

FALL/WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Every act of generosity counts



FCJ Refugee Centre is making a call to everyone during this season to reflect on generosity and the work the Centre does in making society a better place for vulnerable populations.

During this giving season, FCJ Refugee Centre calls on everyone to consider making a gift to show your support for refugees and other precarious migrants.

FCJ Refugee Centre relies on supporters like YOU to carry out important work so that we can walk with uprooted people in our community. We support refugee claimants, those without status, migrant workers, women and children in need of housing; we have a free health clinic, run a vibrant youth group and many other important initiatives that need support! Please check out the campaign here and join us!

Support us through Canadahelp.org



UPCOMING ACTIVITY:

Flight

**OPENING:
JANUARY 3rd, 2019**

You are invited you to the upcoming exhibit, *Flight*.

This series depicts the plight of refugees in general, and the Syrian refugee crisis in particular. The work combines photographs that artist Clara Hirsch took in Syria, prior to the war, old maps of Europe and the Middle East, as well as images of her family as they are about to embark on their voyage to Canada as refugees.

Proceeds from the exhibit will be donated to the FCJ Refugee Centre.

(See details inside)

HOLIDAY SEASON IS HERE



On this holiday season we are celebrating all your support, helping us to keep walking with uprooted people and keeping our doors open for anyone in need. We hope that the next year brings peace and justice for refugees all around the world.

From FCJ Refugee Centre family
we wish you the most joyful holidays.

FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

**WE ARE BACK SELLING
CHRISTMAS TREES AT
IKEA NORTH YORK**

**It is...
GIVING TIME**

**Every time that you buy a Christmas tree at this
location, you will be supporting refugees and other
vulnerable populations**

Every time you buy a tree at this location, you will be supporting newcomers and refugees. As part of the Holiday Season, FCJ Refugee Center has started to sell Christmas trees at Ikea North York location.

The tree selling season is from November 23th to December 22nd. Every time that you buy a tree at this location, you will be supporting newcomers and refugees.

Also when you purchase a natural fir tree for \$25 you will receive a coupon for \$25 off an IKEA purchase.

ADDRESS: 15 Provost Dr, Toronto, ON M2K 2X9



Fabian's Story

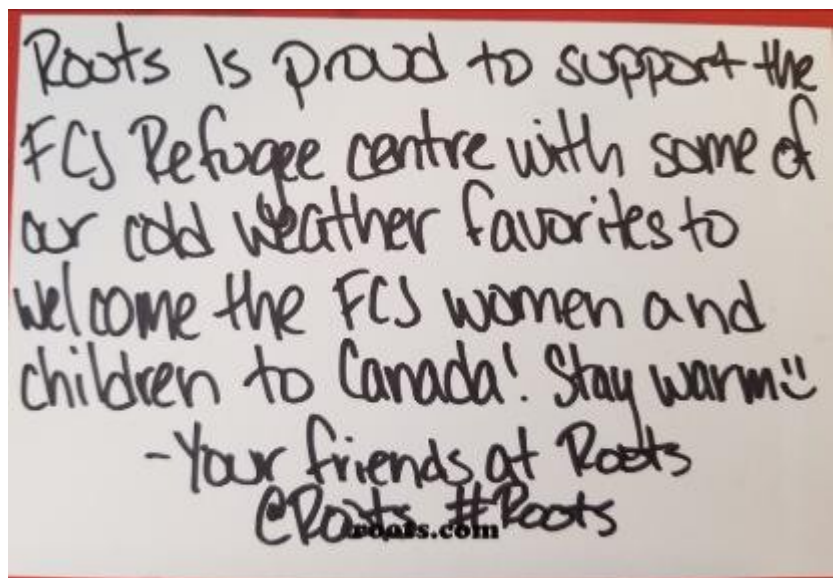
FCJ recently received a donation of twelve pairs of formal, high quality shoes from a man who came to Canada himself fourteen years ago with nothing. Fabian was forced to flee Colombia, leaving behind his wife and children, and arrived in Canada with nothing and knowing nobody. He had experience as a mechanical engineer, but had to work for several years as a cleaner, in a slaughterhouse, and delivering pizza. He was constantly working at validating his credentials, improving his English, and looking for professional opportunities. He remembers how hard it was when he arrived here, and how bad he felt when he couldn't afford professional shoes when he finally got a good job interview. After fourteen years, he's managed to reach and surpass his professional goals, as he now has a successful career in engineering. He's also been able to bring his daughter and son over from Colombia, as well as get married and start a new family here in Canada. In donating these shoes, he knows somebody who was in his position will put them to good use, giving them dignity and confidence to work towards their dreams.



