



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

# MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 129

May 25, 2022

**Dear MAP members,**

*How are you doing?* Three years into the pandemic this question is even more important and one that MAP will 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 if you have information that you would like to share with MAP please email [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org).

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## **Letter from BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding IHAP Refugee Claimant Housing Funds – May 18 in response to MAP**

Hello Multi-Agency Partnership Members,

I'm writing to you today to provide an update on Government's approach to using the approximately \$5M funding BC received from the federal government under the *Interim Housing Assistance Program* (IHAP) to support the short-term housing needs for refugee claimants arriving in BC. I'd like to start my message to you by recognizing the expertise and passion that you bring to your work, and the valuable supports that you provide refugee claimants that come to our province. I am also aware of the tremendous pressure that your organizations are under serving refugee claimants, given the number of arrivals in recent years. The impact that you have on the lives of people cannot be overstated, and the team at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is very grateful for the work that you do and the strong working relationship that you've developed with the BC Government.

I also recognize that the update that you received on April 28<sup>th</sup> about Government's change in plan to use the IHAP funding came as an unwelcome surprise to many of you. My staff have passed on your feedback and concerns, both written and from direct communication with you. Since that April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, there have been further developments about how the IHAP funding will be used. I would like to confirm that the funding will remain in place to support the short-term housing needs of refugee claimants as *originally* intended, and the funding has been transferred to BC Housing, which will lead Government's work to use these funds to support short-term housing needs of refugee claimants. BC Housing is well positioned to work with you to identify options that will best meet the needs of refugee claimants, and I thank them in advance for their leadership and expertise in using the funds effectively. Most of all, I want to thank you again for your thoughtfulness in identifying options for the IHAP funding.

I look forward to continuing our strong working relationship.

Rachel Holmes

Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration Services and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

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**Thank you** for all you are doing to support vulnerable refugee claimants

Jenny Lam, Thanh Lam - and the other Jenny!

## Job Opportunity at Umbrella Multicultural Health Coop

# Cross-Cultural Health Broker with Afghan Community. Full time

(maternity leave coverage – 18 months)

Expected start date: July 18

[See full description attached in PDF](#)



**Umbrella Multicultural  
Health Co-op**



### **Job Posting: Cross-Cultural Health Broker with Afghan community (Maternity leave coverage, 18 months)**

Umbrella Multicultural Health Cooperative is a member-driven, not-for-profit, community health Centre (CHC). Our members are people who face language and cultural barriers accessing health care. Our mission is to provide practical access to affordable and holistic health care services that are appropriate in culture and language for those without access to health security.

We work with a Cross Cultural Health Broker (CCHB) Model. CCHBs are multicultural, multilingual health care workers who facilitate communication between patients, service providers and health and social service systems.

#### **Summary of the Position**

The Cross Cultural Health Broker (CCHB) is a unique role that serves the specialized population of racialized immigrants and refugees and is the basis of how Umbrella Co-op fulfills its mission to provide accessible health services to those who experience language and cultural barriers.

CCHBs work to meet the health and wellness needs of the ethno-cultural communities Umbrella Co-op serves along the continuum of settlement, integration, and social inclusion. CCHBs are bilingual and bicultural individuals, who identify with the community they serve, who act as a bridge between members of the community and the institutional Canadian health and social systems to ensure full access to quality health care that is culturally and linguistically appropriate.

The role works in all programs and services offered at Umbrella Co-op. They are trusted members of their communities and support the long-term relationship between patients, physicians, and other service providers while providing a cultural lens to ensure services are relevant and appropriate.

#### **Duties and responsibilities**

1. Using a cross-cultural communication framework, facilitate appointments between patient and health care provider in the clinical setting
  - o Support patient's access to health services by providing language and cultural interpretation and translation between clinicians and patients
  - o Ensure patient's informed decision making by conveying the information effectively between patient and clinician
2. Manage patient care
  - o Support continuity of care and fill health care gaps according to patients' preferences, needs and values
  - o Support health system navigation by providing information about the Canadian health care system
  - o Support patients' mental health needs through peer support or referrals
  - o Support patient follow-up, i.e., call patients to inform about specialist or hospital appointment details, support with lab requisitions or pharmacy needs, etc.
  - o Identify and address problems affecting patients and their family members' health



## Careers with Legal Aid BC

Legal Aid BC is an independent, non-profit organization that provides legal aid for people with low incomes in BC. Our vision is client-focused legal aid that ensures access to justice for all.

