



The Wind Beneath our Wings

The FCJ Refugee Centre is an organization that gives newcomers, especially those who do not know Canada's languages, culture, and society, the opportunity to start a new life in Canada. Although the organization is small, it has all the resources to be able to help people with diverse matters such as immigration, work, school, and health care. Those whom we serve receive comfort, knowing that they are in good hands and that the FCJ Refugee Centre is doing our best to help them in all different matters.

Many youth, particularly newcomers, often feel lost and do not know what to do. That is where the Youth group comes in, to help young adults with school, language learning, and work. The Youth group also helps us to increase our social network with people who are in similar situations.

Today, we are working on an event to share experiences of what it means to be a newcomer to Canada. There are many obstacles that newcomers stumble on, so the Youth group seeks to widen our vision of how young adults feel about and experience life as newcomers. For this we are grateful for the support of the FCJ Refugee Centre.



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2012

Anti-Human Trafficking Program

The FCJ Refugee Centre's Anti-Human Trafficking Program has been active in fostering networks, developing partnerships, building capacity and awareness, and providing direct services to combat human trafficking in Toronto and more widely. Through the establishment of the Toronto Counter Human Trafficking Network, organizations working on related issues, municipal stakeholders, and interested individuals have had the opportunity to work together to identify best practices and ongoing needs, to raise awareness and to consider long and short-term goals and projects. The network meets monthly, with different projects being coordinated on an ongoing basis between meetings.



To raise awareness about the various issues related to human trafficking and the needs of victims/survivors within the community among service providers, stakeholders, and the public more broadly, The FCJ Refugee Centre has offered numerous workshops and training sessions, which have been formatted to focus on the interests and time availabilities of the participants. These workshops and training sessions have received positive feedback and the demand for them has grown significantly.



Walk-In

Month	Male	Female	Total
July	39	43	82
August	24	40	64
September	36	45	81
October	48	58	106
Total			333

Intakes

Month	Male	Female	Total
July	45	37	82
August	14	29	43
September	25	32	57
October	30	36	66
Total			248

Phone Calls

Month	Male	Female	Total
July	88	209	297
August	91	192	283
September	108	225	333
October	131	315	446
Total			1359

Services Provided by the FCJ Refugee Centre Number of Cases from July to October 2012

Refugee Process	40
Immigration Services	685
Settlement Services	82
Orientation	111
Total	918

Advocacy

Our services during these last three months have had to diversify as the needs of clients continue to change.

Due to the implementation of Bill C-31 and consequent one-year ban on Pre-Removal Risk Assessments (PRRAs) and application for Permanent Residence on Humanitarian and Compassionate grounds (H & C), we are expecting a decrease in these types of applications.

In comparison to the number of H & C files opened last year by the FCJ Refugee Centre over the months of July, August, and September, the number of H & C files we have opened over the same three months this year has more than tripled.

We are also moving to do research ways in which we can help clients to file Judicial Reviews or Stays of Removal with the Federal Court, since it is anticipated that changes in Legal Aid will create a service gap that needs to be filled.

As the needs of our clients evolve, we at the Centre continue to research and to find service gaps to guarantee that all clients, regardless of their status or situation, can have equal access to all the services to which they are entitled.

Even though we may see a drop in the number of clients, the amount of work that is required for each client, due to all the changes to Immigration and to Legal Aid, has more than doubled, making the needs of clients greater and our responsibility greater as well.



FCJ Youth Network



Despite the return to school, the FCJ Youth Network has continued to be very active since the summer. The group has welcomed a few new members to the fold and continued to participate in different events and activities across Toronto. The FCJ Youth Network has connected with some different youth groups across Toronto to organize an event for the Canadian Council for Refugees. This truly inspiring group is working to host a youth-led social event, which they hope will contribute to developing skills, strengthening networks and promoting access and inclusion for newcomer youth from Toronto and across Canada. For more information about this event, please contact Philip at packerman@fcjrefugeecentre.org. The materials will also be posted on our website.

