



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

# MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 22

June 5, 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](mailto:info@mapbc.org).

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**MAP NEWS! 1/2**

**Join us for our World Refugee Day celebration at VPL!**

Dear MAP community,

You are cordially invited to join MAP BC for our World Refugee Day 2024 celebration!

When: June 20th, 2024

Time: 11 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: 350 W Georgia (Vancouver Public Library Central Branch)

Our program includes an agency information fair, musical and dance performances, story telling by refugees, an artist's display and marketplace and kid's activities!

This year's theme is "Driven by Compassion". The term compassion holds so much meaning for those who support refugee claimants, it is also a feeling that drives and guides us in our work and in our lives. Compassion is also what we hope refugees encounter in their journeys to seek safety and belonging. It is, therefore, a term that unites us all.

A big thank you to VPL for their generous support and work to make this event possible for our community!



# World Refugee Day 2024

**Driven by compassion:**  
a World Refugee Day celebration

Music & Dance performances  
Information Fair  
Refugee story telling  
Artists' Marketplace  
Children's arts and crafts

June 20th - 11:00 to 3:00 PM  
Central Library - 300 W Georgia



**POSTER  
ATTACHED**

**MAP NEWS! 2/2**

**Please share the poster among your networks!**

**What is World Refugee Day?** World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

Would you like to volunteer at the event?  
Please contact Katya at [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org)



MAP BC Online Presentation  
**Refugee Claims from  
Beginning to End**



Presenter:

**Prabhpreet  
Kaur Sangha**

B.A., J.D.  
LEHALLAW Corporation  
pksangha@lehallaw.com

📅 Thursday June 13, 2024

🕒 2:00 pm

📺 via Zoom

Register here:



Join us to learn the details of the  
refugee claim process, from  
beginning to end



Questions? [info@mapbc.org](mailto:info@mapbc.org)

**LAST REMINDER!**

## MAP BC online presentation: "Refugee Claims from beginning to end"

Learn the details of what goes into a refugee claim application and get a chance to have your questions answered by refugee lawyer Prabhpreet Kaur Sangha.

This presentation will inform the MAP community, frontline workers and anyone supporting refugee claimants/asylum seekers on the steps and stages of the refugee claim process. Registration is open to anyone who wants to learn about this topic.

**June 13th, 2024 at 2:00 PM**

Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcocuGtpj4qE90nkbEGxh7VxwekuAccJvTf>

**(POSTER ATTACHED)**



# ICYM!

MAP BC partnered with BC Refugee Hub to present a webinar on work permit applications for refugee claimants. The recording is now available on the BC Refugee Hub website:

**Webinar: Work Permits for Refugee Claimants**  
Hosted by BC Refugee Hub, with speaker Katya Avalos, Community Engagement Director for MAP BC. Training video now available.



[Click here](#)



**You're Invited to Register**

## Refugees and Refugee Claimants: Arrival Statistics and Trends

You are invited to this webinar hosted by the BC Refugee Hub where we will discuss refugee and refugee claimant arrival statistics and trends from local, national and international perspectives.

Topics covered in this session are:

- Arrivals trends in British Columbia
- Trends in forced displacement nationally and internationally
- Resettlement Priorities
- Efforts to expand third country solutions

Following the presentation, we will have plenty of time for a Q&A session.

### Speakers:

- Jennifer York - Director, Refugee Services – ISSofBC
- Michael Casasola - Senior Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Officer – UNHCR

**Date:** June 18, 2024

**Time:** 10:30am – 12:00 pm PST

**Location:** Zoom – Event details will be emailed after registration.

[REGISTER >](#)

Building Stronger Communities Together  
Wrap-around supports for  
**REFUGEE CLAIMANTS**  
and other Humanitarian and Vulnerable  
Newcomers



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- Urgent Response Services**
  - Supported access to essential needs (shelter, health services, & food)
  - Assistance during times of crisis
  - Supported access to BC Income Assistance and Legal Aid BC
- Settlement & Immigration Services**
  - Assistance in navigating the refugee claim or appeal process
  - Information, orientation and referrals
  - Wraparound Case Management support
  - Supported access in applying/renewing work permit applications
- Employment & Labour Market Information**
  - Customized employment counselling
  - Job search strategies
  - Short-term pre-employment training & Supported access to WorkBC services
  - Job Fairs and Networking events
  - Information on workplace rights and responsibilities
- Community Connections & English Language Practice**
  - In-person and virtual Conversation Circles language classes for beginners and intermediate learners
  - Getting to know your community group outings
- Accommodation Services for Refugee Claimants**
  - Housing search support
  - Tenant rights and responsibilities information
- Clinical Counselling**
  - Short-term clinical counselling for adults
  - Referrals to mental-health support groups

**Support Services:**

- Bus tickets available for eligible clients when accessing services
- Child-minding support are available to eligible clients when accessing services
- Computer lending library available to attend virtual Refugee Claims hearings

**Services offered in:**  
English - العربية - Dari - دری - Farsi - فارسی - Hindi - हिन्दी, Pashto - پښتو - Punjabi - ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, Spanish - Español and Urdu - اردو

