



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 7

February 21, 2024

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!

You are invited to attend the **MAP Meeting on Thursday February 22nd** at 9:30 am hosted by **ISSofBC**

Address: 2610 Victoria Drive, Vancouver

The highlights are:

- Our regular IRB Report
- BC CHARMS update
- **A Presentation by Eduardo Aragon from Legal Aid BC on the Legal Navigators Program**
- Report back from the MAP Advisory Council
- Chances for everyone to share updates/questions/issues and friendship in the service of refugee claimants.

Parking: Our friends at First Christian Reformed Church right next door have generously offered us their parking lot for our attendees. If you are driving to the meeting, you can park at 2670 Victoria Drive, Vancouver.

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

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

Sara Lopez, Sireen El Nashar and Katya Avalos, MAP Executive

Information Session: Canadian Tax Essentials

Monday, February 26, 2024
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sunrise Welcome Place
2732 E. Hastings st.(2/F), Vancouver

Join us to learn about:

- Canadian Tax System
- Tax Responsibilities
- Tax Benefites

- Session will be delivered in Spanish*
- Childminding service is available*
- Eligibility: Permanent Residents, Work Permit Holders, Refugees, Refugee Claimants & Naturalized Citizens.*

Registration:

María Helena
778-238-6484, or
marias@froghollow.bc.ca

Funded by / Financé par:

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MAP news
bulletin Feb
2024

Sesión Informativa: Aspectos Esenciales de los Impuestos Canadienses

Lunes 26 de febrero 2024
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sunrise Welcome Place
2732 E. Hastings st.(Segundo piso), Vancouver

Únete a nosotros para aprender sobre:

- El Sistema de Impuestos Canadiense
- Responsabilidades fiscales
- Beneficios fiscales.

- Sesión informativa en español.*
- Cuidado de niños.*
- Elegibilidad: Residentes Permanentes, Permiso de Trabajo, Solicitantes de Refugio, Ciudadanos Naturalizados*

Información y registro

María Helena
778-238-6484, or
marias@froghollow.bc.ca

Funded by / Financé par:

Employment Workshop: Resume Building & Interview Success



Feb 22 & 29, Mar 14 & 28, 2024
Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 pm
@Sunrise Welcome Place
100-2732 E. Hastings St. Vancouver

Free!

In this workshop, you will learn about:

- What information to include on your resume & cover letter
- Resume writing practice activities
- Interview Tips
- Canadian Workplace Culture
- LinkedIn

- ✓ A follow-up 1-1 session is available upon request for a customized resume, cover letter and mock interview.
- ✓ The session will be delivered in Farsi and English
- ✓ Eligibility: Permanent Residents, Work Permit Holders, Refugees, Refugee Claimants & Naturalized Citizens.
- ✓ Childminding service is available.



Registration:

Parvin Fatemi
236-833-4193, or
parvin@froghollow.bc.ca

Funded by / Financé par:



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MAP news bulletin Feb 2024

Frog Hollow
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
Creating Our Community Together

Are you new to the country?
Have questions about life in Canada?
Do you want to build connections?

Get informed, get empowered on local community services!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A 10-week free program for newcomers, permanent residents, refugee claimants and citizens

EVERY TUESDAY
APRIL 9 - JUNE 11, 2024
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

In-person at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House,
2131 Renfrew St. Vancouver

**Child-minding is provided*

Funded by / Financé par:



Inquiries/ registration?
Contact **Eva** at
eva@froghollow.bc.ca

Presentación del impuesto sobre ingresos en Canadá. Lo que necesita saber.

Su declaración de impuestos sobre la renta personal vence el 30 de abril de cada año

Esta clase es para:



Solicitantes de refugio y otros recién llegados

Información de la clase

Clase de español: martes 5 de marzo de 6:30 p.m. a 8 p.m. en
Facilitadora de Zoom: Nathalie de Servicios Familiares Vancouver

Clase de inglés Lunes 11 de marzo de 6:30 p.m. a 8 p.m. en
Facilitador de Zoom: Thao de Servicios Familiares de Vancouver

Regístrese en línea: www.inasmuch.ca en 'Clases'. El enlace de zoom se le enviará por correo electrónico después de registrarse

Los temas incluirán:

- Deducciones en tu nómina, qué son y qué significan
- ¿Quién debe declarar impuestos en Canadá?
- Cuándo declarar la declaración de impuestos
- Cómo declarar tus impuestos
- Documentos necesarios para declarar sus impuestos
- ¿Qué pasa si no declaras tus impuestos?



