



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

# MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 163

March 29, 2023

**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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## **Canada extends the Safe Third Country Agreement to the whole border**

On Friday March 24 Canadian Parliament created a new protocol to extend the STCA to prevent refugee claimants arriving from the US to enter Canada unless they are eligible under a few exceptions.

**MAP's statement on this regrettable decision** (<https://mapbc.org/>)

MAP BC believes that Canada has a legal responsibility as a signatory of the 1951 Convention on the Rights of Refugees to respect border crossings of individuals from foreign countries who are seeking refugee protection. Desperate people seeking safety need protection. We celebrate the long and generous history of Canada in welcoming those who are persecuted and have been victimized by trauma.

The Safe Third Country Agreement (Canada/USA) has been putting people at risk and we are concerned that the decision by the Canadian government on Friday March 24, 2023 to strengthen this agreement will only increase the risks.

We would like to see those seeking safety have the opportunity to present their need for protection at regular ports of entry. And MAP's member agencies will remain open to welcoming any refugee claimant to our community regardless of how they arrive in Canada. People that need protection, need to be warmly welcomed.

More overleaf 

**Daily protests are happening in Toronto and Montreal throughout April to bring attention to the injustice of this decision and the need for Canada to live up to its international obligations of justice and humanity. Please let MAP know if you publish an article, plan an event or show solidarity – MAP will support you.**

**SEE OVER FOR SOME RESOURCES AND INFORMATION PLUS a Special NEWS Digest on the Extended STCA**

## STCA INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

*Thanks to the Canadian Council for Refugees for the following:*

The Additional Protocol to the Safe Third Country Agreement went into effect on Saturday March 25 at 12:01 am ET. For more information including about exemptions to the Agreement:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/mandate/policies-operational-instructions-agreements/agreements/safe-third-country-agreement.html>

Here is the Additional Protocol:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/mandate/policies-operational-instructions-agreements/agreements/safe-third-country-agreement/additional-protocol.html>

The CCR has posted a statement on the expansion of the Agreement:

<https://ccrweb.ca/en/statement-expansion-safe-third-country-agreement>

For details about why the US is unsafe for refugees:

<https://ccrweb.ca/en/why-US-not-safe-challenging-STCA>

**Information to assist you:** <http://www.bridgesnotborders.ca/>

This NGO website has valuable information on the Exceptions to the new protocol that may assist in some cases.

### MAP Bulletins in April

Because of the handover of responsibilities at MAP going on in April bulletins will be restricted to the following dates:

**April 12 and 26**

Please send your items for inclusion with those dates in mind!

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

*Thank Lam, Sireen El Nashar and Jenny Moss, MAP Executive*

# News highlights:

## Refugee claimant-related articles from Canada and around the world

March 29, 2023

Please see a list of interesting articles gathered by MAP from across Canada **regarding the extended STCA (PDF attached)**

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

[\*\*New deal with U.S. allows Canada to turn back migrants at the border\*\*](#)

CBC

March 24

[\*\*Statement of Concern by the Canadian Council on Refugees\*\*](#)

CCR

[\*\*Amnesty International: A shameful response to Roxham Road crossings\*\*](#)

Amnesty website

March 24

[\*\*ISSofBC response to new U.S.-Canada agreement on migrants\*\*](#)

ISS website

March 28

[\*\*NDP criticism of the new U.S.-Canada agreement\*\*](#)

NDP website

[\*\*Poilievre: Close Roxham Road\*\*](#)

City News, Montreal

February 22/

[\*\*Asylum seeker deal won't stop drama at border, advocates say\*\*](#)

Canadian Press

March 26, 2023

Previously emailed

Message from the Chairperson  
Immigration and  
Refugee Board of Canada



Message du président  
Commission de l'immigration  
et du statut de réfugié du Canada

Dear members of the IRB Consultative Committee (IRB CC),

In consultation with our national health and safety committee, we have revised the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada's (IRB) health and safety guidelines to stay fully aligned with the recently-updated [Public Service Occupational Health Program \(PSOHP\) preventative practices for COVID-19 in the workplace](#).

