



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 20

June 21, 2023

Dear MAP members,

How are you doing. 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.

MAP NEWS!

Thank you to everyone who joined us on June 20th at Vancouver Public Library for World Refugee Day!

For those of you who couldn't attend, VPL has uploaded the recording of the event to their Youtube page:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSsf8qYLFro&list=PLp9Du1me5InL6tsADcqyZ3m_eft-7bw_A&index=1



*Thank you for all you are doing to support vulnerable refugee claimants
Thank Lam, Sireen El Nashar and Katya Avalos, MAP Executive*



MAP NEWS!

You are invited to attend the **MAP Meeting on Thursday June 29th** at 9:30 am hosted by MOSAIC

Address: MOSAIC - 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver
Thank you to our friends at MOSAIC for hosting MAP!

We will be meeting in person without a hybrid option - although teleconferencing can be arranged for anyone really unable to attend. Please contact Katya for details.

The chair will be Sireen El Nashar

The highlights are:

- Our regular IRB Report
- World Refugee Day report
- A Presentation by Jessica Waddel (CBSA) and Marlies Dick (RCMP) on **“Exploitation and Labour Trafficking”**
- BC Charms updates
- Report back from the MAP Advisory Council
- Chances for everyone to share updates/questions/issues and friendship in the service of refugee claimants.

The minutes from May meeting will be sent soon!

Light refreshments will be provided - please come early to meet your colleagues and enjoy a warm coffee!

Transport and Parking

Please see the information sheet attached for parking options

MOSAIC is located just 10 minutes walk from the [Joyce Street Skytrain Station](#) and on many bus routes.



On Friday 16th, the Canadian Supreme Court announced its decision to uphold the Safe Third Country Agreement with the US, keeping Canada's land border closed to most refugee claimants with a few exceptions. Please see the Canadian Council for Refugee's statement:



Supreme Court decision on Safe Third Country Agreement Misses the Mark on Refugee Rights, but Offers Some Hope

The Supreme Court of Canada's decision today on the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) is a complex result that ultimately fails refugees. The Supreme Court has allowed the appeal in part, sending the equality rights issue at stake back to the Federal Court, and keeping alive the possibility of the agreement being declared unconstitutional. But the Canadian Council for Refugees, Amnesty International Canada, and The Canadian Council of Churches are disappointed that the Supreme Court of Canada failed to decisively rule that the Safe Third Country Agreement violates refugees' rights, exposing refugee claimants to further harms while awaiting another legal challenge.

"Today's decision is partly disappointing in the sense that the STCA continues to be in effect and folks who show up at our borders will continue to be sent back to the US to face deportation, detention and solitary confinement," said Aleks Dughman-Manzur, President of the Canadian Council for Refugees. "On the other hand, the Supreme Court did not find the STCA to be constitutional. On the contrary, the Supreme Court upheld the importance of section 15 and instructed the Federal Court to weigh in on equality rights. The Court did not consider the US to be a safe country for refugees, and though it understood that there are safety valves in place at the border, we know in practice those safety valves are not accessible. We continue to call on the Federal government to suspend the application of the STCA." Under the STCA, most refugee claimants who arrive at the U.S.-Canada land and water border seeking protection in Canada are denied entry and turned back to the U.S. In March 2023, the agreement was expanded to apply not only at official border crossings, but also in between border points if the person makes a refugee claim within 14 days of arrival – forcing people to make more irregular, dangerous, and underground crossings just to seek protection in Canada.

The Court acknowledged that refugees sent to the US face risks of rights violations, but noted that there were “safety valves” available for people to be exempted from return to the US if they are at risk. Although these mechanisms exist in law, in practice they are not accessible to people making a refugee claim at the border.

“No matter how they enter Canada, people fleeing danger and persecution have an internationally protected right to seek safety and to have their refugee claims assessed fairly,” said Ketty Nivyabandi, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada’s English-speaking section. “Now even more than when we first took up this challenge, the Safe Third Country Agreement puts those rights — and crucially, those rights-holders — at serious risk. Our hearts go out to the people endangered by the STCA, and despite today’s decision, we call on the government to withdraw from the pact without delay.”

“Canadian faith communities have long advocated for Canada to welcome and respond to people in need of safety who are fleeing from violence, discrimination, persecution, and war. While the Safe Third Country Agreement remains in effect, the court also found that its implementation is unsafe. It will always be essential that people at a port of entry to Canada have full and equal access to the fundamental principles of justice in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that would give them a fair hearing in Canada,” said Pastor Peter Noteboom, General Secretary of The Canadian Council of Churches.