We're looking for people who want to make a contribution to justice and make a difference to the lives of our clients, whether that's providing direct services or working behind the scenes.

If you want a challenging and meaningful career, consider the [available positions](#) with Legal Aid BC.

Thank you!

## ONLINE WORKSHOP

# RACISM AND ACTIVE WITNESSING

Build awareness of the various forms of discrimination and to empower one to shift from a silent bystander to an Active Witness by responding to discriminatory remarks and harmful situations on an individual basis.

Arabic interpretation  
June 22, 2022 6-830pm

Registration required: <https://tinyurl.com/247vyhnc>

Farsi - Dari/Pashto interpretation  
June 29, 2022 530-8pm

Registration required: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9aejxj>

Chinese interpretation  
July 6, 2022 530-8pm

Registration required: <https://tinyurl.com/2j2rs4r5>

## BIPT/Burnaby Together online Events (2 pages)

## Racism and Active Witnessing

Poster also attached in PDF

# BREAK THE SILENCE

Join us for this online workshop- Break the Silence-Active Witnessing (Micro-aggression / unconscious biases) training for frontline workers

**JULY 13, 2022**

**10AM-1230PM**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:**

**[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YFMN6RWM](https://tinyurl.com/yfmn6rwm)**

Poster also attached

## Veterinary Assistant Diploma Training Program (PBLMT)

**We are currently recruiting!** Veterinary Assistant Diploma Training Program starting **JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> - November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

We would like to invite you and your clients to our virtual **information session:**

**When: Thursday, May 26, 2022, Time: 10 AM to 11 AM**

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/free-veterinary-assistant-diploma-program-info-session>

### Training information:

Veterinary Assistant Diploma Training Program is a 100% government-funded free, group-based full-time program consisting of:

- 1 week of orientation
- 1 week of certification training
- 15 weeks of virtual and in-person academic training
- 4 weeks of work experience with local employers
- 1 week of job support

**POSTER + FORM ATTACHED**

This will prepare participants to work as a Veterinary Assistant.

### Certificates provided by the PH:

Veterinarian Assistant Diploma, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Pandemic Awareness, Occupational First Aid Level 1, Privacy and Information Sharing

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS);

Idexx VetLab, Hills VNA Small Animal Nutrition, Royal Canin, Radiology

American Red Cross Pet First Aid

Please feel free to contact **604 324 7733 | Ext: 612** or email [razib.boby@pics.bc.ca](mailto:razib.boby@pics.bc.ca)

**You can also visit our PICS website or Register Now at:**

[Veterinary Assistant Diploma \(free Trainings.ca\)](http://www.free Trainings.ca)

**INSIGNIA COLLEGE**

### VETERINARY ASSISTANT DIPLOMA TRAINING PROGRAM (PBLMT)

The Veterinary Assistant Diploma Training Program is an 18+1 week practicum Project Based Labour Market Training. Participants will learn veterinary assistant occupational skills, essential and employability skills and work experience. This course is designed to prepare you to be employment ready as a Veterinary Assistant in the rapidly growing BC Veterinary Industry.

#### WHAT'S COVERED

- ▶ **\$300 weekly allowance to qualified applicants**
- ▶ Workplace Safety Certifications

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ **Must have established a claim for Employment Insurance (EI benefits), or**
  - Must have had an EI benefit period that ended within the previous 60 months; or
  - Must have earned more than \$2,000 in insurable earnings and paid employee EI premiums on those earnings in at least 5 of the last 10 years (Note: the 5 years do not have to be consecutive years), and;
  - Must have an Action Plan (AP) that identifies PBLMT as a reasonable goal to support their occupational goal.

Screening and Intake Ongoing!  
Cohort to start on  
**June 20, 2022**

**FOR SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION**

Kavyanjali Kumar  
kavyanjali.kumar@pics.bc.ca  
778-675-7650 (Ext. 117)

Razib Bobby  
razibboby@pics.bc.ca  
604-324-7733 (Ext. 612)

Interested candidates can also contact their local WorkBC Centre:  
604-681-2022 (Vancouver) | 250-606-5777 (Victoria) | 250-606-5777 (Abbotsford)