Scan for Support at BC SAF HAVN Program

Building Stronger Communities Together  
Settlement services available to holders of  
Work permits holders, Study permits holders,  
Refugee Claimants, Naturalized Canadian Citizens  
and CARET Visa Holders



- Settlement Services**
  - Information, orientation and referrals
  - Community Connections
  - Volunteers connections
  - Legal navigation support
  - Supported access to BC Income Assistance
- Immigration**
  - Supported access to navigate immigration processes
  - Immigration information sessions
- Employment & Labour Market Information**
  - Employment counselling
  - Job search strategies
  - Short-term pre-employment training
  - Job Fairs and Networking events
  - Know your Employment rights sessions
- Resume Clinic & Job Search Strategies Weekly Workshops**  
<https://resumeandjobsearch.com>
- English Language Training**
  - In-person and virtual Conversation Circles language classes for beginners and intermediate learners
  - Referrals to Formal English Classes

**Support Services:**  
Bus tickets available for eligible clients when accessing services

**Services offered in:**  
English - Dari - دری - Farsi - فارسی - Hindi - हिन्दी, Pashto - پښتو - Punjabi - ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, Spanish - Español and Urdu - اردو

<p><b>Services in Surrey</b> #150-10362 King George Blvd. Surrey, V3T 2W5 Tel: 604.999.0625 bcnsp@options.bc.ca</p>	<p><b>Services in North Delta</b> #3-7953 120th Street Delta, V4C 6P6 Tel: 604.324.7733 pics@pics.bc.ca</p> <p>Delivery Partner </p>	<p><b>Services in White Rock</b> For appointments and service locations call, text or WhatsApp Tel: 604.841.4465 bcnsp@options.bc.ca</p>	<p>Scan for Support at BC NSP Program</p>
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# WELCOME TO VAST

A psychosocial support orientation session



Orientation session about Mental health

What is counselling

Services available at VAST

Answering questions

## When:

Monday, June 10th from 2-3 pm

## Where:

Room 102, 2610 Victoria Dr, Vancouver, BC

For more information please contact :  
[jhevoi@vastbc.ca](mailto:jhevoi@vastbc.ca)



# Welcome to VAST English Orientation Session

Monday, June 10 · 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Time zone: America/Vancouver

Google Meet joining info

Video call link:

<https://meet.google.com/ttt-cfdm-mbn>



## KINBRACE HOST COMMUNITY MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES AND BENEFITS



## Kinbrace is recruiting a new Host Community family!

*Kinbrace* is seeking a family to commit to becoming volunteer Host Community Members, living on-site in East Vancouver. The Host Community is a dedicated group of neighbours who live life in the community with intention and commitment, providing a generous welcome to people seeking refugee protection. *You* are seeking a creative and meaningful home life. Living life in a community as an engaged and attentive neighbour alongside newly arrived refugee claimants resonates with you.

<https://kinbrace.ca/current-opportunities>.

Host Community members are vocationally committed to live as neighbours among refugee claimants; providing an attentive, yet spacious, welcome. While maintaining normal, day-to-day lives, hosts create, sustain, and promote a transformative place of hospitality.

The following outlines the responsibilities and benefits for adult host community members.

You align with and commit to upholding, protecting and living into Kinbrace's shared mandate:

### Vision

For each refugee claimant  
a world of welcome  
a community of belonging  
a life of opportunity.

### Mission

The Kinbrace community welcomes refugee claimants with housing, education, and support.

### Core Values

**Welcome** We are in solidarity: bearing witness to exile, we live with refugee claimants.

**Trust** We are a community: affirming dignity, we commit to the best in one another.

**Mutual Transformation** We are diverse: striving to listen well, we learn and grow.

**Celebration** We are grateful: amidst joy and sorrow, we discover hope.

**Prayer** We are sojourners: held by grace, we journey into the mystery and love of God.

**\*Please see the attached Word document for more information\***





## AID FOR GAZA

Help support Mohammed Zaqout's efforts to bring his family to Canada



As the conditions in Gaza deteriorate, Mohammed's family is in crisis. They have lost everything in this war. There is a lack of clean water, food, medical care and electricity. Innocent civilians are being ruthlessly bombed.

The funds will be used to help Mohammed's family exit Gaza through the Rafah border and reunify his family in Canada. The funds will help cover necessary expenses like visas, travel, flights, housing, clothing, medical and legal fees.

*"My family has lost everything. Our home was completely destroyed in an air strike in October. My family is alive but escaped with only the clothes they were wearing.*

*We have lost all of our belongings, including valuables and some emergency savings. They have been moving around, finding shelter where they can. My little brother was injured by bomb shrapnel due to an explosion by an air strike in a place they thought was safe. My family is now in a tent in Rafah where it is very crowded, there is very little food and it is unsanitary. Gaza is becoming increasingly dangerous and uninhabitable."*

*— Mohammed Zaqout*

You can support us today through donating at:

<https://gofund.me/ed42a818>

or through our QR code



**gofundme**

## REPEATS

### Help support Mohammed Zaqout's efforts to bring his family to Canada

Many of you may know Mohammed as he has been a long time MAP supporter and advocate for refugee claimants.

