

# FCJ Refugee Centre

sep. 30, 2017 what moves you? [rideforrefuge.org](http://rideforrefuge.org)



## Summer Newsletter 2017

**We are Back!! We are Better!!**

Help us reach our goal We are 26 years Young!

**OUR GOAL IS \$26K!!**

**To support the work of the**

**FCJ Refugee Centre visit the website**

**<https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/fcjrefugeecentre>**



**RIDE FOR REFUGE: Support FCJ Refugee Centre: Our goal is \$26K!**

Dear friends,

On September 30th, I'm going the distance for refuge and hope in support of the FCJ Refugee Centre. Please help me to reach my fundraising goals in support of the Centre!

It's worth taking the time to support the FCJ Refugee Centre. Their work is more important than ever. While the Liberal government's tone concerning refugees is much better than their predecessors, the sector itself is still experiencing the realities of austerity and a difficult climate. #realchange has been less than we'd hoped.

If you are or will be around Toronto and available for some exercise(!) please join me! I will be completing a 50km bike ride in Toronto, but if you are thinking of participating and think 50km is just not in the cards- don't worry! You can walk rather than bike- there is a 5km route, or you can bike shorter distances- there are 5,10 and 25 kilometres routes as well! You just need to visit my page, click "team" and then "join the team" and choose Toronto Downtown as your location.

Your generosity goes to very good use- the Centre and its staff are leaders nationally, and in advocating for the rights of migrants, refugees, and the undocumented, helping many to regularize their status. The FCJ Refugee Centre provides housing to women and children, and serves many in the community that cannot get help anywhere else. If you'd like to learn more about the Centre, their website is

<http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org>

In 2016 the Centre took a one year break from the ride to focus on its 25th Anniversary activities (a photo video of their anniversary can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qevuwxB-hA4> ), but now they are back! In the meantime, to name just one form of recognition, Co-Director Loly Rico was awarded the 2017 Spirit of Barbra Schlifer Award – demonstrative of the Centre and Loly's amazing work-

<http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/2017/05/loly-rico-announced-as-the-2017-spirit-of-barbra-schlifer-award-recipient/>

Thank you so much for your support- and think about joining us!!

All the very best,

John Carlaw



*John Carlaw (volunteer at FCJ Refugee Centre) with Loly Rico and Francisco Rico (co-directors FCJ Refugee Centre)*





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### **RIDE FOR REFUGE 2017**

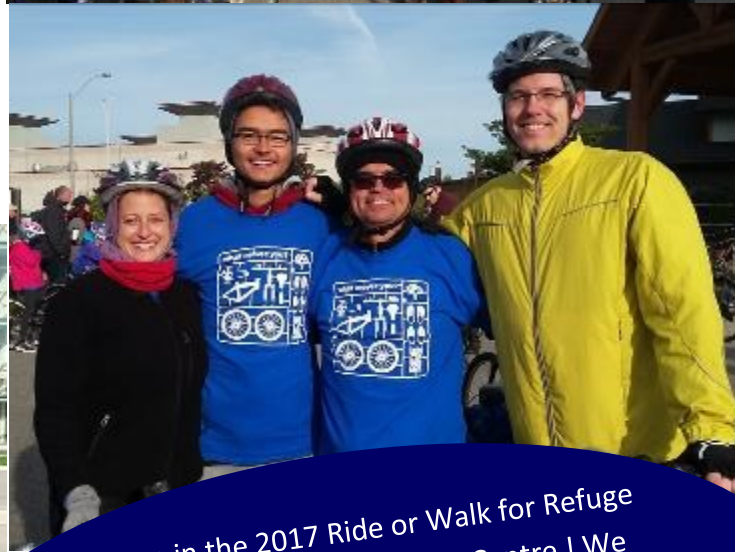
Come join the FCJ Refugee Centre teams and ride, walk and fundraise to help provide services for refugees! The Ride for Refuge on Saturday, September 30, 2017 is a super-fun, family-friendly fundraiser that supports charities who provide refuge and hope for displaced, vulnerable and exploited people everywhere.

We are inviting you to ride for refugees. You can bike or walk with the FCJ teams, bring presents for the refugees or help with donations or sponsorships. We have been doing this every year and we always have fun.

This year our fundraising goal is \$26,000 as the FCJ Refugee Centre has been opening their doors for 26 years. We need the financial support to continue working and helping unprotected people, since there has been an increasing number of refugee claimants appearing at our doors.

We invite you to come and support us. Come ride with us for 10, 25 or 50 km. or walk for 5 km. You can also support us by giving a donation.

<https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/fcjrefugecentre>



Join me in the 2017 Ride or Walk for Refuge  
in support of the FCJ Refugee Centre ! We  
need YOUR support now more than ever.  
Loly Rico





## Access to Education

The new semester-long bridging course for precarious status students at York is starting in September. The course has run twice already, and has been a great success. This is the last semester for the pilot project.

As with the other two sessions, the course is aimed at people who are in a longer-term precarious situation and who have completed high school or some university, but have been out of school for a little while or are unable to prove their previous schooling. The bridging course will enable students to adapt to university life at a slightly slower pace, while becoming familiar with the various supports York University can offer.