Unlike the lower courts, the Supreme Court considered issues related to gender-based discrimination, about which the organizations presented extensive evidence. Throughout the life of the Safe Third Country Agreement, the US has denied refugee status to many people fleeing gender-based persecution, in violation of section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. By sending the section 15 challenge to the lower courts, the Supreme Court offers some hope amid a disappointing decision. The three organizations maintain that the STCA is counter to Canadian values, in breach of international obligations, and stands in stark contrast to the overwhelming public support for refugees. Canada’s identity as a compassionate and welcoming nation is tarnished by this shameful agreement.

Today’s decision does not change the fundamental rights of refugees, nor does it absolve Canada from its international obligations under the Geneva Convention. It does not change our call for suspension of the agreement, recently extended across the entire shared border with the United States.

EMPOWERING WOMEN MUJERES RUMBO AL EXITO



BCSIS - BC Settlement and Integration Services



All workshops and info sessions will be delivered in Spanish or with Spanish interpretation.

TOPICS:

- Managing Stress
 - Life Skills Development
 - Community Connections
 - Mental Health / Overall Health
- AND MUCH MORE...

MONDAY, JULY 10

Recreation Center Program Intro Tour

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

City Centre Library Tour

MONDAY, JULY 17

Emotional Motor and Expressive Art Workshop

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

Women's Health Info Session (Online)

MONDAY, JULY 24

Life Skills Workshop

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Picnic @ Hawthorne Park Program Wrap Up

🕒 5PM-7PM

FOR REGISTRATION,
CONTACT



LESLY CRUZ
604.809.7618

lesly.cruz@options.bc.ca

BUS TICKETS PROVIDED

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



options | COMMUNITY SERVICES

Empowering Women Group for Spanish speakers

This group targets newcomer women, who lack social connections, or are multi-barriered and facing challenges seeking employment. We will be covering a range of subjects, like stress management, life skills development, mental health and general wellness.

To register contact Lesly Cruz at:
604-809-7618
lesly.cruz@options.bc.ca

PDF ATTACHED



School's Out Summer Camp

For Immigrant and Refugee Children 6-10 years old

July 17 to Aug 11, 2023

9:30-3:30pm

Peace Church on 52nd
659 E 52nd Ave E,
Vancouver, BC V5X 1G8

Field Trips on Fridays!

FREE



What You will Learn:

- Make new friends
- Increase confidence
- Community service
- Learn new skills
- Personal health and fitness
- Develop social and emotional skills

Creative Arts

Outdoor Physical Activities

Story Workshop

Gardening Activities

Healthy Cooking

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Contact Sukhmeet at (778)608-4018

skaur@pirs.bc.ca

Note: Each child can enroll in one week program.



Working with communities in BC's
Interior, Lower Mainland, Central
& Northern Vancouver Island

PIRS Summer Camp is open to pre-registration and still have some spots available.

This summer camper is for low-income families with children aged 6-10.

This week-long camp is held from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm from July 17 to Aug 11 at Peace Church on 52nd, Vancouver.

Week 1: July 17 to July 21

Week 2: July 24 to July 28

Week 3: July 31 to Aug 4

Week 4: Aug 8 to Aug 11

There will be field trips on Fridays, arts and crafts, outdoor physical activities, gardening, cooking, and many more exciting activities.

Click this link to pre-register:

<https://forms.gle/ap2Hu9HSUaiYpxMa7>

PDF ATTACHED





Settlement & Integration Program

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

In-person Conversation Circle

Mondays 2:30 - 4:30 pm
4460 Beresford Street, Burnaby
(BNH South House - 3rd floor)

Do you want to improve your English conversational skills? Come and join us!

- Friendly and welcoming environment
- Small group setting to encourage participation
- Diverse settlement topics and about life in Canada
- Connect with other fellow newcomers and make friends

July 10th to September 25th , 2023

For more information to register, please contact Xinrui:
xinrui@burnabynh.ca

www.burnabynh.ca

Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a community driven and community funded agency located on the unceded territories of the Tsleil-Waututh (salilwətaʔ), Kwikwetlem (kwikwələm), Squamish (Səwənuʔməsh Úxwumíaw) and Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəyám) nations with a unique focus on neighbours supporting neighbours.



Burnaby Neighbourhood House is having in-person weekly Conversation Circles, starting on July 10th.

These sessions would provide newcomers with opportunities to connect, network, practice English and learning about their new communities, as guided by experienced volunteer facilitators.

