

**30**  
YEARS

**FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE**

Shoulder to Shoulder, Side by Side

*Walking with Uprooted People for more than 30 years*



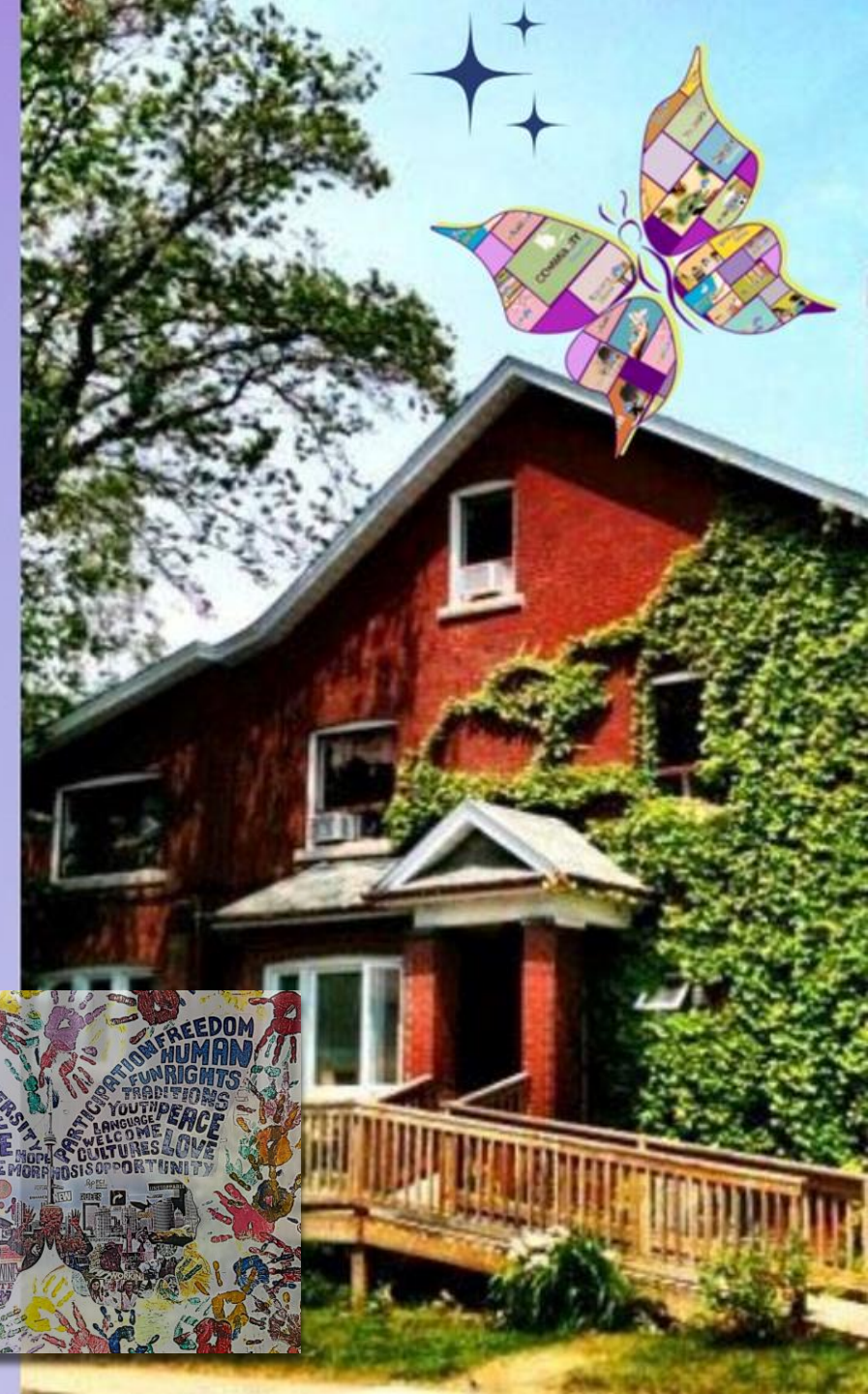
# TCDSB ENROLLMENT WEBINAR

Presented by:

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*Youth & Access To Education Coordinator – FCJ Refugee Centre*

