



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 119

March 16, 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.

NOMINATIONS for MAP Co-chair position open

MAP 's co-chair position provides a unique opportunity to guide the network's collaborative initiatives in support of refugee claimants. We are looking for someone with vision and drive to lead us 2022 – 2024. If you would like to self-nominate, or nominate someone else please email info@mapbc.org **before March 18, midnight**. Need more information first? Ask one of our current co-chairs Thanh Lam: TLam@mpnh.org or Jenny Lam: jenny.lam@options.bc.ca

MAP Meeting – March 24 at 9:30 am – Presentation for approval of the MAP BC Emergency Plan

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvfumhrzgoHtBRL29jGMYB1V60xfUmi4yP>

The Housing Working Group meeting will be on March 31 at 1:15pm to allow our speaker to attend.

IN FOCUS event Recording

If you would like to view the very successful event Finding Home: Places where Refugee Claimants Flourish here is the link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ohxU5FP2De6WGCbHvHDz559qbnCpVFI-eQYoAWVpRH4ipc_yWw2NVOUrdZ9ltYDS.PYrnpdiilGCPYo8V?startTime=1647394106000

(Passcode: 5xEBVpK=)

Our thanks to the speakers: Mohammed, Hannah and Vanessa – and our moderator Loren Balisky and host Thanh Lam

Huge shout out to Kinbrace and Journey Home Community as well as our Information Working Group for all their time and gifts.

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!

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Dear MAP Members

We have been approached by BC CDC to see if there is any interest in a roundtable/meeting with *Dr. Penny Ballem on anything to do with the COVID-19 vaccine/boosters. BC CDC want to ensure that folks have an opportunity to ask any questions and or pose any issues around vaccines.

Please let us know immediately at info@mapbc.org if:

- a) you would like to be included in a meeting
- b) you have a question you would like addressed

* Dr Penny Ballam is Executive Lead for B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Efforts and Board Chair, Vancouver Coastal Health

I would like to introduce the **SAFE project** which is an initiative to address **human trafficking** using both prevention and intervention strategies. Using a trauma-informed approach, SAFE will design resources and deliver educational sessions to equip and empower populations at risk of trafficking.

The project, [Safeguarding and Facilitating Empowerment \(SAFE\)](#), will create educational resources and learning opportunities for at risk populations and develop a case management system for survivors of exploitation. There will be ongoing evaluation and adaptation to best address the needs and gaps of this population, with the goal of enhancing the overall capacity of the settlement sector to prevent and address exploitation, with trafficking as an extreme. Promising practices that emerge from this project will be made available to settlement service providers through trainings and materials.

So, at this stage, we are conducting a needs assessment and would appreciate feedback on MAPBC's current capacity and to address exploitation and trafficking (both prevention and intervention). If you could respond to this survey **by Thursday March 31st, 2022**, we would greatly appreciate it.

Also, I would like to kindly request you to disseminate it among your colleagues and partner agencies.

SURVEY LINK: <https://forms.office.com/r/TVJJB59TjT>

Thank you very much in advance for your contribution.

Best regards,
Frishta Hassani
Program Support Worker: SAFE Project
fhassani@mosaicbc.org



MOSAIC
Engaging Newcomers, Enriching Communities

Free Tax Clinic at MOSAIC for Refugee Claimants

See poster attached

Started March 1

Free Income Tax Clinic

Need a hand preparing your 2022 Tax Return?



MOSAIC Volunteers are providing virtual filing support for immigrants with modest incomes!

Starting Mar. 1, 2022 MOSAIC will begin processing returns for eligible and interested individuals.

To be eligible for our filing services...

- You must be a Refugee Claimant or an International Student
- Total Family Income must be below:
1 Individual: \$ 35,000 | 2 Individuals: \$ 45,000
+\$ 2,500 for each additional household member (up to \$52,500)
- We are unable to file for individuals who have business or rental income and expenses, overseas income, interest income over \$1,000, capital gains or losses, self-employed with a business license or expense deductions, a deceased person, disability claims, or filed for bankruptcy



MOSAIC
Engaging Newcomers, Enriching Communities

*Due to health risks, we only will be open for limited scheduled appointments for clients with digital barriers at the MOSAIC Headquarters (5575 Boundary Rd, Vancouver).