**FULLY FUNDED**

**PICS**  
www.pics.bc.ca

Canada  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

# Become an EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

In 43 weeks

**FREE TRAINING** In-class instruction at Surrey campus **Start Date:** July 18, 2022

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Unemployed, employed (part-time, seasonal, or casual), or precariously employed and Seeking training to find a new job
- Participants currently receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, and those on Income Assistance (IA), are also eligible to Participate in a CWRG-funded training project
- Participants must reside in BC and be Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or protected persons approved by court decisions.
- Participants must have a Social Insurance Number (SIN), clean criminal records; and immunization records
- 19 years of age or older or completion of grade 12
- Complete entrance examination with 70% or higher OR evidence of Grade 12 English
- Successful completion of a short written essay

#### • Complete entrance interview

- Verbal test of English (if ESL)
- Acceptable criminal record search under the criminal record review act
- Acceptable medical examination form completed by a physician

#### Coursework includes:

Orientation and Student Success Skills • ECE Foundations • Child Growth and Development I • Child Growth and Development II • Emerging Curriculum • Observation and Recording • Health, Safety and Nutrition • Guidance and Caring • Language and Literature • Music and Movement • Science, Socials and Math • Creative Art • Family, Teacher Relations • Practicum Seminars • Career Search Strategies • Program Related Additional Certifications • Practicum (full days)

For more details contact: [razib.boby@pics.bc.ca](mailto:razib.boby@pics.bc.ca) 604-324-7733 ext 612



PICS is pleased to announce that our EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR (ECE), CWRG program is starting to recruit interested and eligible clients. If you have a client who is interested in this program, PLEASE refer them to PICS using our website REGISTRATION.

**INFO SESSION : Fri, May 27, 2022 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM PDT**

#### INFO SESSION REGISTRATION:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/43-weeks-free-early-childhood-education-ecce-certificate-info-session-tickets-348176454147>

**We are currently recruiting!** Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Program starting **JULY 18th, 2022**. It is a 43 weeks program until **MAY 19th, 2023**. **\*\*Onsite Training at Stenberg College Surrey Campus Monday to Friday, 9am-2pm\*\***

Please feel free to contact **604 324 7733 | Ext: 612** or email at [razib.boby@pics.bc.ca](mailto:razib.boby@pics.bc.ca) for more details. **POSTER ATTACHED**

**You can also visit our website or Register Now at:**

[Early Childhood Educator \(ECE\) CWRG Program by PICS Surrey \(free Trainings.ca\)](http://free Trainings.ca)

#### Training information:

Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Program is a 100% free government-funded, group-based full-time program.

#### Certificates provided by the PH:

Orientation and Student Success Skills, ECE Foundations, Child Growth and Development I, Child Growth and Development II, Emerging Curriculum, Observation and Recording, Health, Safety and Nutrition, Guidance and Caring, Language and Literature, Music and Movement, Science, Socials and Math, Creative Art, Family / Teacher Relations, Practicum Seminars, Career Search Strategies, Program Related





Canadian Council  
for Refugees  
Conseil canadien  
pour les réfugiés

Dear CCR member,

We are extremely happy to announce that this year's **Summer Working Group meetings will take place in person:**

**September 9-10 in Montreal!**

**Save the date**

Yes! We are hosting our Summer Working Group meetings in person in Montreal so pencil in those dates: **Friday, Sept 9 and Saturday, Sept 10, all day!**

**Can't be in Montreal?**

The CCR will be holding a **virtual meeting on Wednesday September 7** for members who may be unable to participate in person.

**Let us know if you'll join us!**

To help us prepare in welcoming you, we would love to know how likely you are to join us in Montreal or virtually. Here is a very short [survey for you to fill out](#).



Canadian Council  
for Refugees  
Conseil canadien  
pour les réfugiés

• Montréal, September 9-10

## Summer Working Group Meetings

## Downtown Legal Services Presents:



## MAY 27, 2022 ACCESS DENIED: Ongoing Barriers to Refugee Sponsorship in Canada

To be eligible for sponsorship to Canada, refugees must be recognized as refugees by the UNHCR or the government of the country in which they are currently located. Despite being temporarily waived for Syrian refugees, this requirement is still in effect and posing as a significant barrier to refugee sponsorship, especially in the context of Afghan refugees. Our speakers will not only delve into the history of this requirement, they will also share their experiences in attempting to help Afghan refugees overcome this ongoing barrier as they keep being denied access.

Please join us on **May 27, 2022 from 10 am to noon:**  
<https://uoft.me/access-denied>



### SPEAKERS

Melissa Fung is a Canadian journalist, filmmaker, and storyteller. Her work has appeared on CBC News, Globe and Mail, and Al Jazeera.