For more information, please contact Xinrui Li, our Settlement Community Connection Coordinator at: xinrui@burnabynh.ca

PDF ATTACHED



4460 Beresford Street
Burnaby, BC V5H 0E8
(in front of Metrotown Skytrain)
(604)431-0400



Funded by:

Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Financed par:

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



GETTING THROUGH IT:

A group to support refugee claimants during the entire refugee claim process

WHEN:

Wednesdays 10:00-12:00

WHERE:

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

THE GROUP WILL HELP YOU:

To have information about the refugee claim process

- To learn tips to cope with stress
- To share a space with people that understand
- To be prepared for your hearing

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

saramaria@vast-vancouver.ca

PDFs ATTACHED

گذر کردن از این دوره

یک گروه برای حمایت از مدعیان پناهندگی در طول
پروسه ادعای پناهندگی می باشد.

زمان: چهارشنبه 12:00-10:00

این گروه حضوری در Victoria Dr 2610 در
ISSofBC welcome centre هم برگزار میشود.

مکان: آنلاین از طریق زوم

آیا درباره پروسه ادعای پناهندگی معلومات ضرورت دارید؟

برای یادگیری نکاتی برای مقابله با استرس

برای به اشتراک گذاشتن یک محیط با افرادی که درک تان می کنند

برای پرسیدن سوالات در مورد فرآیند روز دادگاه تا شما بهتر آماده باشید

برای معلومات بیشتر با

Referrals@vast-vancouver.ca به تماس شوید



GRUPO LATINO 2023

Técnicas para Combatir el Estrés en Familia
Un espacio seguro para fomentar la comunidad, el autocuidado y la autorregulación

"Entre más uno se cuida, mejor cuida a los que uno quiere"



¿Cuándo?

El último jueves de cada mes

(26 de enero, 23 de febrero, 30 de marzo, 27 de abril, 25 de mayo, 29 de junio, 27 de julio, 28 de septiembre, 26 de octubre y 30 de noviembre del 2023)

¿A Qué hora?

10 am - 11:30 am

¿Dónde?

Via ZOOM

¿Preguntas?

Comunicate al (604) 283-6710

Whatsapp +1 (778) 372-6593

saramaria@vast-vancouver.ca

para recibir el Zoom ID y unirte al grupo

PDFs ATTACHED

ATRAVIÉSALO

Grupo para apoyar a los solicitantes de refugio durante todo el proceso.

CUANDO:

Miercoles de 10:00-12:00

DONDE:

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

SI NECESITAS:

Tener información sobre el proceso de solicitud de refugio.

- Aprender a como combatir el estrés.
- Compartir un espacio con personas que te entiendan
- Hacer preguntas sobre el proceso para estar bien preparado(a) para tu audiencia
- Ayuda para acceder a servicios en la comunidad

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN PUEDE CONTACTAR A:

saramaria@vast-vancouver.ca



MAP (Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin
June 21, 2023



MOSAIC

Engaging Newcomers, Enriching Communities



Financial Literacy Workshop

Refugee Claimants, International Students, Temporary Foreign Workers

Interested in Learning the Basics of Banking?

[Register to learn more about:](#)

- Day to Day Banking
- Credit Score and History
- How to build a good Credit Score in Canada
- Registered Investment Accounts (TFSA & RRSP)

Date: Tuesday, June 27th

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Location: 5575 Boundary Rd, Vancouver

To register email Melina:
mlopez-valle@mosaicbc.org

MOSAIC is hosting a Financial Literacy Workshop on June 27th, from 10 AM to 11:30 AM.

at MOSAIC (5575 Boundary Rd, Vancouver).

This workshop offers comprehensive training designed to empower the community with the knowledge and skills in Basics of Banking!

We would appreciate your collaboration in sharing this workshop with peers and clients.

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KinBRACE **25th**  *
*
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION *
 *
 *

15
JULY
2023
1-4pm

1pm
MINGLE, DRINKS, + FOOD
2pm
STORIES + MUSIC
3pm
CAKE



CELEBRATE 25 YEARS
SHARING KINSHIP + EMBRACE
WITH REFUGEE CLAIMANTS!




You are invited to celebrate Kinbrace's 25th Anniversary Celebration!

July 15th from 1 to 4 PM

RSVP by scanning the code!

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COME, CHAT AND MEET NEW FRIENDS

(ENGLISH CONVERSATION & COFFEE CIRCLES)



BC Settlement and Integration Services (BCSIS)



Are you a Refugee Claimant, International Student or do you have an Open Work Permit?