Scan QR Code or Contact Us to Register Today!

MOSAIC Volunteer Income Tax Clinic

Email: rsip.tax@mosaicbc.org

Phone: 604 254 9626

Language Support available upon request



WelcomeBC



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

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



ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਹਾਂ ਆਈਕੌਨ ਸਾਊਥ ਏਸ਼ੀਆਈ ਸਿਹਤ ਫੋਰਮ
Presenting the iCON South Asian Health Forum

ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਹੱਥਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ:
ਸਟ੍ਰੋਕ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਇਸਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਨ ਕਰਨਾ

Take Charge of Your Health:
Preventing and Managing Stroke



ਮੁਫਤ ਔਨਲਾਈਨ ਸਮਾਗਮ

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, ਹਿੰਦੀ ਅਤੇ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ Punjabi

ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ, 26 ਮਾਰਚ, 2022
Saturday, March 26, 2022
2:00-4:00 PM PT

ਐਤਵਾਰ, 27 ਮਾਰਚ, 2022
Sunday, March 27, 2022
2:00-4:00 PM PT

ਇੱਥੇ ਰਜਿਸਟਰ Registration:

<http://bitly.ws/oavi>

ਰਜਿਸਟਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਕੈਨ ਕਰੋ
Scan to Register

This Forum is part of Healthy@Home community education and outreach strategy

Thank you to the BC Ministry of Health Patients as Partners Initiative for their support.



iCON South Asian Health Forum:

"Take Charge of Your Health: Preventing and Managing Stroke"

Date: March 26 + 27

This FREE online, interactive forum, delivered in Punjabi, Hindi and English, is designed to help patients, their families and caregivers optimize their quality of life by empowering them with knowledge and resources to prevent and manage stroke.

Through a series of presentations and discussions, health experts from the community will educate and engage with the audience on health topics including:

- **Stroke** – early detection and when to seek help
- **Tips** -- prevent and manage stroke, hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol
- **Post stroke management** – nutrition and mental health, home safety
- **Where and how to find help in the community** – navigation of health services, treatments and medications

[Learn more and register](#)

(Thank you to Surrey North Delta Division of Practitioners for this notice)



Unlocking Canada for newcomers through volunteer opportunities via Canoo

March 2022

canoo.

Canoo is a project of the
Institute for Canadian Citizenship

See attached PDF to open up and learn all about Canoo – arts/recreational/volunteer opportunities

ICC would like to connect newcomers to volunteer opportunities (see document attached) They hope to be able to gather the names of agencies that would be interested so they are added to the program where newcomers connect directly with the agency to become a volunteer. There is no cost for the agencies nor the newcomers who would be connected.

Please let either MAP (info@mapbc.org) or Diana Barry at Vancity (diana_barry@vancity.com) know if your agency is interested and you will be connected to the leads of the project.



Canadian Council
for Refugees
Conseil canadien
pour les réfugiés

Dear colleague,

Join us in **virtually commemorating Refugee Rights Day on April 4**. This year, we will call on the government of Canada to honour the right to refuge.

While we are collectively proud to advocate for the fundamental rights of refugees, migrants and newcomers -- we still have a ways to go! These human rights are not consistently reflected in our country's policies and practices, namely in the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA).

The April 4 event aims to inspire and empower attendees to take action. Featuring Human Rights Activist **Olga Munyana**, who will speak about her lived experience as a newcomer who was turned back due to the STCA, and an introduction by **Justin Mohammed**, Human Rights Law & Policy Campaigner at Amnesty International Canada. Stay tuned for more details concerning the program and speakers!

4:00pm Pacific

The event will last 60 minutes.