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Filing Income Tax in Canada What You Need to Know

Your Personal Income Tax Return is due April 30 every year

This class is for:



Refugee Claimants and other newcomers

Class Information

Spanish Class: Tuesday, March 5 6:30pm to 8pm on Zoom
Facilitator: Nathalie from Family Services Vancouver

English Class: Monday, March 11 6:30pm to 8pm on Zoom
Facilitator: Thao from Family Services of Vancouver

Register online: www.inasmuch.ca under Classes
The zoom link will be emailed to you after you register

Topics will include:

- Deductions on your paycheque, what they are, and what they mean
- Who needs to file taxes in Canada?
- When to file your taxes
- How to file your taxes
- Documents needed to file your taxes
- What happens if you don't file your taxes?





Workshop Highlights

Wednesdays
February 14, 28
March 13, 27
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Join this in-person drop-in to get answers to your questions about digital technology.

جلسات آموزشی سواد دیجیتال

به این گروه پرسش و پاسخ حضوری کار با کامپیوتر بیوید که برای مراجعین با سواد دیجیتال سطح پایین طراحی شده است.

با ما همراه باشید تا با این موارد آشنا شوید:

- مهارت های اولیه کامپیوتر مانند پر کردن فرم های آنلاین
- ثبت نام برای حساب های آنلاین و دانلود برنامه ها
- استفاده از Moodle و Zoom
- نصب یابی ساده برای دستگاه های دیجیتال
- مهارت های ایمنی آنلاین مانند اجتناب از کلاهبرداری های آنلاین و تنظیم رمزهای عبور قوی

For more information please contact:
Yvonne Xian, yvonnex@impactnorthshore.ca

Details:

This walk-in group welcomes clients in English, Farsi, Mandarin, Cantonese and other languages if requested.

This clinic is open to newcomers and immigrants.

In-person, Impact North Shore
207-123 15th St. North Vancouver

This program is government funded and free of charge.

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

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Workshop Highlights

Wednesdays
February 14, 28
March 13, 27
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Join this in-person drop-in to get answers to your questions about digital technology.

Digital Literacy Drop-In Sessions

These in-person digital literacy sessions are designed for clients with a low level of digital literacy. Drop-in to one of these sessions to get personalized support for your digital literacy questions and concerns.

Bring your questions about:

- Basic computer skills like filling out online forms, registering for online accounts, and downloading apps
- Using Zoom and Moodle
- Simple trouble shooting for digital devices
- Online safety skills like avoiding online scams and setting strong passwords

For more information please contact:
Yvonne Xian, yvonnex@impactnorthshore.ca

Details:

These drop-in sessions welcome clients in English, Farsi, Mandarin, Cantonese and other languages if requested.

These drop-in sessions are open to newcomers and immigrants.

In-person, Impact North Shore
207-123 15th St. North Vancouver

This program is government funded and free of charge.

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MAP news bulletin
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Mental Health and Immigration

اهمیت حفظ سلامت روان در دوران مهاجرت

از شما دعوت می شود تا در این جلسه ی آموزشی که به منظور یادگیری روشها و تکنیکهای مراقبت از خود، کاهش استرس و آرماسازی در نظر گرفته شده، شرکت نمایید.

مطالب مورد بحث در این جلسه:

- اطلاعات کلی در مورد سلامت و بهداشت روان
- استراتژیهای مراقبت از خود در دوران مهاجرت مانند: بهبود سبکهای مقابله با استرس، چگونگی زیستن در لحظه حال و مقابله با یکنواختی زندگی
- تمرینات مرتبط با آرماسازی جسمانی و روانی

این کارگاه آموزشی در روز دوشنبه 26 فوریه ساعت 6 به زبان فارسی و به صورت آنلاین برگزار خواهد شد. اطلاعات مربوط به چگونگی دسترسی آنلاین به وبسایت متعاقبا اعلام خواهد شد.