THANK YOU

We want to acknowledge the support we received from Roots Canada, we are so excited to gift our residents, children and youth with the warm clothing donations we received.

Thank you





CLARA HIRSCH

FLIGHT

January 4-12, 2019
12-5pm daily

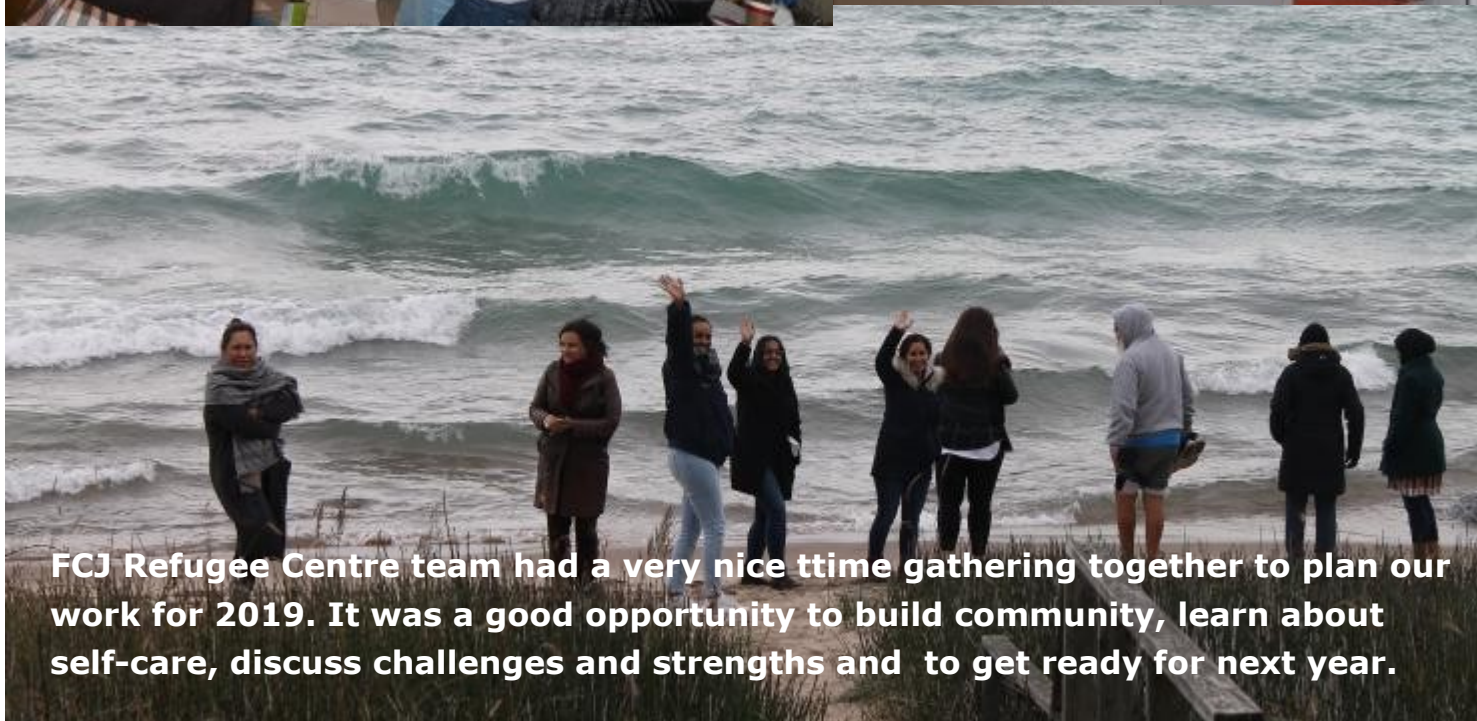
OPENING RECEPTION
Thursday, January 3
7-10pm

