



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 117

March 2, 2022

Dear MAP members,

How are you doing? As we move into the third year of the pandemic this question is even more important 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.

New BC Minister of Municipal Affairs: Nathan Cullen

On Friday, February 25th, Premier Horgan announced that [Nathan Cullen](#) will assume responsibility as the Minister of Municipal Affairs (MUNI). MUNI's previous Minister, Josie Osborne, has now been appointed as Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship. We do not anticipate that these appointments will result in any other staffing or organizational impacts on the Ministry. More information can be found here: [BC Govt News Release](#)

IN FOCUS: Finding Home – Transformative Places where Refugee Claimants Flourish

Join us to hear about housing options that really work for refugee claimants and how we can duplicate the model Mohammed Zaqout (Kinbrace), Vanessa Roth (Journey Home Community) moderated by Loren Balisky (Kinbrace)
Tuesday March 15, 7pm online

[REGISTER HERE](#)

See more information on the [website](#)

Poster [inside!](#)

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!





Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés Canadian Council for Refugees

Dear colleague,

We have posted a statement concerning the crisis in Ukraine. You can consult it below or [click here for the web version](#).

When people are forced to flee, as is currently the case in Ukraine, the fundamental right to seek refuge must be safeguarded – fully and without discrimination. We are concerned at reports that people from Africa and from Asia are facing barriers in fleeing to neighbouring countries.

People in Ukraine who are already refugees, including some who have applications for resettlement to Canada in process, are particularly vulnerable at this time of grave crisis. The Canadian government should take urgent measures to help those being resettled here to get to safety, including through issuing Temporary Resident Permits.

Less than a year after the Afghanistan crisis erupted, a new emergency has emerged in Ukraine. In between, the grave situation in Ethiopia has also had devastating impacts on refugees, although less remarked in Western media.

We call on the Canadian government to develop a framework for immigration and refugee responses to emergencies, so that we are well-prepared to act quickly and equitably, based on objective criteria and following the needs identified by humanitarian agencies.

Please share in your networks if relevant!

News highlights:

Refugee claimant- related articles from Canada and around the world

March 2, 2022

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

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

- [Toronto's crowded homeless shelters are no place for refugees fleeing war and persecution](#)
Toronto Star March 1
- [Over 150,000 Ukrainians seek refuge](#)
Associated Press February 26
- [Immigration minister insists he's dealing with backlog amid race for global talent](#)
Toronto Star February 16
- [Nearly 4,000 Ukrainian immigration applicants approved to come to Canada: federal minister](#)CTV February 28
- [BC ready to work with Ottawa on sanctions, Ukrainian refugees](#)
CTV February 25
- [Coronavirus and refugees: how has the pandemic impacted refugees and displaced populations](#)
UNHCR undated
- [Covid-19 might have lasting impacts on the way Canada handles immigration: federal minister](#)
Canadian Press December 23/21



FINDING HOME

TRANSFORMATIVE PLACES WHERE REFUGEE CLAIMANTS FLOURISH



Arriving in a new country as a refugee claimant, and adapting to a new culture, is challenging and overwhelming. But the biggest hurdle can be finding a safe place to stay. How can you help refugee claimants connect with warmth and welcome in a place they can call home? Join us to hear from Mohammed who faced this journey and is now helping other claimants find a home, and the experts who provide refugee claimant transition housing.

Tuesday, March 15th 2022
at 7:00 PM
Register online
<https://bit.ly/3gUFyhV>

Join us with

Moderator:
Loren Balisky
Kinbrace

Guest Speakers:
Mohammed Zaqaat
Kinbrace, Refugee
Housing & Support

Vanessa Roth
Journey Home
Community

Questions? Email
info@mapbc.org



Tuesday March 15
7pm, online

Speakers:
Mohammed Zaqaout
Vanessa Roth

Moderator:
Loren Balisky

REGISTER





Upcoming READY Tour Dates
Vancouver
March - April 2022

Virtual READY Tours on Microsoft Teams will be offered on the following dates:

- **March 11th (Friday)** - 9:30-11:30am
- **March 25th (Friday)** - 9:30-11:30am

- **April 8th (Friday)** - 9:30-11:30am
- **April 22nd (Friday)** - 9:30-11:30am

Referral:

To refer a client to the READY Tour please email masi@kinbrace.ca or ready@refugeeclaim.ca, or go to [www.https://refugeeclaim.ca/en/ready-tours/](https://refugeeclaim.ca/en/ready-tours/).