برای ثبت نام و در صورت نیاز به کسب اطلاعات بیشتر با خانم پرینا پورنگ و ایمیل parisap@impactnorthshore.ca یا شماره تلفن 604-988-2931 تماس حاصل فرمایید و ضمن ذکر نام و شماره تلفن خود، پیام گذاشته تا با شما تماس حاصل شود.

Workshop Highlights

Monday, February 26
6:00pm – 7:30pm

Join this workshop to learn more about self-care, mental health coping strategies and relaxation techniques.

Details:

This workshop will be presented in Farsi.

This workshop is open to newcomers and immigrants.

Online via Zoom
Details provided after registration.

To participate in this workshop, you must register as a client with Impact North Shore.

This program is government funded and free of charge.

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Travel Documents for Protected Persons

درخواست مدرک رسمی مسافرت (تراول داکویمنت) برای پناهندگان قبول شده و پناهندگان کنواسیون در داخل خاک کانادا

چنانچه پناهندگی شما در خاک کانادا پذیرفته شده و شما پناهنده کنواسیون یا حفاظت شده هستید و قصد سفر به خارج از کانادا را دارید، برای اطلاع از چگونگی درخواست تراول داکویمنت، در این وبسایت که به صورت آنلاین و به زبان فارسی برگزار می شود شرکت فرمایید. موضوعات مورد بحث:

- آیا شما واجد شرایط درخواست تراول داکویمنت هستید؟
- چه مدارکی برای این درخواست مورد نیاز است؟
- نحوه پر کردن فرم و اپلیکیشن مربوطه.
- نحوه پرداخت هزینه به صورت آنلاین.

برای کسب اطلاعات بیشتر و ثبت نام با تلفن 604-988-2931 و یا ایمیل های زیر تماس بگیرید.

Maryam, MaryamZ@impactnorthshore.ca
Sara, Sara@impactnorthshore.ca

این برنامه با بودجه دولت و به صورت رایگان برگزار می شود.

Workshop Highlights

Wednesday, February 28
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join this workshop to learn about required documentation for Refugees and Protected Persons who wish to travel outside of Canada.

Details:

This workshop will be presented in Farsi.

This workshop is open to newcomers and immigrants.

Online via Zoom
Details to provided after registration.

To participate in this workshop, you must register as a client with Impact North Shore.

This program is government funded and free of charge.

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MAP news bulletin
Feb 2024



Navigating the Canadian Tax System: A Newcomer's Guide

Join this workshop to learn about:

- Overview of the Canadian tax system
- Basics of filing taxes in Canada
- Tax obligations for newcomers
- Addressing common misconceptions
- Available tax credits for newcomers
- Practical tips for optimizing tax returns

For more information and to register contact:
Front Desk, office@impactnorthshore.ca or
604-988-2931

Workshop Highlights

Thursday, February 29
10:00 am – 11:30 am

Join us for this in-person session where you will gain a clear understanding of how taxes function in Canada.

Details:

This workshop will be presented in English.

This workshop is open to Temporary Foreign Workers.

In-person, Impact North Shore
207-123 East 15th St, North Vancouver

To participate in this workshop, you must register as a client with Impact North Shore.

This program is government funded and free of charge.

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Basic Legal Rights and Responsibilities for New Immigrants

بدین وسیله از مهاجران جدیدی که علاقمند به کسب اطلاعات در مورد حقوق و مسئولیت های قانون اساسی بیشتری هستند دعوت میشود در این کارگاه آموزشی شرکت فرمایند.

موضوعات عبارتند از:

- حقوق و آزادی های شما در کانادا
- منشور حقوق و آزادی های کانادا و قانون اساسی کانادا
- تبعیض چیست؟
- روند شکایات BC و قانون حقوق بشر
- اطلاعات اولیه در مورد قراردادها

این برنامه به زبان فارسی و به صورت آنلاین برگزار خواهد شد. اطلاعات مربوط به چگونگی دسترسی آنلاین به ورک شاپ بعد از ثبت نام متعاقباً اعلام خواهد شد.

برای ثبت نام و در صورت نیاز به کسب اطلاعات بیشتر با شماره تلفن ۶۰۴-۹۸۸۲۹۳۱ یا لیدا امیری با ایمیل زیر تماس حاصل فرمایید و ضمن ذکر نام و شماره تلفن خود پیغام گذاشته تا با شما تماس حاصل شود.