If you would like to make a donation to help support efforts to help his family reach safety, please use the QR code to go to his fundraiser's Go fund me page.

Can't make a donation? Please consider sharing the link with your networks.



## **Diversecity SAF HAVN Counselling for refugee claimants**

If you missed the MAP meeting this month, Diversecity shared information on their counselling programs for refugee claimants:

- Clients go through an intake to determine which counselling stream they qualify for.
- Clients are eligible for 1 trauma counselling session, meant as a debrief of their settlement journey
- individual 1 to 1 counselling, average of 8 sessions total. Someone May be come into 1 trauma session and be referred for the 8 sessions.
- Registered clinical counsellor services available in English, Punjabi and Spanish, with staff for Dari/Farsi, Pashto and possibly Arabic being hired

You can refer your clients or have clients self-refer using this link: [Referral Link](#)

# Pathways to Childcare Careers



**FREE occupational English program  
with paid work experience**  
for women interested in a career  
in the early learning and  
childcare field



## Program Highlights

- 200 hours of English training
- 80 hours of paid work experience
- Hybrid format: in-person/online
- Offered 4 times per year - register now!

## Program Benefits

- Occupational English classes
- Responsible Adult, First Aid, FoodSafe Certification
- Trauma-informed approaches to early learning
- Transit tickets and childminding provided

## Eligibility Criteria

- Women who are permanent residents, convention refugees, protected, with CUAET
- CLB 5 or equivalent in English (proof required)
- With basic computer skills and able to attend all program sessions

Apply via the QR code or via this link:

[bit.ly/Pathways-to-Childcare-Careers-Registration](https://bit.ly/Pathways-to-Childcare-Careers-Registration)



For questions and application assistance, contact us at  
[childcare@pirs.bc.ca](mailto:childcare@pirs.bc.ca) | (778) 608-4098 | [www.pirs.bc.ca](http://www.pirs.bc.ca)

**Eligibility to the Pathways program as long as they have the required document and English proof of CLB 5:**

- Refugee Claimant - with Refugee Protection Claimant Document (brown paper)
- Protected person - with notice of decision after the claim; in the process of getting PR

In partnership with:



Funded by:



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Financé par :

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada



## GETTING THROUGH IT

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

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

### When:

Wednesday 10:00-12:00

### Where:

Online via Zoom

In-person 2610 Victoria Drive Vancouver

For more information please contact :  
[referrals@vastbc.ca](mailto:referrals@vastbc.ca)



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## ATRAVIÉSALO

Un grupo de apoyo para solicitantes de refugio durante el proceso completo de solicitud.

Para tener información sobre el proceso de solicitud de refugio

Para aprender a combatir el estrés

Para compartir un espacio con personas que le entienden

Para estar preparado para su audiencia

### Cuándo:

Miércoles 10:00-12:00

### Donde:

En línea a través de Zoom

En persona 2610 Victoria Drive Vancouver

Para más información por favor contacta a :  
[referrals@vastbc.ca](mailto:referrals@vastbc.ca)



# PICS(Progressive Intercultural Community Services)

## CALP ENGLISH CLASS

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Improve your English skills
- Engage with the community
- Field trips

100% Online via Zoom

#### TO REGISTER:

> [martin.zhang@pics.bc.ca](mailto:martin.zhang@pics.bc.ca)

#### ELIGIBILITY

> study and work permit holder, Permanent resident, citizens and refugee claimants

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**WE ARE HIRING**

Child Care Registrar & Admin Assistant

Responsible for supporting the Program Director and Hub Coordinators with the registration and administration duties of our child care programs.

**APPLY NOW!**

 [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 (shíwítsh), Kwikwetlem (kwikwetlám), Squamish (Sicwám) / ʔmex Uxcwscw and Musqueam (múskwéam) nations with a unique focus on neighbours supporting neighbours.



# Relevant news from the month of May

## [Setting the record straight on refugee claims by international students](#)

May 5<sup>th</sup> Given the central place of immigration in heated political debates in Canada, it's crucial to unpack these claims and understand the implications of perpetuating unfounded criticism of Canada's refugee and immigration system.

## [Undocumented 2SLGBTQI+ migrants call on PM for more protections](#)

Video - Undocumented people who are part of the 2SLGBTQI+ community are speaking out, urgently calling on the feds for more protections. Erica Natividad with why they say they fear for their lives.

## [Trudeau says Canada needs a 'pathway' to official status for immigrants, faster deportations](#)

May 17<sup>th</sup> - Advocates say sexual minorities make up a disproportionate share of those without official status

## [UN panel calls for ban on underage migrants held in 'prison-like' conditions in Canada](#)

May 24<sup>th</sup> - The group, in Canada this month for a sweeping tour of detention practices at 17 federal and provincial facilities, is calling for changes to the way the government handles migrant detainees.