Based on PSOHP's new guidance, **masks are now optional in IRB locations, including during hearings**. In addition, physical distancing is no longer required. This applies to employees, visitors, counsel, and those appearing before the Board.

The IRB will continue to be a mask-friendly environment. All employees and visitors who wish to wear a mask are encouraged to do so. Masks will still be available to employees and visitors upon their arrival to our offices.

Also, please note that hearing rooms will continue to be sanitized before and after each hearing. Regular air quality testing will also continue in our offices.

Thank you,

Richard Wex

Chairperson

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Dear MAP Members,

CCR has provided us with a useful Infographic in English and French to help us understand the processes for refugee claim during this period of transition.

**PLEASE SEE THESE ATTACHED.**

However, CCR encourages you to use the online resource: <https://ccrweb.ca/en/front-end-processes-infographic> which will be updated since the processes are currently shifting frequently.

Please send back to MAP at [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org) any questions you might have and your experiences with the new processes and assisting claimants. CCR is interested in gathering this feedback and MAP can act as a central point of communication.

Thanks to CCR and their incredible expertise!

PS The recording of today's CCR webinar on the processes may be shareable soon.

## News from the recent CCR Housing Network meeting (March 22)

Kindly shared by Marzieh Nezakat (MOSAIC) / Housing Working Group Co-chair

- CCR intends to write to provinces to advocate for a shelter rate increase. CCR will reach out to members to see who these letters should be addressed to in each province.
- CCR has recognized the need for emergency shelters and short-term housing for refugee claimants and is planning to advocate for that with the Federal government
- Maia McKinley from the OFHA (Office of Federal Housing Advocate) based in Victoria, BC attended the meeting and took notes of these recommendations. OFHA is not the government, but they report regularly to the Minister of Housing.

(Maia McKinley attended a meeting with MAP Housing WG in early 2020 regarding the allocation of IHAP funding to refugee claimant housing)

# English Classes

For Refugee Claimants



## Are you a new to Canada?

Learn English, build your confidence and prepare for the workforce in Canada!

Register for the 10-week classes that will be held online starting on **4 April 2023** and ending on **9 June 2023**.



### BEGINNER LEVEL 0

Wednesday & Friday  
5:00 pm - 6:45 pm

### BEGINNER LEVEL 1

Tuesday & Thursday  
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm

### BEGINNER LEVEL 2

Wednesday & Friday  
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm

**Registration & Enquiries**  
Savina Oommen  
[savina.oommen@options.bc.ca](mailto:savina.oommen@options.bc.ca)  
604.992.6161

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.



**BC SETTLEMENT AND  
INTEGRATION SERVICES  
(BCSIS)**

**(Poster attached)**

## Options Announcement:

Our next term for the English Classes for Refugee Claimants will begin next week.

Please find below the details:

### Beginner Level 0

Wednesday & Friday  
5pm - 6:45pm

### Beginner Level 1

Tuesday & Thursday  
7pm - 8:45pm

### Beginner Level 2

Wednesday & Friday  
7pm - 8:45pm

Questions? Contact Savina at  
[savina.oommen@options.bc.ca](mailto:savina.oommen@options.bc.ca)



PRE-EMPLOYMENT SERIES  
REFUGEE CLAIMANTS



<p><b>THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2023</b> 10AM - 12PM</p> <p><u>Introduction</u> Employment Insurance (EI) Medical Services Plan (MSP) Social Insurance Number (SIN) Bank account &amp; direct deposit</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY APRIL 13, 2023</b> 10AM - 12PM</p> <p><u>Workplace Culture</u> Office Etiquettes Interview Preparation Cultural celebrations in the workplace</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY APRIL 20, 2023</b> 10AM - 12PM</p> <p><u>Job Search Strategies</u> Create and update Resume Job Search Strategies Networking</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY APRIL 27, 2023</b> 10AM - 12PM</p> <p><u>Mock Interview</u> Build your confidence with practice! Attend a mock interview to learn how to improve your interview skills</p>
<p><b>FRIDAY APRIL 28, 2023</b> 9AM - 5PM</p> <p><u>Short-Term Training Opportunities</u> Attend trainings once you have completed the sessions (if needed). Food Safe First Aid</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY MAY 4, 2023</b> 10AM - 12PM</p> <p><u>Certificate of Participation</u> Upon completion of the series, you will receive a certificate from Options Community Services.</p>