For more information and to register contact:
Lida Amiri, lidaa@impactnorthshore.ca or
Front Desk, office@impactnorthshore.ca or
604-988-2931

این برنامه از سوی دولت کانادا تأمین مالی شده و رایگان میباشد.

Workshop Highlights

Thursday, February 29
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Join this workshop to learn about your rights in Canada.

Topics include:

- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Constitution
- What is discrimination?
- BC Human Rights Law
- Human rights and the complaints process
- Understanding contracts
- Legal resources on the North Shore

Details:

This workshop will be presented in Farsi.

This workshop is open to newcomers and immigrants.

Online via Zoom
Details provided after registration.

To participate in this program, you must register as a client with Impact North Shore.

This program is government funded and free of charge.

BC SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION SERVICES
PRE-EMPLOYMENT SERIES
 For Refugee Claimants



THURSDAY MARCH 7, 2024 10AM - 12PM	FRIDAY MARCH 8, 2024 10AM - 12PM	MONDAY MARCH 11, 2024 9AM - 5:30PM
Introduction to services Overview of processes Roadmap to Employment	Emotional Wellness Online Digital Safety Job Search strategies & Workplace Culture	First Aid Training Session 
THURSDAY MARCH 14, 2024 10AM - 12PM	FRIDAY MARCH 15, 2024 10AM - 12PM	 10362 King George Blvd, Surrey, BC V3T 2W5
Resume Building Do's and don'ts Building a resume to Canadian standard interview skills	Individual Mock Interviews Practice your interviewing skills!	

Registration & enquiries

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

Pooja Grover
 pooja.grover@options.bc.ca
 604.892.6161

Scan this code to register



bit.ly/PreEmp0324

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



MAP news bulletin
 Feb 2024

Settlement & Integration Program

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



After-School Literacy Program (Online)

Feb 21 th - April 24 th, 2024
Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:00 pm



**Fostering a love for learning:
 Empowering kids through reading, writing, and creativity**

- Foster a love for reading and writing among children
- Boost self-confidence and creativity through interactive activities
- Provide a supportive environment for kids to explore their potential

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 (salilwath), Kwikwetlan (kwikwetlan), Squamish (Sqwamish/Gwamsh) and Musqueam (mwaakwam) nations with a unique focus on neighbours supporting neighbours



4880 Beckett Street
 Burnaby, BC V5H 0B8
 (In front of Metrosave Signs)
 (604)431-8400



Funded by: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
 Provided by: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

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THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Education
Department of Educational
& Counselling Psychology,
and Special Education



Syrian Parents Needed

UBC Research Study

Help us understand the challenges
newcomer parents experience in Metro
Vancouver in a two hour group interview.
Separate groups for men and women.

Who can participate:

- Arabic speaking parents/caregivers with at least one child between 0 and 15. *Both parents must participate.*
- Arrived in Canada in the past 5 years.
- **\$50 gift card per family for participating.**
- Transportation tickets available.

Location:
Burnaby
Neighborhood
House (BNH) 4460
Beresford St. #100,
Burnaby, BC V5H 0B8

How to sign up?

Text or call us at +1 (236) 818-0597 (Arabic spoken), or email us
at muna.kilani@ubc.ca.

www.burnabynh.ca

Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a community driven and community funded agency located on the unceded territories of the Tsleil-Waututh (sal̓wətaʔ), Kwikwaka'wakw (kwikwakaʔ), Squamish (Skwam̓wəʔmesh-Uwumkw) and Musqueam (muskwəʔam) nations with a unique focus on neighbours supporting neighbours.