It is a free course and will run once a week for one semester. Completing the course with a minimum grade will allow students to apply into various undergraduate programs at York. The course is based in the Sociology department and looks at critical approaches to migration. For more information about the program or to register, please contact Tanya Aberman: [tanya.aberman@fcjrefugecentre.org](mailto:tanya.aberman@fcjrefugecentre.org)



### CALENDAR SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2017



September	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
October	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>
November	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>
December	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>

September	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>
October	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>
November	<b>9</b>	<b>30</b>
December	<b>14</b>	<b>28</b>





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During this summer we welcomed an excellent group of volunteers and summer placement students .  
Thank you for sharing your experiences at FCJ Refugee Centre:

*In light of recent troubling developments in the world and the rising anti-refugee sentiment, the work done by organizations like the FCJ Refugee Centre is more important than ever. I have been privileged to be a part of this organization this summer and could not imagine a more rewarding experience. Having once been a refugee claimant myself, I can understand and relate to the challenges that many refugees face*



*every day. It was at FCJ that I was able to translate this empathy into real work. I was touched deeply by the stories of people who bravely shared them with me, by their resilience in the face of adversity, and by their ability to thrive in spite of it. FCJ became my second home, where I made important friendships. We shared our clients' hopes and fears, worked together, had meals together, and even danced together. These connections and the importance of work done here will keep me coming back to FCJ for years to come. Thank you for everything.*

*Rauf Azimov*



Volunteering at FCJ Refugee Centre has been an illuminating experience that has broadened my understanding of my responsibilities as a citizen of a global community. According to the UNHCR there are over 65.3 million uprooted people around the world. Volunteering at FCJ Refugee Centre I have had the opportunities to help people from several different countries and continents around the world navigate Canada's confusing and unintuitive legal system. As a result, I have come to see firsthand how international crises affect my local community and how my local

community has the opportunity to alleviate those crises.

FCJ Refugee Centre is a supportive and familial community for volunteers to develop their own abilities in their respective disciplines. As a law student, I learned how to communicate effectively with clients, balance multiple cases at the same time, be an assertive oral advocate for those in need, and complete extensive research and written advocacy. I also have had the opportunity to learn office skills before I enter the workforce, which will be tremendously helpful in the future. The community of volunteers and displaced persons is one that fosters friendship, solidarity, respect and inclusion. I have no hesitation in recommending others to volunteer at such a wonderful place.

Curtis Sell



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*All Women Count* was a successful program implemented during this summer. The program allowed us to facilitate a total of 12 workshops. The workshops focused on developing effective problem-solving behaviours used to adapt and apply to areas of responsibility. The workshops were possible thanks to the support of the Catherine Donnelly Foundation



## REFUGEE FORUM

**SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2017**

**REFUGEE FORUM: REALITIES AT THE BORDER AND NEW GUIDELINES ON SOGIE**

**REALITIES AT THE BORDER AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES**

Morning panel will look at what is happening in Quebec at the border, how it is impacting vulnerable communities and what we are seeing in Toronto as a result

**NEW GUIDELINES ON PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION (SOGIE)**

Explanation of the guidelines involving sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE) and their impact on the community

**TIME:** From 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

**VENUE:** The Salvation Army Harbour Light

**ADDRESS:** 160 Jarvis St. Toronto

**REGISTRATION:** <https://refugeeforumseptember19.eventbrite.ca>

For more information contact Carolina Teves at [cteves@fcjrefugecentre.org](mailto:cteves@fcjrefugecentre.org)

**OCTOBER 5TH, 2017**

**DANCE ART MUSIC FOOD**

**JOIN US ON A SPECIAL DAY OF A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!**

Raising positive awareness of the experiences of diverse newcomer populations while celebrating the talent and contributions of newcomers to Canadian society

**VENUE:** Artscape Wychwood Barns  
**ADDRESS:** 601 Christie St, Toronto, ON M6G 4C7  
**Time:** 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm  
**RSVP:** [info@fcjrefugecentre.org](mailto:info@fcjrefugecentre.org)

The event is possible thanks to the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport





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# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Office is closed on Fridays



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
<b>FIRST TIME CLIENTS ONLY</b> <b>MONDAYS</b> <b>DROP-IN</b> FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM	FCJ Clients follow up by <b>APPOINTMENT</b>	FCJ Clients follow up by <b>APPOINTMENT</b>	FCJ Clients follow up by <b>APPOINTMENT</b> from 10:00am – 12:30pm	<b>PRIMARY CARE CLINIC</b> Fridays and Saturdays FROM 10 AM TO 1:00 PM BY <b>APPOINTMENT ONLY</b>
WORK PERMITS, PR'S, TRAVEL DOC ONLY BY APPOINTMENT <i>BRING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED</i>	WORK PERMITS, PR'S, TRAVEL DOC ONLY BY APPOINTMENT  <i>BRING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED</i>	WORK PERMITS, PR'S, TRAVEL DOC ONLY BY APPOINTMENT  <i>BRING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED</i>	WORK PERMITS, PR'S, TRAVEL DOC ONLY BY APPOINTMENT  <i>BRING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED</i>	<b>ENGLISH CLASS</b> <b>DROP IN</b> from 11 am to 1 pm Except long weekends
	<b>MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC</b> <b>CLINIC</b> <b>BY APPOINTMENT</b> <b>ONLY</b> Every other Tuesday afternoon	<b>FCJ YOUTH NETWORK</b> <b>PROGRAM FROM 4:00 PM</b> <b>TO 6:00PM</b> <b>DROP-IN</b>	<b>RAD info sessions and</b> <b>Ready Tours for</b> refugee claimants by registration only	

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 416- 469- 97 54

[www.fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org)  
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## CONTACT US

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