To register: please sign up at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89237009003?pwd=Nng4cHpRUXcrazFCM2dEdUkxMHZpUT09>

REPEATS

Update from Immunize BC Project (BC CDC) regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations (2 pages)

Approximately 1 million people in B.C. have been invited for a COVID-19 booster, but have not yet booked. This includes some 50,000 people over the age of 70 who have been invited to book a booster but have not yet booked.

- For those that still remain unvaccinated for various reasons, including possible reactions, hesitancy, etc., B.C. has a number of vaccination options available.
- We strongly recommend getting vaccinated, as it will significantly lower your risk of becoming seriously ill with COVID-19.
- For those who wish to receive an alternative to mRNA; Novavax and Medicago have recently been approved by Health Canada. These vaccines are not yet available in B.C. however are due to arrive in the coming weeks (Novavax) or months (Medicago).
- In the meantime, for those who are unvaccinated and wish to receive a non-mRNA vaccine, both **AstraZeneca and Janssen** are currently available.
 - To access AstraZeneca and Janssen please call the provincial call centre at 1.833.838.2323 and your name will be added to a list and your Health Authority will contact you.
 - Note: AstraZeneca will only be available until March 31, 2022 and no further supply will be coming into the province.
- For **Novavax**: supplies are coming in the next few weeks.
 - To access Novavax please call the provincial call centre at 1.833.838.2323 and your name will be added to a list and you will be contacted by your Health Authority when supplies arrive.
- For **Medicago**: The PHO will announce when the vaccine will be available in B.C. and then it will be the same process as outlined for Novavax.



Continued – COVID 19 Vaccination update from the Immunize BC Project

The COVID-19 vaccination program is available in approximately 600 participating community pharmacies across the province. Pharmacies will sustain the vaccination program over the long term in B.C. It is easy and convenient to get your booster in a participating pharmacy in your community.

Health Authority clinics continue to concentrate on the vaccine program for children aged five to 11 as they wind down their larger vaccine clinics for adults. However, in parts of the province where community pharmacies aren't available for boosters, the Health Authorities will continue to offer COVID-19 vaccines to the general population.

For seniors and the clinically extremely vulnerable, getting vaccinated, including the booster, makes a big difference in reducing your chances of contracting severe illness.

As restrictions ease and the Omicron wave subsides, people may not feel the urgency to get a booster vaccine. But we know getting the booster provides you with more protection against severe illness over the long term.

We urge you to book the booster and make getting the vaccine part of your plans for March. Don't ignore the invitation to book.

We know that some people who have had COVID-19, are waiting three months to book their booster as this is the provincial health guidance. The Get Vaccinated system will send you a reminder about your eligibility for a booster, so please book as soon as you've cleared your three months after infection.

Immunize BC Project

Stay Informed: gov.bc.ca/COVID, bccdc.ca

1.88.COVID19

UPDATED COVID –19 EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FROM FRASER HEALTH AUTHORITY

Please find below the following updated COVID-19 Vaccine Information materials on Patient Education:

- **English Version:**
<https://patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca/search/results?f language facet=English&f languageGroup facet=COVID-19%20Vaccine%20Information&q=covid-19>
- **English PDF:** <https://patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca/file/covid-19-vaccine-information-581861.pdf>
- **Arabic Version:**
<https://patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca/search/results?f language facet=Arabic&f languageGroup facet=COVID-19%20Vaccine%20Information&q=covid-19>
- **Arabic PDF:** <https://patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca/file/covid-19-vaccine-information-582369.pdf>
- **Farsi Version:**
<https://patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca/search/results?f language facet=Farsi&f languageGroup facet=COVID-19%20Vaccine%20Information&q=covid-19>
- **Farsi PDF:** <https://patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca/file/covid-19-vaccine-information-582374.pdf>

Upcoming Refugee Appeal Division (RAD) Information Session on *Wednesday June 1st 2022, 1:00pm-03:00pm*

This is a free online orientation session for refugee claimants to learn about the refugee appeal process. Whether claimants are still waiting for their hearing date, waiting for the outcome of their hearing, or have received a negative decision, this session is for all refugee claimants at any stage of the process who would like to learn more about how to make an appeal.