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Education
Department of Educational
& Counselling Psychology,
and Special Education



نرغب باستضافة أمهات وآباء سوريين

دراسة بحثية بجامعة كولومبيا البريطانية

ساعدنا على فهم التحديات التي يواجهها الآباء والآباء
الوالدين الجدد في مترو فانكوفر في مقابلة جماعية
مدتها ساعتان. مجموعات منفصلة للرجال والنساء

من يمكنه المشاركة

الآباء/مقدمو الرعاية الناطقون باللغة العربية ولديهم
طفل واحد على الأقل يتراوح عمره بين 0 و15 عامًا
يجب على كلا الوالدين المشاركة
وصل إلى كندا في السنوات الخمس الماضية
بطاقة هدايا بقيمة 50 دولارًا لكل عائلة للمشاركة
تذاكر وسائل النقل العامة متوفرة

الموقع:
بيرنابي ليفورهود هاوس
(BNH) 4460 Beresford
St. #100, Burnaby, BC
V5H 0B8

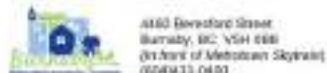
كيفية الاشتراك؟

أرسل لنا رسالة نصية أو اتصل بنا على الرقم +1 (236) 818-0597 (باللغة العربية)
أو أرسلنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني على muna.kilani@ubc.ca

www.burnabynh.ca

Burnaby Neighbourhood House هي وكالة مدفوعة من المجتمع وممولة من المجتمع وتقع في الأراضي غير المستقرة في Tsleil-Waututh (sal̓wətaʔ), Kwikwaka'wakw (kwikwakaʔ), Squamish (Skwam̓wəʔmesh-Uwumkw) و Musqueam (muskwəʔam) الدول ذات التركيز القوي على دعم الجيران لبعضهم البعض.

MAP news bulletin
Feb 2024



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**Muslim
Food Bank**
Community Services

presents

Girls Night

Every 3rd Friday 5:30 - 7:30 pm

12941 115 Ave Unit 104, Surrey, BC

Ages 13+

Join us on February 16th!



Calling our young sister ages 13 and up!
Join us for Girls Night at Muslim Food Bank **March 15th (every third Friday)**! This is an exciting opportunity for young sisters in the community to meet and develop bonds with other young sisters in a safe and supervised space. Sisters will get a chance to experience volunteering at Muslim Food Bank and discuss Islamic values with their peers too! Don't miss out!

Click the link to sign up!

Registration link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/girls-night-tickets-759941524557>





**Muslim
Food Bank**
Community Services

MUSLIMFOODBANK.COM/RAMADAN-CHALLENGE
OR TEXT 604-626-7635

Ramadan FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE



- Organize a Food Drive at School, Work or Home
- Prizes for Top 3
- Open to All Ages!

Donations Required

Pasta, Rice, Sugar, Chickpeas, Lentils, Flour, Tuna
Monetary donations are most welcome as we buy in bulk.



Join the Muslim Food Bank's Ramadan Food Drive Challenge! This holy month, we're gathering essential staples - rice, flour, pasta, and tuna - to support families in need.

Monetary donations are also welcome, enabling us to buy in bulk and extend our reach. Let's come together to make a significant impact during Ramadan. Donate today and be part of this incredible challenge!

To Register visit: muslimfoodbank.com/ramadan-challenge

Or Text us at: 604-626-7635



The Gaza Family Reunification Project is circulating a call for potential litigants as part of a Federal Court challenge of the poor implementation of the IRCC Gaza Pathway.

We are specifically looking for applicants who fall in one of the following groups:

- 1) applicants who have submitted crisis webforms and are still waiting for a Unique Reference Code,
- 2) applicants who had their statutory declarations unreasonably rejected, and
- 3) applicants who have submitted complete applications and are still waiting for a decision.

If you belong to one of these groups and are interested in participating in this court challenge, please fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/MRXFJuLgShuRBYAc7>

Our team will be reviewing responses to the form and contacting viable potential litigants directly.

This litigation is being undertaken pro-bono.

Hana Marku

Principal Lawyer, Marku & Lee Immigration

NOTE: The Gaza Family Reunification Project is an ad-hoc collective of Canadian immigration and refugee lawyers. Nothing in this message should be considered legal advice. For legal advice, please consult directly with a lawyer.

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REPEATS



Settlement & Integration Program



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

Empowerment and Social Gathering Program for Newcomer Youth

4460 Beresford Street, Burnaby
(BNH South House - Jubilee Room)

Saturdays 10:30am - 12pm
February 17th - March 9th, 2024

Do you want to explore & reach your full potential?
Drop in or register to join :

- Field Trips: Explore the community and its attractions.
- Cooking Session: Learn new recipes and culinary skills.
- Movie Day: Enjoy films and cultural movies together.
- Financial Literacy: Gain knowledge and skills for managing finances.
- Networking: Connect with newcomers and make friends.
- Work Opportunities: Explore potentials of working in different sectors. Receive skills training and job search support.
- Education Support: Assistance with school admission and scholarship applications.