Supported by funding from Maytree



## OVERVIEW

- Land Acknowledgement
- FCJ Refugee Centre
- Precarious Status & Implications with Education
- Education System in Canada – Ontario Education Act
- Fee Eligibility & Accessing Education
- School Boards & TCDSB Registration Process

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The land we are gathering on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation; and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

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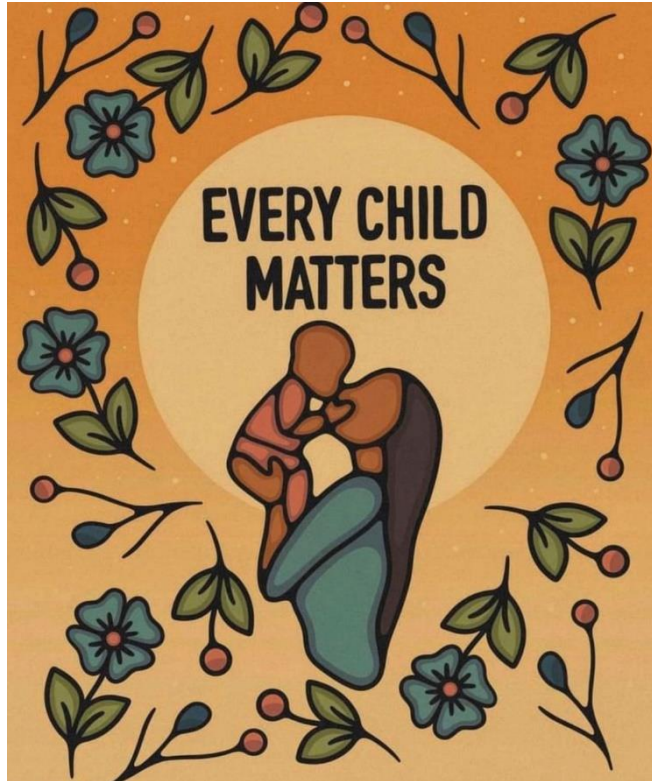


Image by Alanah Jewell,  
Morning Star Designs  
<https://www.instagram.com/morning.star.designs/?hl=en>

We must reflect upon the true and terrible foundation upon which Canada was built.

On stolen land.

With stolen sons and daughters.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> we did not celebrate.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> we did not celebrate.

We reflected. We mourned.

We stand in solidarity.

This time demands from us thoughtful consideration of the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

We must demand action from our elected officials.

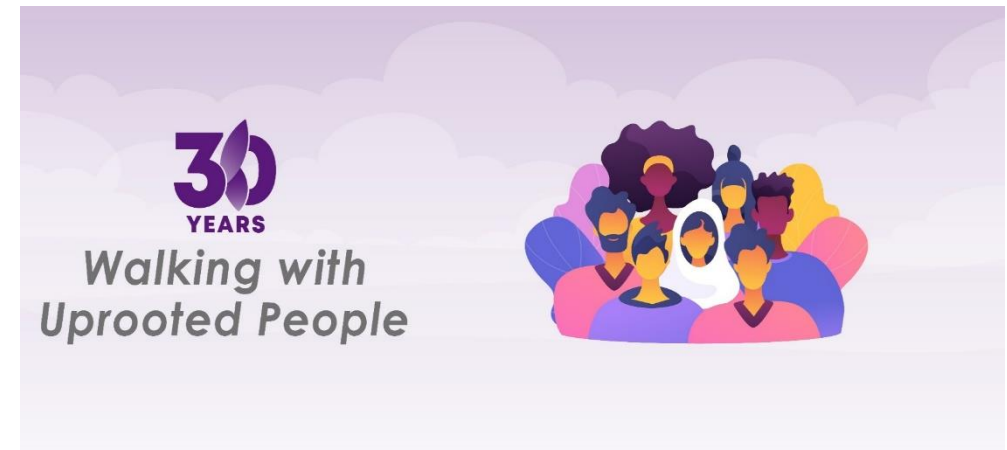
We must demand that all children are taught the true history of the land upon which we live.