The Youth Network would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Maria Alejandra Ramirez and Bana Tinsheom, both of whom were selected to be CCR Youth Ambassadors. Maria did an excellent job as she held this position through the summer, and set the bar pretty high. We want to wish Bana the best of luck as he carries on the torch and represents the FCJ Youth Network at a national level.

CCR Fall Consultation

The FCJ Refugee Centre has been a buzz in recent months with preparations for the upcoming Fall Consultation for the Canadian Council for Refugees. This year's Consultation will highlight a variety of issues that are quite relevant to the work we do and the communities we work with. The Consultation will be held in Toronto from November 29th to December 1st, 2012. To find out more information or to register, please visit www.ccrweb.ca/meetings



Canadian Council for Refugees
Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés

Volunteers and Students

We would like to extend our heartfelt welcome to the many students and volunteers that have joined us this Fall. We have two students from Seneca College, one student from York University, one student from the University of Toronto and three students from the Osgoode Hall Pro-Bono law program. As always, we recognize that the important work we do at the Centre is reliant on the tireless efforts of our students and volunteers.

Orientation sessions for new volunteers will continue to be held the last Thursday of every month at 4:00 at 208 Oakwood Avenue.

To register for an orientation session, please contact giovannifrico@fcjrefugeecentre.org

The Centre is currently looking for volunteers to help out in a variety of positions, including reception.



The Refugee Update

The last issue of The Refugee Update was published in October. You can find articles related to the future of refugees, the refugee appeal division, limitations of the IFH, youth refugees, immigrant workers, etc... The publication is available on our website, www.fcjrefugeecentre.org.

REFUGEE UPDATE

BILL C-31 AND THE FUTURE OF REFUGEES IN CANADA
BY MICHELLE MILLARD

As we know, Bill C31 was supposedly put forward to discourage smuggling, when in fact it punishes the very people we're supposed to protect. Bill C31... where under certain designations there is mandatory detention, you can't apply for permanent residence for 5 years, and for which there is essentially no family reunification even though you've been accepted as a refugee. You are able to apply for permanent residence and sponsor members of your family but you've already waited 5 years, and family reunification cases can take another 3-5 years. If you're lucky, with the result that you may not see your family for 8-10 years.

though they don't quite come right out and say it... gratitude from the immigrants and refugees who come to Canada, but are quite unwilling to respect the bonds of family, the right of the child to have parents, the right to have a family life, and the right to be treated with dignity and respect and to enjoy the social, political and economic rights enshrined in our national and international covenants.

I must wonder, given the so-called "Dharmian moment" of this legislation, if, at some level, the policy makers, legislators and certain members of the public believe that these rights should only be enjoyed by those who have "proven" their worthiness.



Continued on page 2

REFUGEE UPDATE



Get Updated Every Season

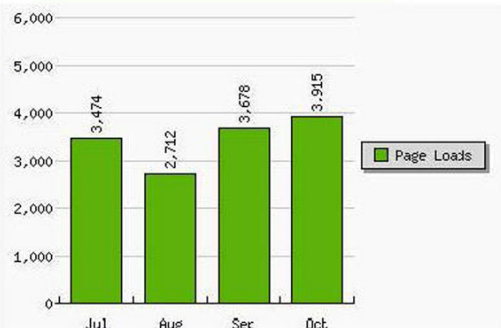
Our newsletter is a new effort from the FCJ Refugee Centre to keep you updated on what is going on: Programs, activities, news, etc... You can subscribe to and find our seasonal newsletter on our website. The Autumn 2012 issue is the 7th issue published.

Website and Social Media

Get ready for the new FCJ Refugee Centre Website. We are refreshing our house online! Our current site shows a lot of new visitors. You can find a lot of information there including every presentation and training program that we provide to organizations.

We invite you to join us through [facebook.com/FCJRefugeeCentre](https://www.facebook.com/FCJRefugeeCentre), and on Twitter (@RefugeeCentre).

WEBSITE PAGE LOADS





Residents

In the last months we've have done a follow up of case management for all women. We have also just finished revamping one of the houses dedicated to women and children residents. In terms of activities, the women of our houses participated in the street sale, where they were able to earn some profit, or at the very least to interact with the larger community within the neighborhood.