**Resume Clinic will be held every Monday 10am - 12pm**

Poster attached

Our next class for the pre-employment series will be starting **next week on Thursday April 06, 2023**. The topics to be covered during these workshops are workplace culture, job search strategies, interview practice and short-term training opportunities will be available.

**Date:** Every Thursday starting April 06, 2023

**Time:** 10AM - 12PM

**Venue:** 10362, King George Blvd, Unit 150, Surrey, V3T2W5

Register by contacting Lesly Cruz or Savina Oomen:

[lesly.cruz@options.bc.ca](mailto:lesly.cruz@options.bc.ca) or 604-809-7618

[savina.oommen@options.bc.ca](mailto:savina.oommen@options.bc.ca) or 604-992-6161

Please note, the short-term training opportunity date will be subject to the availability of the training site. Feel free to let us know if you have any questions.

**Registration**  
Lesly Cruz  
lesly.cruz@options.bc.ca  
604-809-7618

**Registration**  
Savina Oommen  
savina.oommen@options.bc.ca  
604-992-6161



# An invitation from Burnaby Neighbourhood House

## EID PARTY!

See poster attached

**Settlement & Integration Program**  
Burnaby Neighbourhood House  
located on the traditional unceded territories of Coast Salish Nations

**حفلة العيد**  
الثلاثاء 2 مايو 2023

دعوة للسيدات و البنات لقضاء وقت من البهجة و الاحتفال ومشاركة الطعام  
رسم حنة عرض ازياء العيد للبنات  
طبق مشاركة للقضاء سويا  
و فقرات كثيرة متنوعة  
يتوفر حضانة للاطفال



**EID PARTY**  
TUESDAY MAY 2, 2023

12-4:30PM

An invitation to women and girls to spend a time of joy, celebration and enjoy food  
Henna drawing, and a Eid fashion show for girls  
Sharing dishes for lunch together  
And many different events  
Child care is available

**4460 BERESFORD ST.  
FLOOR 3**  
To register please contact:  
**Karimao@Burnabynh.ca**  
Contact # (236) 877-2517

**WWW.BURNABYNH.CA**

Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a community driven and community funded agency located on the unceded territories of the Tselil-Wauthuth 'salilwataʔ, Kwikwetlem (k'ik'wəlam), Squamish 'Skwgwu'mesh Uxwumixw and Musqueam (x'maɬk'ayam) nations with a unique focus on neighbours supporting neighbours.

4460 Beresford Street  
Burnaby, BC V5H 0B8  
(In front of Metrotown Skytrain)  
16041431 0400

Partners:  
Integration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada

Financiers:  
Integration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Settlement & Integration Program

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



## Chinese Senior Social 华裔长者社交活动

- Join us to make friends and share your life experiences  
来加入我们，和其他华裔长者交朋友，分享你的人生故事
- Starting April 11, every other Tuesday from 1:00 to 3:30pm  
Meet in-person at BNH South House, 3rd Floor  
4月11日開始，每隔一周的周二下午 1:00-3:30pm  
在本拿比邻舍南部辦公室三樓

了解详情或报名，请联系Dali

For more details, please contact Dali:  
[daliq@burnabynh.ca](mailto:daliq@burnabynh.ca) or call 236-877-2616

[www.burnabynh.ca](http://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 (kʷikwəʔləm), Squamish (Skwəwúʔmesh Úxwumikw) and Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm) nations with a unique focus on neighbours supporting neighbours.

