



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

Weekly Bulletin # 33

March 18, 2020

Dear MAP members,



The Covid-19 situation is changing hourly, but 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 Jenny know (info@mapbc.org) so we can circulate widely.

PLEASE NOTE: The MAP meeting scheduled for Thursday March 26th at Canadian Red Cross is cancelled. We will focus instead on keeping you updated through the bulletin and messages.

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 reduce our impact to the folks we serve.

MAP Co-Chairs

Mariana and Richard (and Jenny - Co-Chair Designate)

FULL ADVISORY FROM THE IMMIGRATION REFUGEE BOARD (3 Pages)

Dear stakeholders,

As you are aware, the IRB has been actively monitoring the evolving situation around the world and here in Canada related to COVID-19. Since the outbreak, we have been taking steps to both protect the health and well-being of our staff and those who appear before the Board, while continuing to ensure access to justice to the extent possible.

We recognize the challenges and anxieties associated with the current situation and are committed to being as flexible as reasonably possible. As a result of recent developments, including announcements across various levels of government over the weekend and in consultation with some of you, the following measures are being implemented:

Postponements of in-person hearings and mediations

All in person hearings and mediations, other than detention reviews, are postponed effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through Sunday, April 5, 2020. The IRB will be regularly monitoring developments and an update to this notice will be communicated on or before Sunday, April 5, 2020. Postponed hearings and mediations will be rescheduled promptly upon the resumption of full IRB operations.

Precautionary Measures at Detention Reviews

The Immigration Division (ID) is taking important steps, effective immediately and until further notice, to mitigate the risk of exposure to the virus at its hearing sites. A detailed [notice](#) has been posted to the web. Measures include the following:

- Minimizing the transportation of detained individuals to IRB premises

- Establishing a means by which other hearing participants, for example counsel, hearings officers and bondspersons, can take part in hearings by telephone or video-conferencing should they wish to do so.

- Continuing to implementing active health screening procedures at each hearing site.

Increased Flexibility at the Refugee Protection Division and Refugee Appeal Division

The IRB is introducing temporary procedural accommodations at the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) and the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD), effective immediately. We are aware of and sensitive to the challenges the current situation poses for claimants, appellants, Parties and their representatives.

As such, we are granting temporary extensions of time limits as outlined in the [Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension of Time Limits for Filing a Basis of Claim Form](#) and the [Practice Notice on the Temporary Extension for Time Limits for Filing a Notice of Appeal and Perfecting an Appeal](#).

In addition to the above measures, the IRB will be considering all COVID related motions and applications with flexibility and other operational practice flexibilities are being considered and will be announced as required.

We are closely monitoring the situation and will inform you of any further developments. In the meantime, I encourage you to check the [IRB website](#) regularly for updates.

We encourage parties to submit documentation electronically where possible.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration and please continue to take care of yourselves and your families during these exceptional times.

Sincerely,
Richard Wex. Chairperson

In addition to the message above, please note that in **Western region**, as with other regions, we are working diligently to find solutions to various logistical challenges. Our priority is ensuring hearings continue to take place, while keeping everyone's health and safety in mind. Please note the following:

- We will be re-scheduling all non-detained Admissibility Hearings. The scheduling unit will be in touch with the parties. Detained admissibility hearings will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.
- For detention reviews, in an attempt to minimize the participants in the hearing room, we have created capacity to conduct hearings by videoconference or teleconference. At this time, interpreters will be calling in to hearings. Please send any requests to Registry by fax at (604)666-7082. If it is the day of the hearing, please contact the duty desk by phone at (604) 666-3124, if you would like to request attendance by teleconference.
- The soft launch of the use of videoconference for detention review hearings between the IRB's premises in Vancouver and the Immigration Holding Centre (IHC), and in-person hearings at either location will be delayed. We will however use the videoconference or teleconference capabilities at the Surrey IHC if a person concerned is currently being held at the IHC.

Despite diligent efforts to ensure smooth proceedings, we anticipate that there will be delays, and we thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility during this challenging time.

Regards,

Alice Tang - Assistant Deputy Chairperson

Message from READY Tours

READY Tours for March 18th and March 27 are cancelled in light of developments related to COVID-19. Claimants registered for the March 18th session have been notified. Claimants registered for the March 27th session will be notified by early next week. Information about rescheduling cancelled READY Tours and upcoming sessions will be shared as it becomes available. New registrations that are received in the coming days will be noted, but not scheduled for a READY Tour session until a later date. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Fran Gallo

Vancouver READY Tour Coordinator

I am writing to inform MAP that we will be closing all of our offices in BC to the public beginning end of day tomorrow, March 17 until further notice. While some of us will continue to work on-site, other than the government assisted refugees currently living with us, we will move all other services including SOS on-line and through telephone support as much as possible.

Chris Friesen | Director - Settlement Services
2610 Victoria Drive, Vancouver, BC V5N 4L2

Walk-in services cancelled; services continuing by phone and online

In these challenging and unprecedented times, we are taking precautionary measures to safeguard the well-being of our clients and staff, while making sure we are still able to provide and continue our services.

Effective immediately and until further notice, services will continue only by phone or online – public, walk-in services at all MOSAIC offices and spaces will not be available **effective 8:00am on Tuesday, March 17th.**

Forums, workshops and classes are also cancelled.