For more information or registration, please email: masiulahj@burnabynh.ca

www.burnabynh.ca

Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a community driven and community funded agency located on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Nations (Squamish, Kwantlen, and Musqueam) and is a member of the Burnaby Neighbourhood House Association. We are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all newcomers and supporting their settlement and integration into the community.



4460 Beresford Street
Burnaby, BC V5H 0B9
(In front of Metrolink Skytrain)
(604)431-0482



Funded by:
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Partnered by:Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Settlement & Integration Program

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



Welcome to BC Orientations for Newcomers In their first language

Learn about

- Canada
- BC community resources
- Rights and responsibilities
- Transportation
- Social norms
- Schools
- Renting

Session 1 - Benefits

- Social, medical, disability benefits
- CRA, income tax benefits
- CTB, income assistance
- Employment and labour market

Session 2 - Banking and Finances

- Banking
- Canadian currency
- Budgeting

Session 3 - Housing

- Types of housing
- Subsidies
- Emergency
- Tenancy rights and resources

To register, please contact our case managers :

Arabic:

Siham Alkhashief
sihamaa@burnabynh.ca
236.877.2517

Dari:

Arman Zamani
armanz@burnabynh.ca
604.657.2163

Farsi:

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Filipino:

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236.889.4065

Chinese:

Dali Qu
daliq@burnabynh.ca
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Spanish:

Monica Tinajero Macarty
monicam@burnabynh.ca
236.878.9405

www.burnabynh.ca

Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a community driven and community funded agency located on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Nations (Squamish, Kwantlen, and Musqueam) and is a member of the Burnaby Neighbourhood House Association. We are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all newcomers and supporting their settlement and integration into the community.

MAP news bulletin
Feb 2024



4460 Beresford Street
Burnaby, BC V5H 0B9
(In front of Metrolink Skytrain)
(604)431-0482



Funded by:
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Partnered by:Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

VAST SYMPOSIUM

Torture. Refuge. Healing.

Date: February 27th 2024

Hours: 9am-5pm

Location:

2610 Victoria Drive, 2nd floor, and online via link to be shared with registered participants.

vastbc.ca

symposium@vastbc.ca



Invitation to join our VAST Annual Symposium 2024

Dear Colleagues, VAST is honoured to be participating in an important and old tradition, since the advent of the movement against torture, of the Annual Symposium on Torture. We would love if you could join us even if just for a small portion of the day, or if not, then to share your ideas and inputs as we bring this event back into our annual calendar.

Our colleagues in the US with the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs ([NCTTP](#)) are hosting their 16th Annual Symposium in March, while the International Rehabilitation Council for Victims of Torture ([IRCT](#)) hold their Scientific Symposium on Torture every few years, as do the [Australian Network](#), among others. It has been since the 1990's that we have held these events in Canada, but now that we have representation from all provinces in the revived Canadian Network for Survivors of Torture & Trauma, and a growing push for Canada to honour our responsibilities under the UN Convention Against Torture, it seems as good a time as any to get rolling again.

We do understand it is rather short notice, and for the next event it will be much better funded and promoted, but we are still looking forward to a great day with speakers from across the country and around the world, and strong voices of lived experience joining us in person.

Please do help to spread the word to any colleagues or students who may be interested to join, we are reviving the old tradition of the VAST annual symposium on torture.

[click here to register](#)

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ABOUT US

Volentia Healthcare Translation provides free translation services, **where a translator can accompany you to your healthcare appointments.**

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WHO ARE WE?

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Our volunteer interpreters are undergraduate and graduate students who are **native speakers of Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Uyghur, Punjabi, Hindi, Tamil, Dari, Spanish, Arabic, Farsi, and French.**

Questions?
ubcvolentia@gmail.com



HOW DO I BOOK A TRANSLATOR?

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<https://linktr.ee/volentia>





Migration Working Group

Migration Working Group: Labour migration and mobilities

Feb. 27, 2024, 12:30 - 2:30 PM EST
Hybrid

CERC Migration research area lead [Richa Shivakoti](#) hosts the February Migration Working Group examining the theme of labour migration and mobilities.