# An invitation from Burnaby Neighbourhood House

## CHINESE SENIOR SOCIAL

**See poster attached**



4460 Beresford Street  
Burnaby, BC V5H 0B8  
(In front of Metrotown Skytrain)  
(604)431-0400



Funded by:  
Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Financé par:  
Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

MAP (Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin March 29, 2023





# Kinbrace Educational Award

Thanks to the generosity and vision of three donors, and in partnership with MOSAIC, a new educational award is now available!

The Kinbrace Educational Award supports the post-secondary educational aspirations of one foreign-born young person who made a refugee claim in Canada (or whose parents made a refugee claim) and is now a protected person, permanent resident, or Canadian citizen.

[Learn more and share widely!](#)

Application closes 30 April 2023.



REFUGEE HOUSING & SUPPORT

*Do you know an individual who goes above and beyond to empower and support the successful journeys of refugees to Canada?*

*This could be an organizational leader. A community activist or volunteer. It could be a neighbour committed to helping newcomers get the best start possible in their new country.*



As part of the 15th Annual [Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards](#), Windmill Microlending is inviting nominations for a new award to recognize individuals who help immigrants and refugees rise to their full potential in Canada.

If you know someone who has made a difference in the lives of Canadian refugees, please nominate them for the new *Windmill Microlending Empowerment Award*. Nominations are underway until **Tuesday, April 18**.

A link to the nomination form can be found here: <https://canadianimmigrant.ca/canadas-top-25-immigrants/empowerment-award> The Canadian Immigrant Award winners will be announced in August. If you have any questions about the award, please contact Windmill Marketing Manager, Zainab Yusufzai ([zainab@teamwindmill.org](mailto:zainab@teamwindmill.org)).



# Lecture by Harsha Walia

## Abolish Border Imperialism: Climate Migration, Racial Capitalism, and Empire

Reception to follow

Learn More:



April 6, 2023 | 2-4:30pm  
Place of Many Trees - Liu Institute  
6476 NW Marine Dr, Vancouver, BC

## Scholars of Excellence Edition:

### De-centring the governance and knowledge production on migration

**Wed. Apr. 19, 2023, 10 AM - 4:15 PM EDT Hybrid**

Join CERC Migration's visiting Scholars of Excellence, [Oliver Bakewell](#), University of Manchester, [Nicola Piper](#), Queen Mary University of London, and CERC Migration Chair [Anna Triandafyllidou](#), for a workshop that aims

to challenge the consensus views that have shaped the Global Compact for

Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The workshop draws on views from Africa, Asia and Latin America to examine

the political economy of knowledge production on migration and its governance, and the side effects of regulated

migration. Presenters include:

- **Oliver Bakewell**, University of Manchester,
- **Danièle Bélanger**, Université Laval
- **Amanda Bisong**, European Centre for Development Policy Management
- **Jonathan Crush**, Wilfrid Laurier University
- **Faisal Garba**, University of Cape Town
- **Joao Carlos Jarochinski Silva**, Universidade Federal de Roraima
- **Yvonne Khor**, Monash University Malaysia
- **Nicola Piper**, Queen Mary University of London
- **Anna Triandafyllidou**, CERC Migration, Toronto Metropolitan University



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

Visit the [event webpage](#) for abstracts and program details.

FRASER VALLEY  
**LEGAL AID  
CONNECT** MARCH  
30TH  
2023

**MARCH 30TH 2023**  
GRAND TAJ BANQUET HALL

JOIN US FROM 11:30 AM TO 4:00 PM  
GRAND TAJ BANQUET HALL  
8388 128 ST, SURREY, BC V3W 4G2

THIS IS A (FREE) FORUM FOR TARIFF LAWYERS AND  
SERVICE PROVIDERS. LABC WANTS TO THANK YOU,  
LISTEN, LEARN FROM EACH OTHER, AND TALK ABOUT  
OUR STRATEGIC PLAN.

RSVP BY 5:00 PM MARCH 24  
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



REPEATS

Poster attached

We are pleased to be sending you an invitation to the Fraser Valley Legal Aid Connect event we are hosting! Please register as soon as possible to reserve your place. We look forward to seeing you!

