation with one of the experienced lawyers at Edelman & Co, please click [here](#).

From NISA HOMES



Budgeting
IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY
A Financial Webinar

April 9th
8.00 PM (EST)

Managing and staying within your budget can be a challenge for some, and in times of uncertainty, it can become even harder. With social distancing, temporary business closures and job losses amid the current COVID-19 pandemic, many families are left to wonder how they will manage their expenses, and what steps they should take to manage their money wisely.

Join us for a FREE webinar* with Anam L, The Inspired Accountant, on Thursday April 9 at 8PM (EST) as she shares tips on the best ways to budget your money in these uncertain times and how to manage your financial priorities and goals, followed by a Q&A session.

*Attendance will be limited to the first 100 participants.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan

Kindly
provided by
MOSAIC

Type of Benefit	Benefit Amount	Eligibility	Information Needed
Employment Insurance (EI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$573/ week Up to maximum of 45 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job loss due to sickness/injury or shortage of work Worked 420-700 of hours ROE required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My Service Canada Account
EI – Sick Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$573/ week Up to maximum of 15 weeks One week waiting period waive No medical certificate required during quarantine Medical cert required if tested positive and beyond the quarantine period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine or sick due to Covid-19, Lost 40% of the pay Worked min of 600 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My Service Canada Account
Canada Emergency Response Benefit (Emergency Care Benefit + Emergency Support Benefit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2000 per month Up to max of 4 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sick, quarantined, care for someone that is sick or care for children because of school/daycare closures, no paid leave or other income support, or not being paid by employer, self-employed or contract workers who do not eligible for EI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application opens in April through web portal or toll-free number
Canada Child Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra \$300 per child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families with children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment scheduled with CCB in May
GST Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$400 per individual and \$600 for a couple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-modest income families 2018 tax filed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special payment in May
BC Emergency Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-time payment of \$1000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EI or Canada Emergency Response Benefit qualifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment in May Application process to be announced
BC Climate Action Tax Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$218.00 per adult and \$64 per child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-modest income families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment in July
BC Hydro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$600 grant bill payment deferral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial hardship due to job loss or illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective now
BC Temporary Rental Supplement Program (BC-TRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$500/month towards rent & paid directly to the landlord 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-moderate income families Financial hardship due to COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early April on BC Housing website
Mortgage & Car Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 months payment deferral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case by case basis with the associated lenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective now
Student Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment not required for 6 months No interest accrued for 6 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student loan borrowers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective March 30, 2020
Personal Income tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filing deadline - June 1st, 2020 Tax payment – Aug 31st, 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax payers 	-

(also available [here](#))

MSP coverage expanding to all uninsured people for COVID-19 testing For Immediate Release

March 30th, 2020 - The BC Health Coalition along with health care workers and public health experts are applauding the BC government's recent decision to expand MSP coverage to all uninsured people for COVID-19 testing and treatment. Now, all migrants in BC (including newly-landed permanent residents, temporary foreign workers, international students, those who have been rendered undocumented and those who have been stuck here since the borders closed) will have vital access to COVID-19 related health care. This is an important step towards ensuring equitable access to Universal Public Health Care while also helping to safeguard all of our health.

Dr. Srinivas Murthy, an infectious disease specialist at UBC leading a national research effort to improve clinical management of COVID-19, emphasized the importance of the policy direction in light of the current crisis: "There is no 'us' against 'them' in a pandemic. As BC and the world try to control the spread and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, it is vital for us to understand that our health is dependent on each other. Barriers to health care, especially for vulnerable populations, only increase risk. Covering COVID-19 related care is a good step forward but it should not stop there. It is important for preventative and primary care to be accessible to everyone too."

Narrowly defining COVID-19 related conditions has already created a lot of confusion in Ontario where a similar policy was announced. People with preventable or chronic conditions not on that list may avoid treatment and risk worsening their condition. At a time when we need to preserve available acute care resources, it is only logical to make sure that uninsured people can, and will, access primary and preventative care to reduce their need for acute care.