VENUE SPONSOR
Gladstone Hotel
1214 Queen Street W,
Toronto

IN SUPPORT OF
FCJ Refugee Centre



RETREAT IN THE FALL , PLANNING 2019



FCJ Refugee Centre team had a very nice time gathering together to plan our work for 2019. It was a good opportunity to build community, learn about self-care, discuss challenges and strengths and to get ready for next year.

FCJ PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINIC

FCJ Primary Health Care Clinic continues to run on Tuesdays and Saturdays (9:30am-1 pm). The clinic is funded by Inner City Health Associates (ICHA) and sees clients that are living in Canada without health insurance and newcomers to Canada. On average, the clinic sees 7-9 patients a day. Patients are seen by family doctors, where the clinic has one doctor on Tuesday and a rotating schedule of 4 doctors on Saturdays. The clinic also has 3 nurses and 4 volunteers working. Volunteers help clients with locating medical services such as labs and pharmacies close to where they are living.

As FCJ Health Clinic grows, some of the challenges that they are facing are issues of time, where there is a need to expand the times and days that they have to provide service to patients. Another barrier that they face is language, as a large number of the clients are in need of an interpreter. The clinic closes for the holidays on

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AT THE FCJ PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

My name is Cassandra Melo and I am 22 years old. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Nursing from York University, and I have a great interest in topics such as public, global, and community health, as well as social justice.

Shortly after passing my nursing registration exam and becoming certified as a registered nurse, I knew that I wanted to continue volunteering and helping others, something that I very much enjoyed as an active member of my university community. As an individual with a passion for social justice and health equity, I was interested in working with vulnerable populations, which is when I came across FCJ Refugee Centre in Toronto with a quick internet search. As an individual who was born in Canada and into a middle class family, I have become

increasingly aware of my privileges, and I am cognizant of the fact that for many others, their lives have not been as simple. As someone who was born in a life of privilege, I feel as though it is my life's duty to help others, especially in relation to healthcare access and health equity.

My experience at the FCJ Primary Care Clinic has been wonderful! It is amazing to work with individuals who are like minded and compassionate, and who understand the importance in the right to health and healthcare access, no matter where



someone originally lived.

This volunteer position serves as a constant reminder to exercise compassion, empathy, gratitude, and kindness in everyday life, no matter what the circumstances may be. It has given me valuable insight about some of the struggles newcomers to Canada face, all for the pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families. It is also refining my knowledge in the newcomer experience, as well as the social determinants of health, which I find extremely interesting, especially pertaining to my interest in community and public health.

As an individual who was born in Canada and into a middle class family, I have become increasingly aware of my privileges, and I am cognizant of the fact that for many others, their lives have not been as simple.

I would encourage anyone to volunteer and give back their time if feasible. Although we can become comfortable in our own lives, we cannot forget about the struggles others are going through. Volunteering, meeting with others, and hearing people's stories truly does give you a 'fuller' outlook on life, expands your worldview, and provides one with a wonderful opportunity to participate in continuous learning.

GOOD NEWS AT FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE: LAW FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO CATALYST GRANT



FCJ Refugee Centre is pleased to receive funding from the Catalyst Grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario, who has given us core funding to promote access to justice work for a period of three years.

Catalyst is a new granting program that the Law Foundation has introduced with the goal of strengthening the non-profit justice sector. We are so grateful and want to thank the Law Foundation of Ontario for their support and contributions.

FCJ Refugee Centre will use this contribution for planning, strengthening the organization, ensuring access to justice for vulnerable newcomers.

READY TOUR STORY

I am from Uganda and in 2016 I was a newcomer and refugee claimant in Toronto Canada, I had a hard time sourcing for information to help me prepare for my hearing. As newcomers, we all have this challenge, most of us keep consulting with friends who end up sharing inaccurate information.

