



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 18

May 8, 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!

Interpreters for Eligibility interviews:

Thank you to those who raised the issue that IRCC no longer provides interpretation for refugee claimant eligibility interviews at the last MAP meeting. Some of you suggested that interpretation could be done over the phone.

MAP requested clarification from IRCC and they have confirmed that refugee claimants can make a call from their own device to someone who can interpret for them over the phone.

For those refugee claimants who do not have any connections in the community to rely on for interpretations, Jenny Moss has kindly offered to connect settlement workers or refugee claimant clients to volunteer interpreters (Thank you Jenny!).

However, please note:

- this is NOT a guaranteed service as the interpreters are volunteers and may have other commitments.
- Last minute requests cannot be accommodated, please give enough notice to Jenny to make arrangements
- Jenny may not always be available, so this should be a last resort to be used on occasion, not a regular go-to option

You can text Jenny at 778-835-3760 or email at mossco53@gmail.com. Texts are preferred over calls and emails.

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



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! CALL FOR DONATIONS FOR THE BC IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTRE'S COMMUNITY GARDEN



MAP BC is supporting the initiative to start a community garden for individuals being detained at the BC Immigration Holding Centre (BCIHC) in Surrey.

Gardening has great therapeutic value and is a way to feel connected to the earth. The BCIHC has a small outdoor area but no green spaces. Immigration detention can be lengthy, many are held for several months. Starting a garden will be a great way to support the mental health and well being of those at the BCIHC.

We are looking for **donations** of items like soil, plants and plastic gardening tools. If you would like to make a donation or you know of an organization or individual who would like to make a donation to buy this items, please contact Katya at info@mapbc.org.

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

MAP BC ONLINE EVENT


Conversation with a refugee lawyer



KIRK OLEARNEK

Graduated UBC law in 1995 and has been practising refugee law since 1996



 **10** FRIDAY
MAY 2024

 **TIME AT**
2:00 P.M.

- hear a lawyer's orientation of the claim process to his clients
- What makes a successful claim
- learn common misconceptions



ONLINE
ZOOM
MEETING

REGISTER NOW



Questions? Email info@mapbc.org

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MAP BC ONLINE EVENT: Conversation with a refugee lawyer

Join us for a conversation with a refugee lawyer!

Refugee claimants are often overwhelmed when facing the uncertainties of the refugee determination system. Most Legal Aid lawyers who represent refugee claimants are constrained by limited hours and do not have the time to orient their clients on the legal process they face.

Refugee lawyer Kirk Olearnek goes the extra mile, sitting down with his clients to explain the details of the refugee claim process and inform them on what makes a refugee claim successful. During this online session, Kirk will share his insights and talk to us as if we were his own clients. Join us for this event and learn what makes a successful claim, common misconceptions about the refugee claim process, and what your refugee claimant clients can expect during their refugee hearing with the IRB.

Kirk Olearnek graduated UBC law in 1995 and has been practicing refugee law for 28 years. He works with refugee claimants from all over the world and is a popular Legal Aid lawyer.

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91711111111>



Update from the BC Ministry of Health:

Effective February 20, 2024, babies born in BC to refugee claimants with IFHP coverage may be provided with date of birth MSP coverage, regardless of the parent's own eligibility for MSP.

To demonstrate IFHP coverage, parents must submit one of the following:

- Acknowledgement of Claim and Notice to Return for Interview letter (AOC)
- Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD) (with photo)
- Temporary Document for Lost/Stolen Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD)
- Interim Federal Health Program Certificate (IFHC) (with or without a photo)

To enroll a child born to a refugee claimant with IFHP coverage, a parent or guardian must submit a BC Application for Health and Drug Coverage paper form on the child's behalf using only the child's personal information as the applicant. The application may be found online at [Apply for B.C. health and drug coverage - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/apply_for_b.c_health_and_drug_coverage) and must include:

- Signature of the parent(s);
- A copy of the child's birth certificate;
- A copy of the parent's immigration document (one of the IFHP documents listed above must be submitted for date of birth coverage to be provided); and
- Parent or guardian contact information on a separate piece of paper.