Please register here: <https://form.simplesurvey.com/f/s.aspx?s=bdbc56a4-91b8-408d-8252-7ac2ff87f4f9>

And please share this invite with your contacts in the Fraser Valley, Surrey and Delta.

Thank you again for all your help.

Zuzanna Mazur

**Conference & Event Planner / Administrative Assistant** | Community and Publishing Services

p. 604-601-6260

w. [legalaid.bc.ca](http://legalaid.bc.ca)

Legal Aid BC 







Canadian Council  
for Refugees  
Conseil canadien  
pour les réfugiés

CCR is happy to share the **outcomes of the Quality of Service project** with you. The project supports NGOs serving immigrant and refugee communities to provide high quality services to their clients who have needs in areas related to immigration and refugee law ([See framework for high-quality immigration and refugee services](#)).

Thanks to all your valuable input and feedback, we were able to produce 4 guiding documents that respond to the four areas of the project's framework and the priorities identified by NGOs across Canada:

1. Staff Training and Knowledge Sharing
2. Complaints and Feedback
3. Management of Referrals
4. Ethical Principles

The purpose of these documents is to guide organizations as they evaluate their existing policies and practices, or as they develop new ones. Please take a look at these resources and consider whether you might use them!

The project also explored options for tracking, monitoring and supporting the work that NGOs do across the country and produced a discussion paper outlining these options.

Please visit the project webpage by clicking on the button below in order to have access to the guiding documents and the discussion paper:

[Quality of Service Webpage](#)

If you have any questions about the documents, please email Basel Dakak, at [bdakak@ccrweb.ca](mailto:bdakak@ccrweb.ca). We hope these documents will be useful to you and your organization!

# Building Connections

An Interactive Resource Fair for Refugee Claimants

A great opportunity for refugee claimants to connect with the community!

Join us for free refreshments and learn about resources available to you!



April 1st  
4pm - 6:30 pm

Free to attend!

## Learn more about

- Housing
- Health & Wellness
- Legal Advice
- Financial Advice
- Employment
- Food Security

Hosted by MAP BC



Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House  
800 E Broadway, Vancouver

Near the Skytrain and on the #99 bus route

Posters attached also!  
AND available in hard copy  
from [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org)



نمایش گاه رهنمودی  
برای متقاضیان  
پناهنده گی تازه وارد!

# تامین ارتباطات

فرصت عالی برای پناهنده گان تازه وارد، به منظور برقراری روابط با جامعه میزبان و آگاهی یافتن از منابع و خدمات جاری برای پناهنده گان

این مراسم تنها به آن عده از پناهنده گانی برگزار می شود که به تازه گی وارد شهرهای ایالت بریتیش کلمبیا شده اند.

برای صرف تنقلات (خوراکی های مختصر) و کسب آگاهی درباره امکانات موجود برای پناهنده گان تازه وارد، با ما همراه شوید.

در باره موارد زیر آگاه شوید:  
تهیه مسکن

- سلامت و بهداشت
- مشورت های حقوقی
- مشورت های مالی
- کاریابی و استخدام
- تامین امنیت غذایی

زمان : اول اپریل  
۲۰۲۳ - ساعت ۴ تا  
۶:۳۰ بعد از ظهر

محل برگزاری نمایش گاه :

Mount Pleasant Neighborhood House  
800 E Broadway, Vancouver



April 1<sup>st</sup>, 4pm – 6:30 pm

Just drop in!

Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House  
800 East Broadway, Vancouver

# Construyendo Comunidades

Una feria de recursos interactivos para solicitantes de refugio.

Una gran oportunidad para que solicitantes de refugio se conecten con la comunidad

Acompáñenos para disfrutar de refrigerios gratuitos y conocer los recursos disponibles para usted.

## Aprenda mas sobre:

- Alojamiento
- Salud y bienestar
- Consejo legal
- Consejo financiera
- Empleo
- Banco de Alimentos

1o de abril  
4p-6:30p

Entrada gratis!

Sirve como anfitrión:

Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House  
800 E Broadway, Vancouver

Cerca del Skytrain y en la ruta del autobus #99

