



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2012



## NON-STATUS/PRECARIOUS MIGRANT SURVEY



The FCJ Refugee Centre launched a survey to collect data on people who are working in Canada without status. Presently in Canada there is no cohesive mechanism for

the collection of this information. The need to gather information concerning non-status people is even more pressing

after the passage of Bill C-31, which in our view will increase the number of people in this situation.

We are asking organizations across Canada working with non-citizens to help us complete the survey. We are also requesting that you forward the survey to organizations within your networks.

We anticipate repeating the survey two times a year in order to collect information for each half of the year. Please, follow the link below and fill out the survey. We are grateful for your efforts in helping.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LLSTWZP>

## REFUGEE HEALTH CUTS: ALTERNATIVE CLINICS

The first clinic for people who have been impacted by the recent health cuts was launched on June 30 at FCJ Refugee Centre. Loly Rico, co-director of the FCJ Refugee Centre announced that the symbolic clinic will be available once a month at the Centre. In order to accomplish this, the Refugee Centre worked together with doctors, the NDP MP Andrew Cash and MPP Jonah Schein (Davenport). The organizers and participants agreed to condemn the federal government's decision to cut healthcare coverage for refugee claimants and look for another alternatives for refugees that are shocked by these changes.

There are some alternative clinics for sectors affected by the health cuts. If you want to have the list of clinics please call to FCJ Refugee Centre or send us an e-mail.



*Dr. Meb Rashid, medical director of the Crossroads Clinic; Loly Rico, FCJ Refugee Centre; MPP Jonah Schein (Davenport) and MP Andrew Cash.*







### ***NOTHING TO CELEBRATE: REFUGEE RIGHTS DAY***

Despite the opposition of many sectors, the Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act (Bill C-31), became law. Many organizations agreed that the new law is a step back for the protection of refugee rights in Canada.



### ***REFUGEE WORLD DAY: JUNE 20TH***

FCJ Refugee Centre with other organizations joined the event at Yonge Dundas Square, Toronto.



Services provided by FCJ Refugee Centre	Number of Cases from January to June 2012
Refugee Process	384
Immigration Services	869
Settlement services	607
Orientation	584
<b>Total</b>	<b>2444</b>

### ***THE NUMBER OF H&C APPLICATIONS INCREASED BEFORE THE LAW WAS IMPLEMENTED.***

WALK IN			
MONTH	Male	Female	Total
January	36	28	64
February	29	33	71
March	30	34	64
April	31	27	58
May	30	44	74
June	42	56	98
<b>total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>429</b>

Permanent Residence under Humanitarian and Compassionate grounds (H&C). Under this category, we helped 209 clients.

Due to the proposed changes in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, we observed a high increase of H&C applications, before the changes came into force that banned clients whose refugee claim was refused by the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Through this semester we provided support to refugee claimants and non-status people with their legal immigration needs. In the last quarter, we assisted 90 refugee claimants in filling out a Personal Information Form (PIF's), 40 Pre Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA's).

Moreover, the centre helps clients to apply for Perma-

INTAKE			
Month	Male	Female	Total
January	202	178	281
February	234	209	443
March	156	198	354
April	142	150	292
May	98	103	201
June	107	146	253
<b>total</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1824</b>

PHONE CALLS			
Month	Male	Female	Total
January	362	335	697
February	395	335	730
March	325	430	755
April	248	299	547
May	349	427	776
June	267	298	565
<b>total</b>	<b>1946</b>	<b>2124</b>	<b>4070</b>

Another area of support within the scope of the legal department is supporting clients with other applications such as an application for Permanent Residence for protected persons and family sponsorships. In the last quarter we processed 14 applications for permanent residence and 89 sponsorships.





Youth Network at the Stadium

## NATIONAL ART PROJECT

The FCJ Youth Network has really taken off this summer! Youth have joined from many different communities across Toronto, sharing their skills and expertise in a true mentorship environment.

Whether they are volunteering, studying or getting ready for the Fall, all the youth have been working very hard. But it's not been all work! The

youth have had the opportunity to participate in many activities together: a national arts project, a Blue Jays game, a trip to the theatre, as well as a weekly soccer game. Everyone's looking forward to enjoying the remaining weeks of summer together, and continuing to have fun.