COME AND:

- Learn day-to-day English conversation
- Learn more about services and Canadian culture
- Learn about the library programs
- Meet new friends and make social connections

ANA YANSIE PARADA
604-803-4569
ana.parada@options.bc.ca

10:30AM - 12:30PM
Recurring Event

EVERY MONDAY
July 10 - August 28, 2023

CITY CENTRE LIBRARY
10350 University Drive
Surrey, BC, V3T 4B5

Practice your English and make new friends!

Register Here:



bit.ly/EngConvCoffee0710



REPEATS

PDFs ATTACHED



MAP (Multi-Agency Partnership) Bulletin June 21, 2023

Conversation Circle

Intermediate Level



BCSIS - BC Settlement and Integration Services



Are you a newcomer in Canada looking to practice your English?

Join us for the conversation circle as we discuss interesting topic each week in a fun and friendly group setting.

**For Enquires
Please Contact**

Savina Oommen
604.992.6161
savina.oommen@options.bc.ca



Every Tuesday
(July 4 - August 22)
10:30AM - 12:00PM



Focus College
#105 - 13655 104 Ave
Surrey, BC V3T 1W3

Register Here:



bit.ly/ConvCircle0704

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



What is Trauma and How to Work Through it



3 part Series presented by:

Deanna Dumont Van Woudenberg
B. ED. MA RCC
Cedar Circle Counselling
deanna@cedarcirclecounselling.com
www.cedarcirclecounselling.com

Please note: This workshop is not designed in a group therapy format. It is informational and practical. Participants will be encouraged to visit counselors in the area that speak their native tongue to work through traumas with them as needed.



Monday, June 26, 2023
Monday, July 10, 2023
Monday, July 24, 2023
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm



Sevenoaks Alliance Church
2575 Gladwin Rd, Abbotsford
in the Community Room
(park in parking lot by
Centennial Park school)



To register visit www.inasmuch.ca
and register under What is Trauma?

In English and Spanish

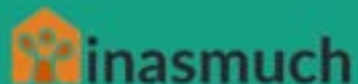
You are invited to Attend

This workshop is designed for Refugee
Claimants, Convention Refugees and
Displaced Ukrainians

Topics include:

- What is trauma?
- How to recognize trauma
- How to work through trauma

Each session is 2 hours and will include
refreshments and handouts/materials



PDF ATTACHED



What is Trauma and How to Work Through it?

You are invited to attend this 3-part series



First Aid Training for

Refugee Claimants, International Students,
Temporary Foreign Workers and Canada-Ukraine
Authorization for Emergency Travel Clients

Saturday, July 8
9:00 am—5:00 pm

Sevenoaks Alliance Church: 2575 Gladwin Road, Abbotsford

- Occupational First Aid Level 1
- FREE Training: Receive a Certificate
- Highly valued by Canadian employers in many industries
- Training in English & Spanish

Limited spaces available.
Registration required!

To register visit www.inasmuch.ca
under “classes”

PDFs
ATTACHED



MAP (Multi-Agency
Partnership) Bulletin Ju
14, 2023

Food Safe Training for

Refugee Claimants, International Students,
Temporary Foreign Workers and Canada-Ukraine
Authorization for Emergency Travel Clients

Saturday, July 29
9:00 am—5:00 pm

Sevenoaks Alliance Church: 2575 Gladwin Road, Abbotsford

- FOODSAFE Level 1
- FREE Training: Receive a Certificate
- Highly valued by Canadian employers in many industries
- Training in English

Limited spaces available.
Registration required!

To register visit www.inasmuch.ca
under classes



Every year, Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS) holds **the Vancouver Half Marathon (VHM)** as the highlight event to spread awareness of our important work to the larger community.

[In 2022, British Columbia had the second largest number of immigrants in Canada, with 83,200 newcomers arriving last year.](#)

Canada is known for its cultural diversity, attracting millions of people selecting Canada as their new home. PIRS understands the difficulties faced by new immigrants in adapting to a new environment. In order to support them, we are running this year to raise funds for our trauma-informed programs. These programs are specifically designed to assist immigrant and refugee women to integrate into the society.

As of May 24th, we have raised \$2,992.92. This year, our goal is to raise \$15,000. One of the programs that will benefit from the funding is our Community English Classes. Our instructor in New Westminster shares that, "the class has always shown empathy and support for each other. Even during the current world crisis, it is evident that the class is a non-biased, safe and inclusive environment for all women and their families."

Join us for a walk/run on June 25th to support immigrant and refugee women and their children. Together we can make a lasting impact.

For more information on race details, location, time, and more, click [here](#).

To register, click [here](#).

Unable to participate? Donate to support immigrant and refugee women and their children!

[Donate Today](#)