Interpretation:

Interpretation can be provided for anyone who requires it. Please indicate in the referral email what language is required.

Contact:

For more information please contact:

Masi Allahverdi
READY Tour Organizer
ready@refugeeclaim.ca
masi@kinbrace.ca
604-362-1070

PDF attached also



Dear Colleagues,

Hope all is well, please find attached the dates/timing of Ready Tour sessions in March and April 2022 .

Kindly share the details of sessions with your refugee claimants and circulate the information among your team.

All refugee claimants as well as service providers are welcome to attend Ready Tour sessions. If there are any questions or concerns please let me know.

Thanks,
Masi

Masi Allahverdi
READY Tour Organizer
M 604.362.1070
T 604.255.9691



**YEARS OF NEW
BEGINNINGS**

NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY (Posted: February 25 – March 11, 2022)

Job Competition #: 2022-Settlement-06

Position: Manager

Settlement Orientation Services – Welcome Centre Vancouver and Surrey locations

Regular full-time position at 35 hours per week starting as soon as possible

Please see full posting details attached.

SURVIVOR ADVOCATES PROGRAM

WHAT: An experiential-based learning program that will focus on advocacy themes, advocacy skills, and opportunities to engage in advocacy work in the community.

WHEN: Weekly for 10 Sessions. One session per week (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).



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 VCST.*

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 for more information, or call Luke at 604.283.6618





International Women's Day!

International Women's Day!

МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ЖЕНСКИЙ ДЕНЬ

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस

يوم المرأة العالمي!

國際婦女節

يوم المرأة العالمي

ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਮਹਿਲਾ ਦਿਵਸ

Lamin lethi aw turmuna nana wrij

د مارچ اتمه د بنخو د بیوستون نړیواله ورځ

國際婦女節

روز جهانی زن

Día Internacional de la Mujer

국제 여성의 날

journée internationale de la femme

Imagine a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality.

Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias.

Join us to celebrate women's achievement, raise awareness against bias and take action for equality.

MARCH 8, 2022 6PM

Register Now at tinyurl.com/2hnf4kvj



Funded by:

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Supported by:

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada



BURNABY INTERCULTURAL PLANNING TABLE

Come celebrate International Women's Day with us next March 8th between 5:50 – 8 pm. The theme this year is Break the Bias

We have a very special program to celebrate with three great speakers and fun activities.

Tom Su – Violin Player

Candace Campo – Owner of Talaysay Tours

Candace Knoll – National Congress of Black Women Foundation

Gulalai Habib – Director Settlement of BNH

Bei Jiang – Sketching

Kalyani Phadke – Mandala painting

For the sketching and mandala painting you will need:

1. Paper
2. Pencil
3. Eraser
4. Black pen or colour pencils (optional)

I look forward to have you at the celebration.

Ana Maria Bustamante, MA (She/Her)

BIPT/ Burnaby LIP Coordinator

Burnaby Together – Coalition Against Racism & Hate Coordinator

Tel 604-419-6919 – Cel 604-349-7158

Poster attached also





Register for our free training sessions! ✓

Learn with Legal Aid BC highlights free resources and upcoming learning opportunities for community workers of British Columbia. Our goal is to equip you with helpful tools and more knowledge to better assist your clients.

See the full *Learn with Legal Aid BC* newsletter [here](#). Sign up to get the newsletter in your inbox [here](#).

We have 3 training sessions coming up on:

- [Wills and estates](#) Tuesday, March 1 | 10:30 AM-12:30PM PDT
- [Collaborative law and the new Provincial Family Court Rules](#) Thursday, March 3 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT
- [Housing and natural disasters](#) Wednesday, March 9 | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM PDT

Missed a live session? No problem! We have recorded these sessions for you!