## CELEBRATING THE YOUTH AT SANCTUARY NORTH

Surrounded by the river and woods, Sanctuary North witnessed another summer adventure for the FCJ youth network. Three days were not enough for an encounter with nature. The group survived 3 days without electronics (telephones, television, computers, etc.) and had fun canoeing, swimming, dancing, learning new things and making new friends.



Starting Youth Project June 2012



Final version Youth Project



## SANCTUARY NORTH COTTAGE







## ENCOUNTER WITH A NEW COUNTRY



From January to July, the FCJ Refugee Centre received around 25 women, including their children at the refugee houses. All of them come from different backgrounds and countries, like El Sal-

vador, Nigeria, Mexico, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Iraq, Greece, Afghanistan, Hungary, Malaysia and Namibia. There has been an increased number of women who have begun living in our houses.



Second Harvest comes every Thursday to the office to provide food for our residents. Some of the residents volunteer at the food bank sorting the food.

Since the beginning of the year, we have had 7 women that were accepted as permanent residents. Unfortunately, we fear that a decline of acceptances will take place. This is due to the new legislation recently implemented that impacts negatively on the whole immigration process, particularly in the case of women and their children, who are more vulnerable in their own countries and inherently that makes their cases in Canada more vulnerable as well.

The settlement department organized trainings on life



Living in community

skills topics oriented to helping our residents to become independent which should ease their integration into Canadian society.

During the Fall, there are plans for them to receive presentations on anti-racism, to provide them with a deeper understanding of the roots of this issue and how it can affect our personal lives.

The residents at our houses also have had the opportunity to go on fieldtrips in the city and outside of Toronto. One example is Sanctuary North, located in the area of Bancroft, which has a beautiful cottage where the residents from our houses can relax and enjoy nature for a couple of days a time.



Fieldtrip to the Ontario Science Centre







### MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC

The Immigrant Women's Health Centre's Mobile Health Clinic came to the FCJ Refugee Centre on May and June 2012. During the two visits the mobile clinic provided medical attention to more than 20 women. All services on the mobile health clinic are FREE. Some of the services the clinic offer are Pap test, Infection Check, Pregnancy Test, Counselling and Referral, Birth Control Information and Counselling, etc.

### ESL SUMMER SESSION

The summer session of the ESL classes are in full swing, thanks to the amazing support of our volunteer teachers. Through the summer we have 8 trained teachers who are volunteering their time and expertise to plan the curriculum and run classes. There are around 12 students who are enrolled in the program. Level 1 classes run on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 and Saturdays from 12:00 to 2:00. Level 2 classes run on Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 and on Saturdays from 2:00 to 4:00. For more information please contact Philip at (416)469-9754 ext 228.



### SUMMER CAMP

Many kids attend our Summer Camp during 2 weeks. They had fun and learned a lot. Movies, parks and libraries were some of the places where they went during the fieldtrips. From 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Emily Gallardo, Stephanie Ona and Natalia Lopez, were in charge of the summer camp



### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

#### Dancing at the Street



#### Goodbye to Anouska.



#### Youth group cleaning garage



#### Garage sale

#### Piñatas







## MENTORING PROGRAMS

Through the first semester of 2012 the FCJ Refugee Centre continued sharing experiences, skills and expertise with other organizations in Ontario. This year the program was strengthened through the Mentoring Program for agencies launched on January. The Immigration and Refugee Mentoring Initiative for Organizations and Agencies strives to provide ongoing support for management, staff and frontline workers in various areas associated with settlement and legal support.

### SESSIONS PER MONTH

MONTH	NUMBER OF SESSIONS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
JANUARY	2	35
FEBRUARY	4	212
MARCH	7	367
APRIL	10	377
MAY	10	335
JUNE	4	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1432</b>

Number of workshops per month: from January to June 2012

**SUMMER BBQ:** Every summer students, volunteers and staff get together and share as community members of FCJ Refugee Centre.