Health Insurance BC requires parental or guardianship information in order to communicate regarding minor account holders.

ESL Conversation Practice

Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Apr. 4th to Jun. 27th

Renfrew Branch
2969 E 22 Ave.



Meet new friends and practice your English conversation skills with other learners!

This is a supportive and casual meet-up for intermediate speakers.

Suitable for:

Adults
ESL Learners
Newcomers
Seniors

FREE

Drop-in.

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Canada Revenue Agency & Service Canada: Drop-in Clinic

Tuesday, May 28
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Renfrew Branch
2969 E 22nd Ave



Drop in for one-to-one help from government staff with:

- Tax Slip Information and Notice of Assessments (NOAs)
- Benefits and Credits information: Disability Tax Credit (DTC), Canada Child Benefit (CCB), GST/HST credit, and more
- Account updates
- NEW Canadian Dental Care Plan
- Pension information on Old Age Security and Canada Pension Plan
- Social Insurance Number
- Access code for online services

In partnership with Service Canada and Canada Revenue Agency

FREE

Drop-in



For more information: 604.257.8705 | vpl.ca/events
Join the conversation: [@VPL](https://twitter.com/VPL) [f](https://www.facebook.com/vancouverpubliclibrary) [i](https://www.instagram.com/vancouverpubliclibrary) /vancouverpubliclibrary



For more information: 604.257.8705 | vpl.ca/events
Join the conversation: [@VPL](https://twitter.com/VPL) [f](https://www.facebook.com/vancouverpubliclibrary) [i](https://www.instagram.com/vancouverpubliclibrary) /vancouverpubliclibrary

A partnership program



Canada Revenue
Agency

Agence du revenu
du Canada

Community Forum:

Presenting...

Building Belonging in Burnaby for Racialized **Newcomers and Immigrants**

Join us for this important presentation to learn about the role we can all play to bring about true change!

This event will feature a day full of learning and engaging!

The BIPT and the City of Burnaby worked with Dr. June Francis, Dr. Kristina Henrickson, Co-Lab and SFU to understand the impact of racism in Black and racialized communities in Burnaby. We invite you to attend the presentation of the report Building Belonging in Burnaby for Racialized Newcomers and Immigrants Understanding and Dismantling Systemic Racism.

In the second half of the day, Alice Chan from the Centre for Civic Religious Literacy will introduce the Religious Literacy Framework.

This event will help you identify ways where you can be involved to create a community without racism

May 23, 2024

8:30am – 2:00pm

Ismaili Centre, Vancouver

Lunch will be served

Register now!



<https://www.burnaby.ca/219437462>

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Future Leaders

YOUTH DROP IN

Meet new people, play games, chill out and work on homework or other projects!

**OPEN TO ALL YOUTH GRADES
8-12 IN BURNABY!**

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday!

Tuesdays at Brentwood (2055 Rosser Ave, 2nd floor)

3:45-5:30pm

Thursdays at North House (4908 Hastings St)

3:45-5:30pm

Fridays at South (4460 Beresford St, 3rd floor)

3:45-5:30pm



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

For more information email
emmaw@burnabynh.ca



Burnaby Neighbourhood House is a community driven and community funded agency located on the unceded territories of the Tsleil-waututh (sal̓m̓wəʔ), Kwikwetem (kwikwəlam), Squamish (Skegw̓i7mesh Úxwumixw) and Musqueam (x'məɬkə'yəm) nations with unique focus on neighbours supporting neighbours.