- [Domestic violence and protection orders under the new Provincial Court Family Rules](#)
- [Surrey Parents Legal Centre and overview of child protection law](#)

More webinar recordings and learning videos are available on our website. [Click here](#) to start browsing!

Fill out a survey for a chance to win a \$15 gift card

Do you work with immigrants and newcomers? We want to hear from you!

Legal Aid BC is conducting [an in-depth survey](#) about how immigrants and newcomers access and use legal information. This survey is likely to take about 20-30 minutes of your time and the results will help improve our resources for BC communities.

[Please fill out the survey](#) by **Friday, March 4**. Feel free to pass this survey onto other community workers who serve immigrants and newcomers.

Settlement & Integration Program

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



CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM

Guiding Light: Words of wisdom from professionals

MARCH 17, 2022 FROM 5:30-7:00 PM (ONLINE)

EPISODE 5: Two perspectives, one profession

- What skills and qualities are essential to succeed as a nurse?
- What are the steps to follow to become a register nurse (RN)?
- What job opportunities are there for RNs?
- How having a balanced proportion of male and female nurses will enrich the care for patients?

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Amanda Egert, RN, MSN Experiential Learning Coordinator at BCIT

Amanda has been training the new generations of nurses for 10 years; she shares her passion for global health and experience in oncology, surgery, cardiac telemetry, and high acuity with all her students.

Sadeed Habib, RN-Vancouver area, Northern BC, and Nunavut

Sadeed has over 7 years of experience working in medical and surgical areas, ER, ICU, and in Public Health including STIs, immunizations, chronic diseases, and prevention.



For more information, please email: giselab@burnaby nh.ca

WWW.BURNABYNH.CA

Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a community driven and community funded agency located on the unceded territories of the Tsleil-Waututh (salilwataʔ), Kwikwetlem (kwikwəlam), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Musqueam (xʷməlkʷəyám) nations with a unique focus on neighbours supporting neighbours.

BURNABY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Settlement session:

Economic Security for newcomer women with small business ideas - March 4th & 11th

AND:

New Neighbours – a Podcast on Anchor

<https://anchor.fm/podcast-bnh>

New Neighbours is a podcast aiming to highlight the voices of newcomers.

Newcomers and community members are invited to share their stories, in an effort to pass on knowledge and build healthy communities.

We are working in partnership with Literacy Now and the Settlement Team at the Burnaby Neighbourhood House. New Neighbours is a community-based podcast for and by New Canadians. Join us as we explore topics



BURNABY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Settlement session:

Career Exploration Program - Words & Wisdoms of professionals in Nursing - March 17th

AND:

New Neighbours – a Podcast on Anchor

<https://anchor.fm/podcast-bnh>

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Settlement & Integration Program

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



Economic Security for Newcomer Women

**FRIDAYS, MARCH 4TH & 11TH, 2022
9:30AM - 11:30AM BY ZOOM**

If you are an immigrant/refugee woman with small business ideas these sessions are for you:

- Reading and analyzing job posts in Canada
- Types of resumes
- Soft vs hard skills
- Transferable skills and how to reflect them on a resume
- Credential assessments
- Explore the potential of your business idea
- Refine your business idea
- List 3 characteristics of successful business ideas