Thank you

Tracy Tang

Program Assistant, Refugee
Settlement & Integration and
Legal Advocacy Programs



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

CCR members are invited to participate in a virtual meeting on Wednesday 18 March on responses to COVID19. Join this meeting to hear the latest information on responses to COVID19 by IRCC, IRB and CBSA, share strategies for NGOs serving newcomers and identify issues for our work arising from the pandemic.

MEETING DETAILS

When: Wednesday 18 March 2020

1pm Eastern

2:30pm Newfoundland

2pm Atlantic

12 noon Central

11 am Mountain

10am Pacific

The meeting will last 60 minutes.

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/716597213396660237>



Employment-Related Supports and Inter-Agency Referrals for Immigrant Clients

(Part 2)

Introducing an E-Learning Module for Front-line Workers

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Time: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm (Pacific Time) including Q&A

Location: Online, you will receive the web link after registering

Register [HERE](#) by Wednesday, March 25 at 5:00 PM

This webinar introduces the second of a companion pair of e-learning modules that help front-line workers make employment-related inter-agency referrals for immigrant clients. The modules guide effective inter-agency collaboration and coordination for successful service delivery.

Topics include the qualities of successful inter-agency referrals and effective inter-agency collaboration in managing the immigrant client referral process.

The webinar features guest speaker **Shannon Baikie, Regional Manager, Community and Labour Market Services for North Island Employment**. Shannon is a member of the IECF Advisory and contributed to the updates. Shannon holds an MA in

Community Economic Development from the University of Victoria and is a Certified Career Development Practitioner (CCDP).

Questions? Email Lori Cameron at lcameron@amssa.org or call 604-718-2780 email to end an email to lcameron@amssa.org or call 604-718-2780

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SPECIAL REQUEST!

I am writing this note just to ask if anyone at MAP can help us to procure some liquid hand sanitation as you know we work with street people who do not have access to this kind of cleanser.

Please if you have any contacts or sources for these or other personal hygiene supplies, contact: .
Thank you in advance for your support.

Bayron Figueroa.

Newcomers Health Promotion Case Manager

Lower Mainland Purpose Society

40 Begbie Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3M 3L9

O: 604-526-2522 | **C:** 604-8086579 | **F:** 604-526-6546



We're hiring for a new role! If you are interested in becoming our Community Coordinator, please do apply. Or if you know someone who might be interested or would be a good fit, please do pass along the job posting. Thanks!

Position Title: Community Coordinator

Job Purpose: The Community Coordinator is responsible for leading Kinbrace's Community program to help build transformative connections: to the Host Community, the larger Community, the physical spaces of Kinbrace, and Kinbrace staff.

Position Overview: The Community Coordinator, with support from other staff and volunteers, will steward and nurture the Kinbrace community to create a transformative environment where residents, Host Community, staff, volunteers and neighbours flourish together.

The Community Coordinator is responsible for leading and caring for Kinbrace's Host Community; this includes ensuring all Host Community members are supported, listened to, and advocated for. The Community Coordinator will also work with each Host Community member to develop a Sustainability Plan to ensure ongoing health of the host community.

The Community Coordinator is also responsible for creating opportunities for Kinbrace residents to develop friendships with other residents, volunteers, neighbours, and staff members; this includes cultivating and stewarding volunteers and volunteer groups. In addition, the Community Coordinator will create community building events that help residents discover and experience belonging.

Position Terms: Full-time: 30 hours per week - \$25-30/hr depending on experience - 3-month mutual discernment period - Comprehensive benefits



APPLY NOW!

JOB OPPORTUNITY



MOSAIC Refugee Settlement and Integration Program is looking for a Coordinator of Refugee Claimants Housing Management and Referral. We would like to share this job posting with you, and please find details in the link: https://www.mosaicbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Job-posting_Coordinator-of-RC-Housing-Management-and-Referral--Jan2020.pdf

This is a full time position with starting hourly rate range from \$ 25.16 to \$26.69 (depending on qualifications and experience), and **it's an ongoing position until a suitable candidate is found.**

Questions? Please contact: Tracy Tang

Program Assistant, Refugee Settlement & Integration **Family & Settlement Services**

5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver V5R 2P9

T 604 254 9626 ext.1064

ttang@mosaicbc.org

Statistics Canada is delighted to invite you to:

Canada 4.0 – Canadian society, the economy and the digital transformation - Digital Conferences

Connected: The digital revolution and the well-being of Canadians

When: Thursday, March 26, 2020 from 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m., EST, followed by a 30-minute question and answer discussion

[Register](#) for the English session | [Register](#) for the French session

Description: Canada is in the midst of a digital transformation. A comprehensive understanding of the impact of digital transformation requires us to look at both the upsides and the downsides of digital transformation. How will Canadians adapt and flourish and who could be left behind? It is important to know how Canadians are doing: in their mental health, their education, social connections and work-life balance; in their feelings of safety and security; and in their ability to take advantage of the economic and social opportunities offered by the digital economy.

Hosts: Statistics Canada and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

Upcoming Conferences

- Take a tablet and call me in the morning: Healthcare in the digital age
- Canadata: Managing and governing our data reserves
- A roadmap for Canada: Measuring our digital society and economy
- Platforms, AI, cloud computing and the changing nature of business in Canada

For more information, please visit: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/wtc/digital>

You may also follow the discussion stream via Statistics Canada's [Facebook page](#).

Outreach Program / Collection and Regional Services Branch

Statistics Canada / Government of Canada Contact: statcan.westinfo-ouestinfo.statcan@canada.ca