During my time as a volunteer at the Access Alliance, the LGBTQ+ newcomer coordinator Ranjith Kulatilake was so supportive. He made an effort to make sure we are all equipped with the right information for the services we need.

One day he asked me if I had gone for the Ready Tour since my hearing was coming up, and I was wondering what exactly he was talking about. He sat me down and explained to me what exactly it was all about. I was so excited to attend this program. He went ahead and sent Carolina an email and also booked me for the upcoming session.

I arrived at 74 Victoria St. on time for the session since this was the first time to go there. My heart was racing, as I was anxious and didn't know what to expect. Other participants arrived and the session began. The session had two parts: the hearing process and the appeal process. We asked many questions that were all answered. I walked out very excited for the new

information I had learnt and I thank Ranjith for the referral. What really stood out for me was we always need to know the facts from our countries and how it affects your case. Newcomers need to understand that the Member is not interested in seeing you cry or narrating your entire story to him, because he has already read it. All he is looking for is how credible you are and the facts of your case.

Because of the Ready Tour I was able to access the "National document packages" on the IRB website to clearly understand or align the facts of my case without narrating long irrelevant stories or answers to the questions.

I encourage all Newcomers preparing for their hearing to book for the Ready Tour as it will help them to prepare extensively for the process and of course increase the chances of being accepted.

Thanks to Access Alliance and FCJ Refugee Centre for arranging these informative programs that play a key role in our lives. Without this opportunity, I wouldn't have known about the Ready Tour and neither would I have had the ability to answer the questions in a precise manner.

I pledge to help newcomers to prepare for their hearings.

Regards

Anonymous

Are you a refugee claimant?



You are invited to participate in a tour of one of the
IRB-RPD refugee hearing rooms in Toronto!



LEARN

- ➡ How to navigate the refugee hearing process
- ➡ What is a refugee hearing
- ➡ What to expect at the hearing
- ➡ Who might participate at the hearing

READY tours take place twice a month at 74 Victoria Street, Toronto, on the 4th Floor.

Registration:

[contact](#)

[Carolina Teves](#)

cteves@fcjrefugeecentre.org

Or visit

www.Fcjrefugeecentre.org



FCJ Refugee Centre
Walking with Uprooted People

Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to my upcoming exhibit, ***Flight***.

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Proceeds from the exhibit will be donated to the FCJ Refugee Centre.

The opening is on January 3, 2019

7pm-10pm at Gladstone Hotel (Second Floor) 1214 Queen Street W

The exhibit will run from January 4-12 from 12pm-5pm

Clara Hirsch



FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES Office is closed on Fridays



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
FIRST TIME CLIENTS ONLY MONDAYS DROP-IN <u>Orientation on immigration/ settlement issues</u> FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM	FCJ Clients follow up by APPOINTMENT with Diana from Tuesday to Thursday (always check availability on calendar)	FCJ Clients follow up by APPOINTMENT with Diana from Tuesday to Thursday (always check availability on calendar)	FCJ Clients follow up with Francisco by APPOINTMENT from 10:00am – 12:30pm	PRIMARY CARE CLINIC Saturdays FROM 9 AM TO 1:00 PM BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Follow up appotments WORK PERMITS,PR'S, TRAVEL DOC ONLY BY APPOINTMENT BRING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	Follow up appotments WORK PERMITS,PR'S, TRAVEL DOC ONLY BY APPOINTMENT BRING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	Follow up appotments WORK PERMITS,PR'S, TRAVEL DOC ONLY BY APPOINTMENT BRING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	Follow up appotments WORK PERMITS,PR'S, TRAVEL DOC ONLY BY APPOINTMENT BRING DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	ENGLISH CLASS DROP IN from 11 am to 1 pm Except long weekends
	MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC CLINIC and PRIMARY CARE CLINIC BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	FCJ YOUTH NETWORK PROGRAM FROM 4:00 PM TO 6:00PM DROP-IN	RAD Info sessions and Ready Tours for refugee claimants by registration only	