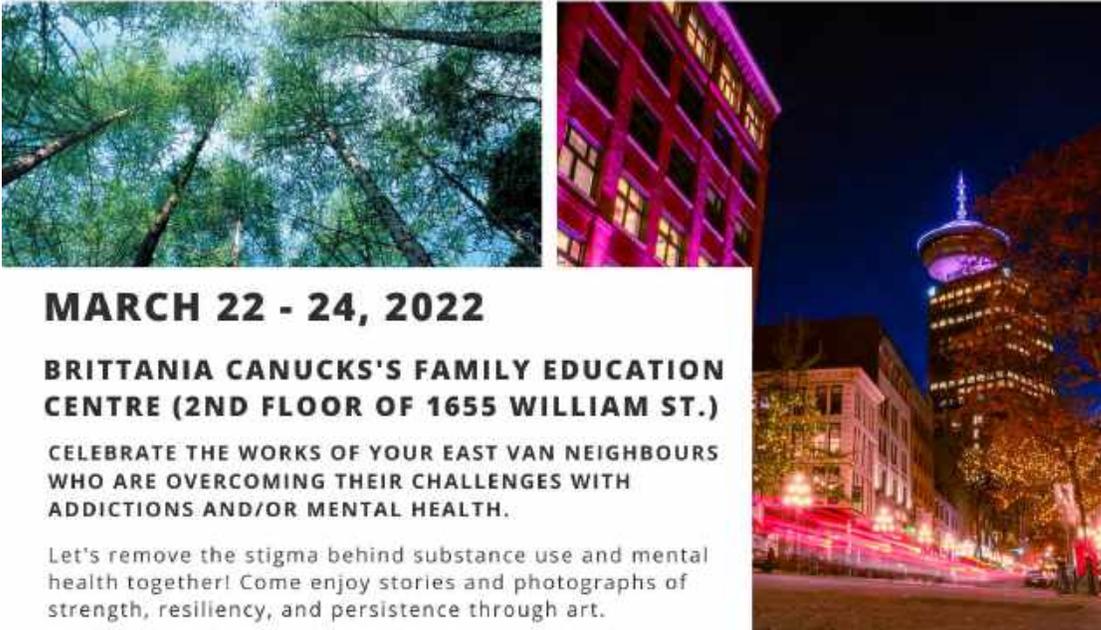
Interpretation could be provided upon request

Registration required by email: parisas@burnabynh.ca

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Swimming Upstream: A Photo Gallery Worth Over A Thousand Words



MARCH 22 - 24, 2022

**BRITANNIA CANUCKS'S FAMILY EDUCATION
CENTRE (2ND FLOOR OF 1655 WILLIAM ST.)**

**CELEBRATE THE WORKS OF YOUR EAST VAN NEIGHBOURS
WHO ARE OVERCOMING THEIR CHALLENGES WITH
ADDICTIONS AND/OR MENTAL HEALTH.**

Let's remove the stigma behind substance use and mental health together! Come enjoy stories and photographs of strength, resiliency, and persistence through art.

REACH engaged with over 20 community members with past or present experience with substance use throughout the Photovoice project to reflect on their health, lives, and community. Participants were asked to share upon topics of advocacy, influence, triggers, and more with one another. Through these groups, participants were given a safe space to share and express themselves.

Please visit the link below or scan the QR code to reserve your free tickets online.

<https://reachphotovoice.eventbrite.ca>



Questions? Contact us
at 604-245-3838

Thank you so much for your support to promote the REACH Photovoice program for us. We have had many participants come from external referrals and we are very thankful to have such a supportive community.

As the program begins to wrap up in the next couple weeks, we would like to invite you to our final photo gallery. In addition to participating in therapeutic discussion groups the last couple weeks, participants have also chosen meaningful photos that they would like to share with the community to reduce the stigma around mental health and addictions, advocate for community needs, and share their stories.

Attached is the poster for the event, you can reserve your free tickets to the event at <https://reachphotovoice.eventbrite.ca>.

Warm Regards,
Faith Tang (she/her), CTRS
Recreation Therapist, Program Development
REACH Community Health Centre
Phone: 604-245-3838
FTang@reachcentre.bc.ca
www.reachcentre.bc.ca

Settlement & Integration Program

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



جلسه همفکری: بررسی و کاوشگری سیستم تحصیلی ولایت بریتیش کلمبیا برای جوانان مهاجر افغان

۱۸ مارچ ۲۰۲۲
از ساعت ۳ الی ۴:۳۰ بعد از ظهر به صورت آنلاین



- با ما بپیوندید تا شریک سازید:
- چالش ها و نگرانی هایمان در عرصه سیستم تحصیلی بریتیش کلمبیا.
 - دوست دارید چه چیزی را در حوضه سیستم تحصیلی بریتیش کلمبیا بدانید و بیاموزید.
 - شما خواهید توانست:
 - با سیستم تحصیلی بریتیش کلمبیا آشنا شده و از طریق بحث گروهی یادگیری مشترک و داشتن امید برای آینده ای روشن برای جوانان را تجربه و کاوش کنید.