The Migration Working Group meets monthly to discuss the migration research of emerging and established scholars. Our meetings give researchers an opportunity to present their ongoing projects, learn about each other's work and share feedback.

Presenters include:

- **Olga Gheorghiev**, Czech Academy of Sciences
- **Ajeet Kumar Pankaj**, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University
- **Riccardo Sacco**, University of Urbino Carlo Bo
- **Shalini Sen**, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- **Gerasimos Tsourapas**, University of Glasgow

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

[Register](#)

Voces de Amor Propio

"Voces de amor propio" es una serie de cuatro talleres de escritura creativa y arte.

Se trata de un programa inclusivo diseñado para explorar el tema del amor propio a través de la escritura creativa, el arte abstracto y la fotografía.

Únete a nosotros para celebrar y empoderar a las mujeres de Vancouver.

***Se dará prioridad a recién llegadas y personas en refugio.**

***Tendremos becas por participación disponibles.**



Fechas de talleres
5, 7, 12 y 13 de Marzo 2024

Horario
de 6:00 PM a 8:00 PM

Locaciones
1 Athletes Way, Creekside Community Centre
Vancouver, BC
800 E Broadway, Mount Pleasant Neighborhood
House
Vancouver, BC

Pre-regístrate en el siguiente link
<https://forms.gle/WQouF4hE5QDWQkyY9>



Mount Pleasant
Neighbourhood House



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February 6, 2024

Re: temporary immigration measures in response to humanitarian crisis in Gaza

The Honourable Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1A 0G8

Dear Minister,

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) welcomes significant announcements from the federal government to address the ongoing crisis in Gaza. CCR's focus is on Canada's obligations to uphold the rights of civilians, displaced persons and refugees as protected under international law. We commend Canada's call on December 12 for a sustainable ceasefire, and for increased and unimpeded access for humanitarian efforts in Gaza. This diplomacy must continue to help prevent further loss of life in a war that has killed over 25,000 Palestinians in four months including over 10,000 children.

CCR also welcomes that Canada has launched temporary immigration measures to provide a humanitarian pathway for Palestinians with family members in Canada seeking refuge, and to expedite permanent residence applications of Palestinians in Canada so they too can secure safety for relatives in Gaza as soon as possible.

In Canada and around the world, people expect and support leadership and compassion from our country towards those fleeing war and persecution. We led by example in our crisis responses to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Ukraine—hallmark initiatives that deepened Canadians' pride and confidence in who we are.

We write with concern however, because the details and roll out of the Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) for Gaza are deeply problematic and display an unacceptable inequity in Canada's responses to humanitarian emergencies. The discrepancies, (as with the measures announced recently for Sudan), reflect systemic racism in our immigration system and underscore the need for an effective, equitable and transparent policy framework to guide emergency immigration responses.

The following are key inequities and problems in the Gaza initiative that must be addressed.



1- Unprecedented and dangerous requirements for personal information

The Gaza visa application contains unique new requirements for Palestinians that are onerous and unreasonable, and which will cause delays that undermine the program's goal to bring family members to safety quickly. These additional requirements, entirely at the Canadian government's discretion, are in addition to traditional biometrics requests.

IRCC has provided no adequate justification for highly invasive questions seeking information on decades of employment history, social media accounts, and past email addresses— information that is exceedingly difficult to compile at the best of times let alone in conditions of unimaginable trauma. The requirement for disclosing and explaining scars and injuries is particularly egregious in a context where people in Gaza are subjected to continuous displacement, indiscriminate bombing, and the near total collapse of the healthcare system.

Canada is also providing no guarantees or offers of protection for how foreign governments may use the information, creating additional risks for Palestinians, in particular those who wish to exercise their right to return when conditions allow. These new patently racist information requirements should be eliminated and must not set a precedent for new layers of security processing.

2- Fees and Caps - A confusing process and more stark inequities

Canada must maintain consistency and equity in humanitarian responses. Applicants under the new Gaza program are required to pay a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) processing fee of \$100 per person or \$500 per family, and a biometrics fee of \$85 per person or \$170 per family. This places an added burden on people who are trying to flee in the chaos of war. It is important to note that Canada provided visas under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel initiative (CUAET) free of charge until July 15, 2023, and waived biometrics fees entirely. This is entirely consistent with an emergency crisis response for a temporary visa and should be replicated here.