Stories of Partnership: AMSSA & CMS

Join us for the inaugural session of UBC Community Engagement Networking's series "Stories of Partnership" on **May 28, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (Dodson Room)**, dedicated to showcasing collaborations rooted in reciprocity. Hear from Katie Crocker of [AMSSA](#), and [Sean Lauer](#) and [Antje Ellermann](#) of CMS, as they discuss the evolving relationship between UBC and AMSSA. Learn about the unique dual-reporting role, the Engagement Strategist, bridging both organizations, and how this collaboration led to a jointly organized "[Research Collaborations Day](#)" focusing on Decolonization and Mutual Understanding themes. Current Engagement Strategist, [Javier Ojer](#), will be moderating the discussion.



Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Location: Dodson Room, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC Vancouver

Cost: Free

[Register Now →](#)

The Refugee Law Lab has released our IRB Member statistics for 2023. This year, we're also updating our stats about Federal Court justices deciding refugee law judicial reviews in 2023.



Interactive visualizations of RPD and FC decision-making are available on the Refugee Law Lab Portal:

<https://rllp.ca>

If you prefer to access the IRB data (including both RPD and RAD data) using the old method (i.e. excel tables), that is available here:

<https://refugeelab.ca/projects/refugee-law-data/>

Some of the overall patterns in 2023 are striking – including the 80% recognition rate at the RPD and the 36% allowal rates in RAD appeals of negative RPD decisions.

*Recognition rates means the proportion of positive relative to the sum of positive and negative decisions:

$\# \text{ refugee claims granted} / (\# \text{ refugee claims granted} + \# \text{ refugee claims denied})$

I hope some of you find these stats helpful.



Refugee Research Network

- RRN Research Digest -

May. 2, 2024

Read digest on RRN website

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

REPEATS

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Employment Opportunity

Position: **Community Navigator - Part Time (Arabic)**

Hours: 21 hours/week

Location: Surrey & lower Mainland

Compensation: Starting at \$21.53/hour

Effective date: Immediately

Application submission deadline: Immediate or until the position is filled

About PIRS

Established in 1975, Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS) is a pioneer and leader in the provision of programs that develop immigrant and refugee women's knowledge, skills, and confidence. Our mission is to deliver accessible, inclusive, low-barrier programs for immigrant and refugee women and their children that create a sense of belonging, meaningful participation, and leadership. For more information visit

<http://pirs.bc.ca>

Job Purpose

We are seeking a passionate and dedicated Community Navigator to engage with refugee women and women seeking asylum, providing support for their settlement needs using a trauma-informed approach. This position facilitates women's support circle and also supports women to access information, resources, and assistance in connecting individuals to PIRS and community programs, English classes, health, housing, employment, and settlement services.

The ideal candidate will have an understanding of how the experiences of trauma affect newcomer women's settlement. They will be knowledgeable about community resources, have experience in workshop facilitation, and enjoy working collaboratively across agencies.

Benefits of working with PIRS

PIRS is a supportive community committed to empowering women to rise out of isolation and integrate into Canadian life. This position will be eligible for health benefits, flexible working hours, mentorship, and continuous professional development opportunities.

Qualifications

- Relevant post-secondary education or equivalent education and experience
- Experience working with immigrant and refugees women and families of various backgrounds and ages (lived experience of the settlement process is preferred)
- Knowledge of community, settlement and mental health resources and services
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written, with fluency in English
- Fluency in the language of the target populations (**Arabic**)
- Workshop or group facilitation experience
- Proficient computer skills, including Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Slack, Zoom, etc.
- Willingness to work flexible hours
- Strong team building, cross-cultural, and interpersonal skills, with a professional presence and an ability to interact with a diverse audience
- Passion for inclusivity and diversity, and interest in being part of a multicultural team
- Attitudes and values compatible with the goals and philosophy of PIRS

Application Details

Please send a cover letter and resume quoting the 'Community Navigator -Arabic' position in the subject line to Valerie Lai, Program Manager at jobs@pirs.bc.ca by May 1, 2024.

We thank everyone for their interest. Only those shortlisted will be contacted. With respect, diversity, and collaboration at the core of PIRS, we are an organization that knows the value of talented people. We recognize the importance of a diverse workforce and encourage applications from First Nations peoples, women, LGBTQ+ -identified people, people of color, and people with disabilities.