Pierre-André Thériault is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and co-editor of the journal *Refuge*. He researches broadly in immigration and refugee law.

Alice Zhao and Anisha Sivathas are students at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. They are caseworkers in the Refugee and Immigration Law Division at Downtown Legal Services, the faculty's community legal clinic.

Tamara Hafid is a member of the Canadian Afghan Lawyers Association and a supporter of LifeLine Afghanistan. She is an advocate for Afghan refugees.

Moderated by Asiya Hirji

Downtown Legal Services  
655 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON  
M5S 2H9

(416) 934-4535

May 27, 2022 at 7am-9am PST - ONLINE

**Downtown Legal Services** is presenting on the requirement of the UNHCR refugee status determination.

They are calling for it to be waived in the context of Afghan refugees just as it was with the Syrian refugees.

Poster attached

## REPEATS

### COVID-19 Vaccination Program

B.C. now has COVID-19 web content available in [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#).

The content reflects themes that have been coming up in calls to Service BC and the relatively low vaccination rates in Ukraine:

- How to get vaccinated ([UKR](#) / [RU](#))
- Vaccines for children 5 to 11 ([UKR](#) / [RU](#))
- Rapid testing kits ([UKR](#) / [RU](#))

This has also resulted in a refresh of [the main COVID-19 landing page](#), updating all of the graphics/visual presentation.

Kind regards,

Lizette

**Lizette M. Parsons Bell, ABC\***

ImmunizeBC Project Team

[How to get vaccinated for COVID-19 - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)



# a new belonging

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2022

## A New Belonging – Together

### WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2022 UPDATES:

- The Shoe Project at Vancouver Library  
5 amazing stories from around the world accompanied by santoor.  
- Wednesday June 15, 7pm FREE
- June 20: Speakers' forum, food, art and music in Surrey (partner: Surrey LIP)
- June 20: Vancouver City Proclamation at Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House  
12pm – 2pm. Music, food, friends and special speakers. (Partners: COV & Vancouver LIP)





Poster is attached – please display in your office and share with colleagues and friends

# World Refugee Day – together in person again!

## 5 stories of refugee women from around the world

### Music by Saeid Kooshki – on santoor

Join us to celebrate the strength and resilience, talents and contributions of 5 refugee women who have made our communities their home.

- Waad Shurbaji from Syria
- Ranim Faham from Syria-Aleppo
- Bisrat Gebreyasus from Eritrea
- Touran Nazargahi from Kurdistan-Iran
- Malena Mokhovichova from Russia

**Date:** Wednesday, June 15th, 2022

**Time:** 6:30 pm (Reception) - Event Starts at 7:00 pm

**Location:** Vancouver Public Library, 350 W Georgia St, Vancouver BC.



Presented by The Shoe Project in partnership with MAP BC and Vancouver Public Library

## The Vancouver Half Marathon is back in town!

Every year, participants support our community of immigrant and refugee women and children by putting their running and walking shoes on. As the weather gets warmer, we're hoping you'll join us too!

**This year, PIRS is raising money for our Crisis Fund, in response to the emerging global crises, like those in Ukraine and Afghanistan.** The Vancouver Half Marathon and 5K will take place on Sunday June 24th, 2022. Virtual options and Kids Race are available. For more information, visit [the VHM website](#).



**Register by Thursday, May 26th for early bird ticket prices!** Visit our website to learn how to register:

[\*\*REGISTER TODAY!\*\*](#)

**We can't wait to cheer you on, as you pass the finish line!** If running or walking isn't your thing, pass our invitation along to your friends and family and join us still for an action-packed afternoon!

We hope to see you again,  
Mariam Bouchoutrouch  
Executive Director, Pacific Immigrant Resources Society

**Three job opportunities!!!**

All the job postings can be found [here](#), or click each below,  
or attached as PDF's

[Ride For Refuge  
Coordinator](#)

[Housing Worker](#)

[Employment Worker](#)





# Frog Hollow

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE  
*Creating Our Community Together*

## •We are hiring!

Be a part of the Frog Hollow community

**Current openings:** Community Programmer  
(funded by Canada Summer Jobs Program)

- Early Childhood Educator and Infant/Toddler Educator
- School Age Support Worker
- Nootka School Age Care Supervisor
- Chef Instructor - "YES CHEF!" Program
- Youth Job Developer