There is also confusion over whether the Gaza program will be restricted to 1000 visas (as listed on the website), or flexible to accommodate more if the demand is there. With over 40,000 Palestinian Canadians desperate to see their families safe, the 1000 cap is grossly inadequate. Minister, if "there is no hard cap" as you have been quoted saying in the media, this should be reflected on the website for clarity, and to ease the stress on those filling out applications.

This would be consistent with Canada's decision not to impose caps on humanitarian arrivals from Ukraine, which resulted in Canada welcoming over 200,000 people under the CUAET from almost 1 million applications that were approved.

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3- Greater support to families and more pathways needed

The goal to create a temporary pathway to safety for Palestinians from Gaza through accelerated family reunification is laudable. However, the financial requirement on families in Canada is high and other temporary pathways should be made accessible for Palestinians who do not have a qualifying family sponsor.

Under the current TRV, Palestinians only qualify if an anchor family member in Canada is willing to provide a sworn statement of financial and settlement support for one year. It is positive that those brought under this initiative will have access to three months of coverage under the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP), as well as settlement services and a fee-exempt work or study permit. But the program still puts the main financial and settlement burden on Canadian family members, in a context where one Canadian may be sponsoring several family members simultaneously. CCR has advocated that family and private sponsors should not bear the primary responsibility for emergency responses to global crises, as this is the obligation of governments.

We note again the inequity here, as the requirement for a family and financial sponsor were not present in the CUAET measures for those fleeing Ukraine, nor was family sponsorship the sole option for those Canada resettled from Afghanistan. Further, with exemplary leadership, the government of Canada provided a one-time non-taxable financial payment for adults and children arriving under CUAET, as well as set up an infrastructure with community partners to provide settlement supports for housing, education, employment and donations of goods and services. Palestinians deserve no less.

Financial assistance and coordination of settlement supports with other levels of government should be extended to Palestinians under this TRV as they settle and get work permits.

This should include IRCC working with provincial and municipal counterparts to ensure continuity in access to critical services, including health care and social assistance. For example, the federal government should stand ready to extend IFHP where needed to ensure those recovering from war and trauma do not fall through gaps in health care coverage, including for mental health and psychological supports.

4- Ensuring Gazans fleeing war are welcomed not feared

It is vital for the government to broadcast a warm Canadian welcome and rally public support for receiving Palestinians from Gaza at this difficult time. These efforts were hallmarks of past initiatives such as for those fleeing war in Syria or Ukraine and laid the foundations for settlement success including the new arrivals feeling that they were in fact welcome here.

In contrast, so much of the government's messaging has portrayed Palestinians as potential security risks and even terrorist threats to Canada, employing language that is harmful to Palestinian Canadians, promotes anti-Palestinian racism, and undermines public confidence in Canada's immigration system. Words matter. This is a humanitarian pathway for civilians fleeing war and should be promoted as such.

Minister, the toll of this war is high. The death count mounts daily, with thousands more children and families at risk of famine and disease. As Canada continues to work on getting humanitarian support for displaced civilian populations and towards a lasting ceasefire, let us show greater leadership in ensuring more dignified, accessible, and equitable pathways to safety for Palestinians facing catastrophic humanitarian conditions by addressing the key concerns noted above.

CCR also continues to urge consideration of means to accelerate processing for refugees in the region destined for resettlement in Canada who are affected by the widening shadow of violence, notably refugees in Lebanon and Israel. We recommend an expansion of the individuals processed under the Urgent Protection Program, with special consideration for vulnerable groups including unaccompanied minors and LGBTQIA+ populations.

Finally, we note that the shortcomings of Canada's temporary resident pathway for Palestinians highlight once again the need for the Canadian Government to adopt a comprehensive, anti-racist and transparent policy framework that can help ensure immigration measures in response to humanitarian emergencies are effective and equitable, no matter where in the world they occur. Building this framework requires substantive consultation with stakeholders.

The CCR is ready to help, and we would welcome a meeting to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

Diana Gallego
President

Cc: Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar, Deputy Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship



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