You're Invited to Register

Work Permits for Refugee Claimants

We're excited to invite you to this webinar hosted by the BC Refugee Hub. In this webinar we will review necessary steps for refugee claimants to obtain an initial work permit.

Topics covered in this session are:

- Work permit renewals
- Filling out work permit application forms and submitting applications online
- Application fees

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

Speaker: Katya Avalos, Community Engagement Director for the Multi-Agency Partnership of BC (MAP BC)

Katya Avalos has 8 years of experience in the immigrant services sector. She worked with Temporary Farm Workers from Latin America with the Umbrella Mobile Clinic program, coordinating outdoor clinics for multi-barriered and vulnerable migrant rural workers. She then joined ISSofBC as a settlement worker for the Settlement Orientation Services (SOS) program, providing orientation and support to help refugee claimants navigate the complex refugee determination system. She is currently the Community Engagement Director for the Multi-Agency Partnership of BC (MAP BC); a network of over 60 nonprofits, community organizations, government and non-government agencies that work with and for refugee claimants. Katya has a BA in political science from UBC and a Master's in International Studies from SFU, with a focus on Latin American public security issues.

Date: May 21, 2024

Time: 1:30 – 2:30 pm PST

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

REGISTER >

BC Refugee Hub & AMSSA Webinar: Integrating Trauma Informed Practice into Front Line Services for Newcomers

🕒 February 15, 2024



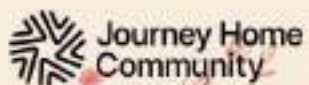
On January 25, 2024, AMSSA and the BC Refugee Hub have partnered to present a webinar for professionals from various fields to better support and integrate trauma-informed practices into their work while serving newcomer populations.

In this informative webinar on the topic of “Integrating Trauma Informed Practice into Front Line Services for Newcomers,” the webinar was hosted by ISSofBC’s BC Refugee Hub in collaboration with AMSSA’s BC Refugee Resource Network. During this session, we explored the essential elements of Trauma Informed Practice, offering a brief introduction to this approach. Our expert speaker provided practical insights on how to incorporate trauma-informed practices into the daily work of front-line workers and other community stakeholders, especially when supporting newcomers and refugees. We emphasized the hands-on “practice” of trauma-informed care, providing tangible recommendations for organizations, front-line workers, and stakeholders, and shared case studies of successful implementation. The goal was to equip professionals from various fields, including settlement services, healthcare, education, and more, with practical information to better support and integrate trauma-informed practices into their work while serving newcomer populations. Following the presentation, we had plenty of time for a Q&A session.

Speaker: Farah Kotadia, MBA, CPHR, MACP

<https://bcrefugeehub.ca/bc-refugee-hub-amssa-webinar-integrating-trauma-informed-practice-into-front-line-services-for-newcomers/>





THE WELCOME TABLE

Spring Gala

6:30 PM — 14TH MAY, 2024

A Fundraiser for Journey Home Community

Hosted at
Royal Palace Banquet Hall
7819 Combridge Road, Burnaby
Purchase your ticket online.
Ticket sales close May 12th

*The journey of belonging often starts at The Welcome Table.
Through food and stories we begin to understand*

Journey Home Community's Spring Gala is a unique opportunity for you to align with a charity and event dedicated to walking alongside refugee claimant families at the time they need it the most.

This year, around the Welcome Table, we are raising \$60,000 for these families to have access to food during their initial resettlement phase.

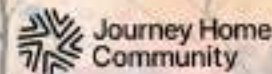
Our evening together will feature refugees sharing their journeys, live music, silent auction, and enjoying a meal together around shared tables.