- این برنامه راه اندازی شده است برای:
- جوانان افغان که تازه وارد کانادا شده و عایل به یادگیری و آگاهی بیشتر در رابطه با سیستم تحصیلی ولایت بریتیش کلمبیا هستند.
 - هدف این برنامه عبارتست از:
 - تشکیل یک گروه حمایتی از جوانان افغان که در راستای راهنمایی، به اشتراک گذاشتن علم و دانش، یادگیری با یکدیگر و از یکدیگر با هدف پیشرفت در سیستم تحصیلی بریتیش کلمبیا.
 - این گروه حمایتی تشکیل شده است از:
 - گروهی از جوانان افغان که دارای تجربه در سیستم تحصیلی بریتیش کلمبیا هستند.

برای ثبت نام به ایمیل و یا شماره تلفن ذیل تماس بگیرید:
ArmanZ@BURNABYNH.CA
(604) 657-2163

WWW.BURNABYNH.CA

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Brainstorming session for Afghan refugees with focus on post-secondary, college and university systems and resources in BC.

This session will be facilitated by university graduate youth with Afghan backgrounds.

Posters attached

Settlement & Integration Program

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



BRAINSTORMING SESSION: NAVIGATING BC EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR AFGHAN REFUGEE YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

MARCH 18, 2022
3PM-4:30PM ONLINE



This session is intended for:

- Newly-arrived Afghan refugees- youth and young adults who wish to learn and navigate BC's education system.

The goal of this session is:

- Form a peer-support group among Afghan youth and young adults to share knowledge with and learn from one another regarding progressing within BC's education system.

The peer-support group is facilitated by:

- Afghan graduates who have university/postgraduate education experience in British Columbia.

Please join us to share:

- Your challenges and concerns regarding BC's education system
- What would you like to learn and explore about BC's educational programs

You will:

- Explore experiences through BC's education system to facilitate co-learning and hope for a bright future for young adults via group discussion

To register, please email or call:
ArmanZ@BURNABYNH.CA
(604) 657-2163

WWW.BURNABYNH.CA

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Hello Friends of Frog Hollow!

Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House invites you to join us at the **REROOTING Art Showcase** on Saturday, March 5th, 2022 from 1 to 4pm at P'ipa:m Lelum - Clinton Park Fieldhouse at 2690 Grant St, Vancouver.

Over the past year, the [REROOTING: Art Workshop Series](#) has engaged Indigenous artists to facilitate intercultural dialogues and create art that builds connections between newcomers and the Indigenous community. The name **REROOTING** speaks to the intention to explore what it means for newcomers and settlers to find a sense of belonging on the unceded territories of the Squamish, Tseil-Waututh and Musqueam.

The March 5th showcase will celebrate the art and stories gathered through **REROOTING** and honour the people who took part in this journey. The celebration will kick off with the unveiling of the mural at P'ipa:m Lelum – Clinton Park Fieldhouse. The mural was created by lead artist **Atheana Picha**, along with youth artists from Frog Hollow's ['Make It' Program](#), and community members.

This program is made possible with the funding support from the BC Anti-Racism Grant.

Save the date contact: Gloria Tsui, gloria@froghollow.bc.ca

Media contact: Susan Liu Woronko, susanw@froghollow.bc.ca

Susan Liu Woronko (she, her, hers), Acting Director, Family, Seniors & Newcomers Programs



New "Legal Resources for You" email newsletter

Legal Resources for You is a **new** email newsletter featuring free Legal Aid BC online materials and publications. Each email features a self-help legal resource like a video, webpage, or publication. Topics include making a will and navigating separation and divorce. In contrast with our other newsletters, *Legal Resources for You* is created with the **general public** in mind. You can use the featured resources to assist your clients, or invite them to sign up for the newsletter themselves. Would you like to get brief weekly emails alerting you to valuable legal resources that can help all British Columbians?