Claimants will meet an officer of the Refugee Appeal Division (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada) and have their questions answered:

- Who is eligible to appeal to the Refugee Appeal Division?
- What are the deadlines for filing an appeal?
- What do I need to do to file an appeal?

Register or refer now by emailing ***your name*** to masi@kinbrace.ca

Thanks,
Masi

Poster attached



Refugee Appeal Division (RAD)
INFORMATION SESSIONS

Next virtual session:
June 1st, 2022 • 1:00pm PST

A free orientation session for refugee claimants to learn about the refugee appeal process.

- Do you wonder what will happen if you receive a negative decision at your refugee hearing?
- Have you received a negative decision already?

This session is for all refugee claimants at any stage of the process who would like to learn more about how to make an appeal.

Meet an officer of the Refugee Appeal Division (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada) and have your questions answered:

- Who is eligible to appeal to the Refugee Appeal Division?
- What are the deadlines for filing an appeal?
- What do I need to do to file an appeal?

Register now by emailing Masi Allahverdi:
masi@kinbrace.ca

The **Pacific Immigrant Resources Society** and the **KPU Institute for Sustainable Food Systems** invite you to a virtual research presentation on "Local food systems and vulnerable immigrant and refugees in Metro Vancouver". The goals of the study were to (1) advance our understanding of immigrants and refugees' food access needs, and their interests in the local food systems, (2) explore current municipality policy environment and intervention strategies and initiatives put forth by service provider organizations supporting vulnerable immigrant and refugee families. More about the project:

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

Date: **Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

Time: 12-1pm

Location: Online, please register to get the meeting link at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/268305016527>

Please join us at this event to amplify the voice of our immigrant and refugee population and help create diverse and vibrant local food systems!

Anastasia Gaisenok (she/her)

Programs Manager

Pacific Immigrant Resources Society

(604) 298-5888 ext. 803 | Direct: (778) 608-4085 | agaisenok@pirs.bc.ca

BCSIS Virtual Information Session

ANTI-VIOLENCE: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

MARCH 22. 1:30 – 3PM

In this Virtual Information Session, representatives from Family Services of Greater Vancouver, BC Society of Transition Houses, and the Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre will discuss Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

The World Health Organization recognizes IPV and GBV as major global public health concerns, as they affect millions of people and can result in immediate and long-lasting health, social and economic consequences. Additionally, there are serious repercussions on children who are exposed to IPV.

In April 2020, António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, called on governments to ensure that the prevention of violence against women is a key part of their response plans for COVID-19. He implored governments to address the 'horrifying global surge in IPV'. Reflecting global trends, the Vancouver-based agency, Battered Women's Support Services, noted that calls to their helpline increased by 400% during the pandemic. People who experience marginalization have been disproportionately impacted.

In this session, Settlement Workers will learn how to identify abuse and effectively support impacted clients, especially those with language or cultural barriers. Presenters will provide contextual information and discuss the impact of the pandemic, as well practical strategies that frontline workers can implement and supports that they can access.

[Click here to Register](#)

You are invited to submit questions for the speakers ahead of the event:

[Click here to send a question](#)

rferguson@amssa.org
For Event inquiries

Dear CCR member,

We are happy to invite you to the **Spring Working Group meetings taking place online on 12, 13 & 14 April 2022!**

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS DETAILS

Tuesday 12 April 11 am PST

[Inland Protection Working Group](#)

for 2 hours, with break

Wednesday 13 April 11 am PST

[Immigration and Settlement Working Group](#)

for 2 hours, with break

Thursday 14 April 11 am PST

[Overseas Protection and Resettlement Working Group](#)

for 2 hours, with break

Registration:

Here are the links to register. You are more than welcome to attend more than one meeting if you can:

- [Inland Protection \(IP\) Working Group Meeting - Tuesday 12 April](#)
- [Immigration and Settlement \(I&S\) Working Group Meeting - Wednesday 13 April](#)
- [Overseas Protection and Resettlement \(OPR\) Working Group Meeting - Thursday 14 April](#)

On the agenda:

Handouts or detailed agendas will be made available closer to the meetings. The objectives of each WG meeting are:

- Discussion on priority and emerging issues: we will share updates on important recent developments and explore the impacts experienced by members. From these discussions we will identify actions that can be taken (including through networking among members, actions to be taken by members, or raising items with IRCC and or CBSA).
- Identifying Working Group priorities for the year in light of the Strategic Plan.
- Update about and input into the newly launched CCR project to develop a framework and tools for high quality immigration and refugee services offered by NGOs.



BC PDF attached

YOUR CENSUS, YOUR STORIES: CANADA'S PORTRAIT

The 2021 Census Dissemination Project is pleased to announce the official release of the 2021 Census population and dwelling counts. Wednesday, February 9, 2022 saw the official release of the first data from the 2021 Census, covering the population and dwelling counts. This release presents:

population counts

counts for total private dwellings

counts for private dwellings occupied by usual residents.

These data can be accessed through:

[The Daily](#)

The [Census of Population](#) web module. Users can click **Census** on the main navigation menu of the Statistics Canada website and then select **Census of Population**. From the Census of Population web module, users can access release-specific information through the '[Census releases](#)' section or directly from the variety of release-related and/or product-specific links.

2021 CENSUS PROFILE

2021 Census profile present information from the 2021 Census of Population for various levels of geography, including provinces and territories, census metropolitan areas, and communities. To access to the 2021 Census results on

[population and dwelling counts](#) for British Columbia, here is the link: [British Columbia](#)

For more regional highlights on British Columbia, please see the attached fact sheet.

Western Region Engagement

[statcan.west-engagement-ouest-engagement.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](#)

Statistics Canada

NEXT RELEASE! April 27:

Age, Sex at birth and gender, ype of dwelling



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Centre for Migration Studies

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

Mar 31, 12:45 PM - 2:15 PM (in-person)

[The Global Governance of Migration: Towards a 'Messy' Approach](#)

Anna Triandafyllidou, Ryerson University



**THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE
OF MIGRATION: TOWARDS A
'MESSY' APPROACH**

Speaker:

Anna Triandafyllidou

(Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration
and Integration, Ryerson University)

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 31, 2022
12:45 - 2:15 PM (PT)**

LOCATION: PLACE OF MANY TREES (FORMERLY LIU
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM), LIU INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ISSUES
(IN-PERSON)



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Centre for Migration Studies

YOUR NEXT STEP – UBC STUDENT & ALUMNI VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

alumni UBC and the UBC Centre for Student Involvement & Careers is delighted to announce the **Your Next Step Virtual Career Fair** occurring on May 12. Participating allows your organization to connect with thousands of talented students and alumni from all of UBC's academic disciplines interested in exploring career opportunities. This event is targeted at exhibitors interested in recruiting and promoting their brand to UBC students and alumni.

DATE & TIME: Thursday, May 12 from 11 AM to 4 PM (PST)

LOCATION: Symplicity Virtual Fair Platform on UBC CareersOnline

PRICING: Check out [our website](#) for the full list of exhibitor packages

REGISTRATION: To register, please log into [CareersOnline](#).

If you do not have an employer account, then please sign up for a new one. Once logged in, please select "*Your Next Step - Student & Alumni Virtual Career Fair - Register Now*" on the top right corner.

Register [here](#) by March 18 for the Early Bird rate!

Take a look at our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to get an overview of event structure and set-up.

We look forward to welcoming you to the virtual fair! Please reach out to recruit.talent@ubc.ca if you have any questions.





Refugee Research Network

**- RRN Research Digest -
March 3, 2022**

[Read digest on RRN Website](#)