Many migrants, including temporary foreign workers, who we depend on for our food supply and other essential services, are often denied access to health care through a web of policies. The 3 month wait, which was recently repealed in Ontario and now only exists in BC and Quebec, results in greater long-term health care costs and poor health outcomes for migrants. The BC Health Coalition joined over 25 organizations in writing letters to the Medical Services Commission calling for its permanent removal.

"COVID-19 has reminded the world that healthcare is a basic human right. We hope to see the BC government continue to remove unnecessary and unreasonable barriers to health care and address existing health inequities. A good first step is the permanent removal of the 3 month wait," emphasized Dr. Mei-Ling Wiedmeyer, a family physician and Clinical Assistant Professor at UBC.

Background:

MSP coverage for migrants has been amended in a number of ways during the crisis. Asked Questions BC. Information concerning extended coverage can be found on the [BC Government website under COVID-19 Frequently](#)

See Q2, Q8 and Q9. Coverage during the crisis has been expanded to include:

- Individuals present in BC who would otherwise not be eligible for coverage under MSP will be provided provincially insured health care coverage for services related to suspected or confirmed cases of infection with COVID-19. This is contingent on them having called 8-1-1 or otherwise being advised by a medical professional to seek care for symptoms related to COVID-19. Services for unrelated conditions that are performed on non-eligible MSP patients will remain uninsured.
- All Temporary Foreign Workers who have come to work in BC during the pandemic and cannot access private insurance will be covered under MSP.
- People whose work or study permits have expired in Canada may continue to receive temporary MSP coverage. This includes people who have applied for a new permit and therefore have the right to continue to work or study in Canada (referred to as "implied status") while their new application is decided.

-30-

Media Liaison: Ayendri Riddell
Campaigner, BC Health Coalition
Phone: 604-787-6560
Email: ayendri@bchealthcoalition.ca



Looking for

Summer Camp?

Location: 6140 McKercher Ave Burnaby
Across from Metrotown Mall

Time: July 6 – September 4, 2020
Monday to Friday
Weekly rates at \$225
Statutory 4 day week at \$180
8am – 6pm

Age: Children who completed kindergarten
in June 2020 to 10 years old

To register: on our website at

www.burnabyfamilylife.org/childcare/summer-camp/

Limited spaces, registration open!

Program calendar will follow

[REGISTRATION](#)



Summer Camp 2020

Child Information:

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Guardian: _____ Business/Cell: _____

Guardian: _____ Business/Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Programs:

Week 1	Nature Agents	Monday July 6th to Friday July 10th	_____	\$225.00
Week 2	Art Camp	Monday July 13th to Friday July 17th	_____	\$225.00
Week 3	Past and Future	Monday July 20th to Friday July 24th	_____	\$225.00
Week 4	STEAM 101	Monday July 27th to Friday July 31st	_____	\$225.00
Week 5	The Great Outdoors	Tuesday August 4th to Friday Aug 7th	_____	\$180.00
Week 6	Performing Stars	Monday Aug 10th to Friday Aug 14th	_____	\$225.00
Week 7	Sports Academy	Monday Aug 17th to Friday Aug 21st	_____	\$225.00
Week 8	Bakers Cook off	Monday Aug 24th to Friday Aug 28th	_____	\$225.00
Week 9	Super Scientist	Monday Aug 31st to Friday Sept 4th	_____	\$225.00

Total fees due:

Summer Camp Policies:

1. Full payment at registration payable through www.burnabyfamilylife.org/childcare/summercamp
2. Refund will be given by May 29th minus \$30 administration fee per week
3. Please bring lunch. No Nuts/Seafood products permitted
4. Lunches may take place outdoors, weather permitting, so please ensure hot food is in thermos and icepacks for dairy
5. Field trips or neighbourhood outings are included as daily activities even on Centre days
6. Please arrive by 9:30am for fieldtrips. Field Trip dates may vary depending on availability.
7. Ensure children bring hats, sunscreen, bathing suits, towels extra clothes, extra shoes
8. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items, children are advised not to bring items of value (electronics or money)

One form per child