[Yes I want to subscribe and get the first newsletter](#)

Thanks for considering signing up. We respect your privacy, and this is the only invitation we'll send.



Free Facilitation Training

Immigrant Women's Peer Support Program is now accepting applications for the spring training if you:

- Are an immigrant woman interested in helping other newcomer women adjust to life in Canada
- Want to gain facilitation, leadership, and peer support skills and learn about resources
- Have an English CLB 4
- Can commit to 11 weeks of training and 30 hours of practicum
- Are a permanent resident

Join us on this FREE training if you meet the above qualifications.

Deadline for submission of applications is on March 4th, 2022.



When:
Tuesdays & Thursdays
March 8th to May 17th

Where:
Online ZOOM Meeting

For more information and registration please contact Fiorella Di Liberto via email at fiorella.diliberto@issbc.org

Funded by:

Financé par:



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



Helping immigrants build a future in Canada

www.issbc.org



Our Women's Facilitation Training Program is starting on March 8th, and we are still looking for participants to join. I would be very grateful if you could pass this poster and application on to any women who you think would be interested in the training.

(MAP note: Permanent Residents ONLY)

More information and Application Form Attached



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés Canadian Council for Refugees

Dear member,

The CCR Housing Network is happy to invite you to participate in a **virtual meeting on Wednesday 23 March 2022** to brainstorm ideas around a call-to-action on housing rights.

Following the appointment of the new [Federal Housing Advocate](#) as well as the government's announcement of record immigration levels, the Housing Network wants to make a call-to-action concerning housing as a right, and the barriers that immigration status poses on eligibility and access. In line with the [CCR's most recent resolution on housing](#), the meeting will focus on tailoring the call according to barriers identified in different provinces/territories/regions.

[We have drafted a call-to-action](#) and would be grateful if members could review it and provide feedback (including updates on issues and good practices as you see fit), ahead of the meeting.

As a reminder, this meeting is open to all those working in housing, whether you work with refugee claimants, migrant workers, international students, or others with precarious immigration status...

Help us reach the newly appointed Federal Housing Advocate with a strong call-to-action!

VIRTUAL MEETING DETAILS

When: Wednesday 23 March starting at:

11:00am Pacific

To register

Please register at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApcOqvqjMqE9bMzSun4Jsn4m-U3xLkEsLI>



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Centre for Migration Studies

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3, 12:15 pm - 2:15 pm (In-person)

["Villages Gone Digital: Villages' WhatsApp groups and Migrants' New Forms of Intervention in Sending Communities"](#)

Abdoulaye Kane,

University of Florida

Mar 25, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (In-person)

[Mobility, Creativity, and Social Change in the Ancient Aegean](#)

Carl Knappett, University of Toronto

Mar 28, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (Virtual)

[The Guitar in the Ceiling](#)

Susan MacDonald and Meer Mahmoud



REPEATS

A message from IRCC passed along by CCR:

Current version of the IMM 1442 generic secure form

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) would like to remind you that the latest version of the IMM 1442 generic secure form has been gradually deployed since the spring of 2020.

IRCC began to use the current version of this form in March 2020 for Study Permits (SP), Work Permits (WP), Visitor Records (VR), Temporary Resident Permits (TRP) and Refugee Protection Claimant Documents (RPCD).

The document confirms the immigration status of the person in Canada and should not be altered or laminated. Doing so would render it invalid. It cannot be used as an identity document or a travel document.

Note: Due to COVID-19, we are not replacing RPCD right now. An expired RPCD should be considered valid until further notice, even beyond the expiry date printed on the form.

Other IRCC permits and records using this form, including SP, WP, VR and TRP, cease to be valid as of the expiry date printed on the form.

You are invited to share this information within your networks.