Women of our residences are also encouraged and empowered through our resources, such as legal information and referring, informal counseling, translation, and connection with other organizations, in order to live with greater dignity. Moreover, women have great determination to succeed in Canadian society. Thus, most women study English, volunteer, and gain insight into their future possibilities by mapping out a long term plan with our help. The only obstacle so far, is the great length of time required for some mothers to access daycare.

We continue to welcome refugee women from many parts of the world: Namibia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Hungary, Nigeria, Albania, Swaziland, Mexico, and Iran. We strive to assist them in providing as many resources as we are able. Unfortunately, due to the recent Immigration changes, many women have been sent back to their countries of origin.



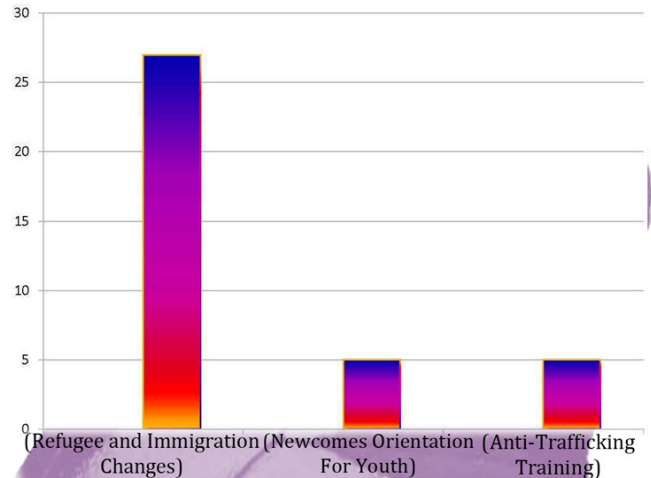
This has resulted in a greatly negative impact among the women residents of our houses. Some of them have returned to their countries of origin through the Voluntary Return Program implemented on July 1. We are engaging in follow-up with the women, in order to verify their safety and well-being post-return.

The women at the houses share a strong bond, regardless of where they come from, out of sheer understanding of each of their particular situations. Nobody knows better than the women themselves how trauma affects them, and how to best cope. Aside from individual resilience, one of the greatest ways for women to survive trauma is through mutual support that gives rise to increased hope that they will be supported and be assured of their safety from further harm.



Popular Education Program

The FCJ Refugee Centre gave a total of 37 workshops from July to October, 2012. The most popular topics were Immigration changes, Refugee Health Cuts, Legal Aid Changes, and the new Refugee System that will be implemented at the end of 2012.



TOPIC	July	August	Sept	Oct	TOTAL
Refugee Changes	2	2	5	3	12
Immigration changes	1	0	5	3	9
Services for Immigrants	1	0	0	0	1
Supervisa and sponsorship	1	0	0	0	1
Refugee Heath Cuts	1	1	0	1	3
Impact of Immigration changes in youth population	0	1	0	1	2
Newcomer Orientation Session and Job finding for Non-status Youth	0	1		0	1
Anti-trafficking Service Providing training	0	1	3	1	5
Legal Aid Changes	0	1			1
Hummanitarian and Compassionate application	0	1	0	0	1
Housing Help Services to support Newcomers	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	6	8	14	9	37

During this period of time, we updated the workshops, and we started a series of short sessions oriented toward teachers of high schools and of ESL classes. The goal of these sessions is to build awareness within the education sector about the effects of the changes on immigrant families (parents and children).

Year	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL
2012	6	8	14	9	37
2011	5	2	8	3	18

We doubled the number of presentations in comparison with the same period last year.

Coalition of Service Providers

Refugee Houses have joined forces to face new challenges during this era of changes. The members of this new Coalition of Service Providers are confronting similar problems together following the Refugee Health Cuts and other Immigration changes. The Coalition is working on strategies to face new situations. Through 2012, the Coalition has met 3 times in different cities of Ontario. The last meeting was in Hamilton, where Micah House hosted the encounter.