[Apply Today!](#)

See Frog Hollow's newsletter packed with ideas and activities [here](#)

Frog Hollow  
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE  
*Creating Our Community Together*

# VOLUNTEER INFORMATION & ORIENTATION

FRIDAYS, 1 PM - 2 PM,  
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

EVERY 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
STARTING MAY 6, 2022

Scan QR code to know more or visit us at:  
[www.froghollow.bc.ca/get-involved/volunteer/](http://www.froghollow.bc.ca/get-involved/volunteer/)

[SIGN UP TODAY](#)      [VOLUNTEER@FROGHOLLOW.BC.CA](mailto:VOLUNTEER@FROGHOLLOW.BC.CA)



## Deeva South Asian Mental Health and Addictions

Do you work with South Asian clients who would benefit from a culturally safe, multidisciplinary approach to mental health and addictions? Deeva might be the right place for them.

Surrey-North Delta member Dr. Mandeep Minhas runs the clinic alongside a program manager and a registered social worker/clinical counsellor. Services are offered in English, Hindi and Punjabi and include:

- mental health, addictions and primary care
- social work
- family teaching and supports
- Narcan kit training and distribution
- and more!

The clinic also offers weekend and evening hours to support employment. For more information, including a more complete list of available services as well as referral information, view the flyer at the link below.

From SND Div Family Practice  
Flyer – thank you.

[View Clinic Flyer](#)



# Supporting the Mental Health of Refugees and Asylum Seekers:

A Toolkit for IGC States

For the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees

Prepared by the Office of Health Equity, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Dr Kwame McKenzie  
Aamna Ashraf  
Andrew Tuck  
Beth White  
Erin Lee

September 2021

igc

camh  
mental health & recovery

 MAP Multi-Agency Partnership BC  
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

Please see the **toolkit attached** with ideas from around the world

(Submitted by Joni & Alex (Ministry of Municipal Affairs))

As a [Windmill Microlending](#) partner, we wanted to let you know about an upcoming informational webinar you can share with your clients and stakeholders.



It's called **Achieve your career goals with Windmill Microlending**.

We intend to host webinars such as these monthly, moving forward.

[REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS WEBINAR](#)

**This event is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 11:00AM PST.**

In a time of rapid change, it can be challenging to restart and grow your career in a new country. Windmill Microlending can help you achieve your career goals by offering affordable loans of up to \$15,000. Please join us to learn how our loans can help cover costs such as:

Course tuition / program fees, Licensing exams, Books and equipment, Language training, Living expenses: daycare, rent, etc.

We'll also highlight our other client success supports to help you succeed in relaunching your career in Canada. Please direct questions about Windmill loans or the webinar [here](#).

### **Did you know?**

Windmill clients see their incomes grow on average by **3.6x (times)** and unemployment falls from **42% to 8%**.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

*The Partnerships Team at Windmill*

# Is multiculturalism compatible with nationalism?

**Thurs. May 26, 2022, 12:30 AM - 6:30 PM PT**

Join co-hosts **Anna Triandafyllidou** (Toronto Metropolitan University) and **Tariq Modood** (University of Bristol) for a workshop exploring the potential for new forms of nationalism. We are witnessing today the emergence and growth of different forms of nationalism, conceptually and politically. While some espouse a closed society and nativism, others seek to embrace diversity. This workshop builds on the relevant literature by political theorists, political scientists and sociologists to discuss whether multiculturalism is compatible with nationalism and whether there are feasible forms of 'progressive patriotism' today, which would redefine liberal nationalism in more inclusive ways. The workshop engages with insights from Europe, North America and other world regions.

Participants:

- Yasmeeen Abu-Laban, University of Alberta
- Keith Banting, Queen's University
- Alain Gagnon, Université du Québec à Montréal
- Allison Harell, Université du Québec à Montréal
- Will Kymlicka, Queen's University
- Gurpreet Mahajan, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Yael (Yuli) Tamer, Oxford University



[REGISTER](#)



Refugee Research Network

**- RRN Research Digest -  
May 12, 2022**

**[Read Digest on the RRN Website](#)**

QUOTE:

The RRN digest is issued bi-weekly to highlight the latest academic and non-academic resources on Refugees and forced migrants. We encourage readers to [email us](#) any articles, reports, or research related to refugee/forced migration studies to be considered in the forthcoming editions. Open-access versions are always a preference