Dear Colleagues,

My name is Zehra and I am the Projects Coordinator at both PeaceGeeks and on the Planning Team of the National Steering Committee on Technology (NSCT). I am reaching out to you today because of your work and engagement in the Settlement Sector and Technology Task Group (TTG).

The mandate of the NSCT is to build on the work of the Settlement Sector and Technology Task Group by creating and advancing a digital transformation strategy for the settlement sector. **We want to make sure that you are aware and reminded that there is an opportunity now to apply by Feb 25 to be part of the NSCT. Please find the Expression of Interest below.**

Applications are open starting Feb 15 to Feb 25 to join the inaugural National Steering Committee on Technology (NSCT), a permanent Committee that advises the National Settlement and Integration Council. The NSCT is mandated to create and advance a digital transformation and hybrid service delivery strategy that engages the settlement sector and is responsive to the needs, priorities, abilities, and circumstances of newcomers. A comprehensive [Terms of Reference](#) (TORs) and [Application Form](#) are attached.

Strategic Plan recommendations are derived from the findings of the Technology Task Group and other [key reports](#) that have emerged in the last two years, all of which focus on settlement sector digital transformation and bridging the digital divide.

The NSCT will convene five times a year with the aim of:

1. Adopting and overseeing a multi-year Strategic Plan and Annual Road Map
2. Continuously engaging the settlement sector on strategic priorities and progress
3. Coordinating with funders and sector on parallel digital transformation strategies
4. Identifying systemic barriers to Strategic Plan implementation



5. Establishing new Sub-Committees and setting priorities, goals and objectives

The NSCT will have two initial categories of membership:

• **NSCT General Members**

General Members can include newcomers and settlement sector staff and leaders who are mandated and/or committed to strengthening the digital transformation of the settlement sector. General Members can actively participate in all NSCT processes including participating in meeting discussions, voting on priorities, establishing Sub-Committee mandates and providing feedback on key documents.

• **NSCT Observer Members**

Observers are non-voting members which can include funders, policy makers, and non-member Umbrella organizations. Observers are able to observe committee meetings, host direct conversations with Co-Chairs, present at NSCT at the invitation of Co-Chairs, and bring relevant information back to their constituents.

If you are interested in applying to the NSCT, please complete the [Application Form](#) by Feb 25. A final decision on membership will be made by the Selection Committee by March 5, 2022.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the Project Coordinator, Zehra Talib at zehra@peacegeeks.org.

Zehra Talib, *Projects Coordinator and Executive Assistant*

[#210 - 128 West Hastings Street](#)

[Vancouver, BC, V6B 1G8](#)

Statistics Canada is now collecting information on [Canadians' access to and experiences with COVID-19 testing](#), through crowdsourcing. The online questionnaire is accessible until March 13, 2022. **(Please see 2 attachments)**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, health measures and testing services have adapted. Through this crowdsourcing initiative, we would like to ensure that all Canadians have an opportunity to share their experiences with testing for COVID-19, particularly with using rapid tests. Everyone is encouraged to share their insights, especially parents and people living with children.

We would appreciate your help in getting the message out to your organization's supporters.

Here are some ways to help us spread the word:

1- Send the [link to the online questionnaire](#) to your network:

Please open the attached bilingual Word document "Invitation to participate/Invitation à participer" and copy and paste its content into a new email, from your organization's email account. Please do not send the letter as an attachment, but rather copy the content of the letter and paste it directly into the body of an email.

For the **Subject line**, please copy and paste the following: **Canadians' access to and experiences with COVID-19 testing—Share your perspective**

2- Promote this initiative through associations and organizations:

Add the attached banner to your website so that people can access the questionnaire. Various formats are available upon request. English:

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/testingvaccine-questionnaire>

In this ever-evolving situation, we are hoping that the information collected will provide insight into the delivery of health services and supports during the pandemic for each region in Canada. We expect to publish results in April. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at infostats@statcan.gc.ca.

Thank you again for your support,

Sylvie Cyr

Director, Collection Planning and Research Division MAP (Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin March 2, 2022

Statistics Canada