Join us at The Welcome Table — a fundraiser for Journey Home Community

Tickets \$95 — Tables of eight \$720

6:30 pm — Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Cocktail Attire



WELCOME TO VAST

A psychosocial support orientation session



Orientation session about Mental health

What is counselling

Services available at VAST

Answering questions

When:

monthly - every first Monday of the month

Where:

10334-152A St. #301 Surrey V3R 4G8

For more information please contact :
jhevoi@vastbc.ca

To get the Zoom link please
email jhevoi@vastbc.ca

VAST SUPPORTING
REFUGEE
MENTAL
HEALTH

www.vastbc.ca



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FOOD FROM OUR ROOTS:

**NEWCOMER WOMEN
FOOD BUSINESS LAUNCH**

JUNE 20, 2024

5:30-8:30PM | AND-CO
1575 W GEORGIA ST #200,
VANCOUVER, BC V6G 2V3



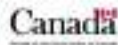


ESTE
19
DE MAYO
DE 12 A 4 PM



PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN:
+1 (778) 536-3419 / +1 (604) 754-3419
+1 (778) 791-3419 / +1 (778) 927-3419
+1 (778) 881-3419 / +1 (604) 498-3565

 **1240 Gladstone Ave.**
Victoria BC



Ven a la
FERIA DE SALUD

HABRÁN:

- Médicos y enfermeras
- Masajes
- Corte de pelo
- Torneo de futbol [registre su equipo]
- Charlas sobre salud
- Tramites de tarjeta médica gratuita, Impuestos, paternidad
- Y rica comida mexicana



¡EVENTO GRATUITO!

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english conversation

Are you looking for a friendly, safe environment to practice speaking English? You are welcome to come! For men and women. It's free.

Wednesdays

1:30pm-2:30pm | The Women's Centre
at Central Heights Church
1661 McCallum Rd

for more info:
604.852.1001 | women@centralheights.ca



central heights
WOMEN

En ligne

New Classes from Le Relais Francophone

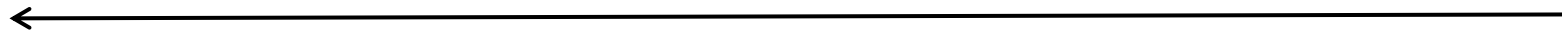


Animé par
Raya Avazova

☎ 236-380-2723

English class:

<https://www.vivreencb.ca/activites/cours-danglais-pour-adultes-18>



French class:

<https://www.vivreencb.ca/activites/adult-french-classes-for-beginners-16>

Perspective plus program:

https://www.vivreencb.ca/activites/perspective-plus---premiere-cohorte?lang=fr_CA



627 rue Columbia, Bureau
202, New Westminster, V3M
1A7



Animé par
Jean-Bruno Nkondi

☎ 778-554-4081

En ligne



Animé par
Zahra Rasekh Mofakham

☎ 778-847-0053



Elevate program:

https://www.vivreencb.ca/activites/cohorte-elevate---premiere-session?lang=fr_CA

CALL CABINET

Permanent Residence for

ALL

Undocumented People Now!

MigrantRights.ca/callforstatus



The federal government promised regularization. Equality for all means [#StatusForAll](https://www.statusforall.ca/).

MIGRANT RIGHTS NETWORK

Migrants feed families, build homes, and care for communities. Regularization will give them the power to protect themselves and grow the economy.

Support permanent resident status for all undocumented people, no matter how long they have lived in Canada.

Call cabinet NOW: migrantrights.ca/callforstatus/

Permanent resident status for all undocumented people will:

- Lift half a million people out of poverty
- Increase worker rights
- Grow the economy
- Fund public services
- Give women the power to leave abuse
- Ensure health for all

Relevant news from across Canada for the month of April

[Ottawa to propose new asylum rules to allow for faster deportations](#) - Global News

[Detaining migrants in prisons violates human rights and risks abuses](#) – The Conversation

[Colorado official recorded trying to send illegal migrants to Canada](#) – The National Post

[City looks to federal budget for millions to house, support asylum seekers](#) – CBC News

[Calls for more affordable housing as over \\$426M spent to temporarily house asylum claimants](#)

– Global News