...and still counting

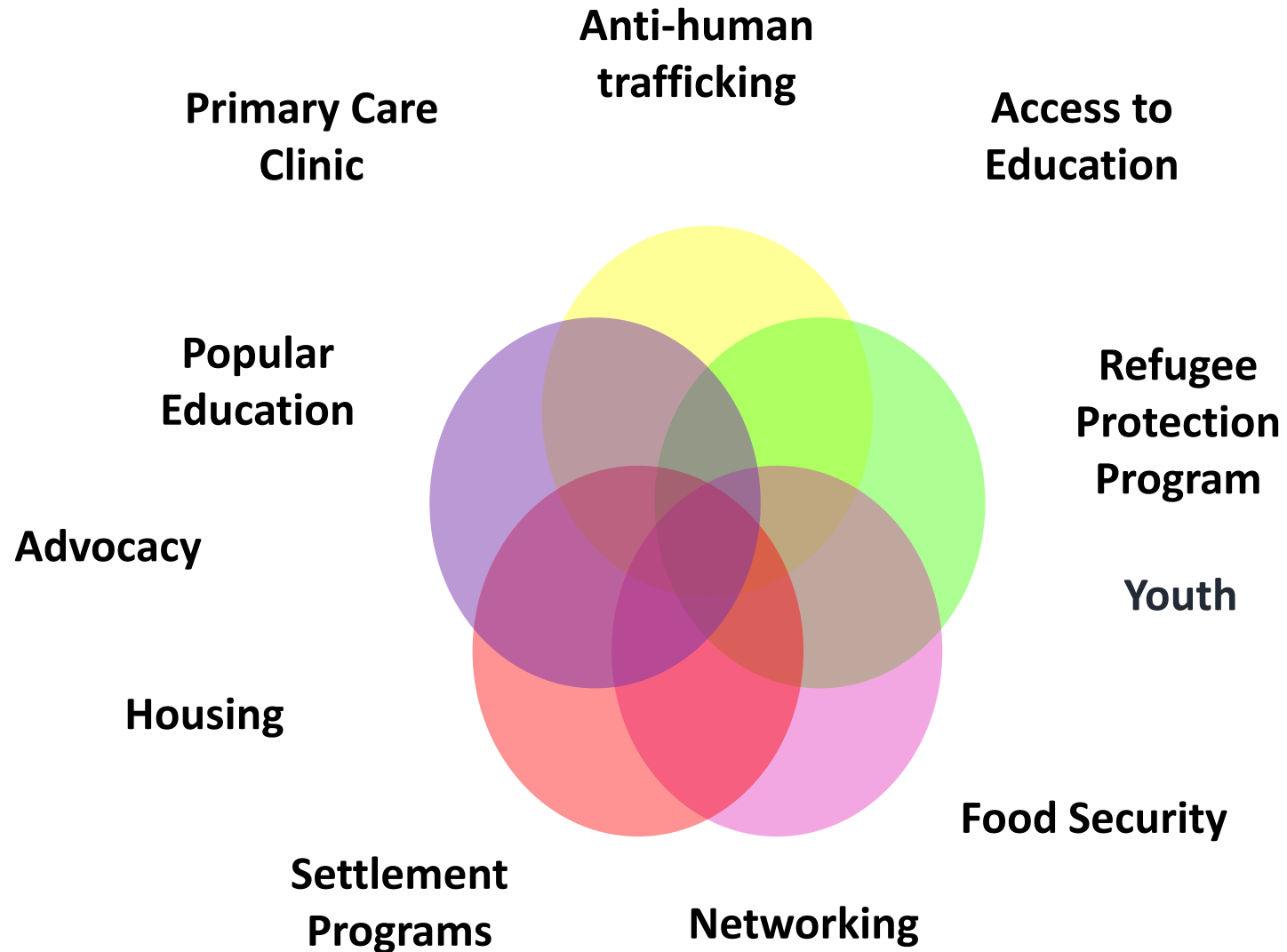
# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

## FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE WALKING WITH UPROOTED PEOPLE

- We are a non-profit organization which serves refugees and others at risk due to their immigration status
- We welcome anyone asking for advice, counsel and support regarding these issues.
- We address systemic issues that newly arrived refugee claimants and persons with precarious immigration status face in Canada including: lack of resources, marginalization, and discrimination.



# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE



## REGULARIZED VS. PRECARIOUS STATUS

### What are examples of 'regularized' status?

- Canadian Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Convention Refugee
- Protected person
- International student\*
- Visitor\*

### What are examples of 'precarious' status?

- Refugee Claimants
- Refused Refugee Claimants
- International student\*
- Visitor\*
- Those caught in limbo due to immigration policy changes
- Victims & Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Those involved in sponsorship breakdown
- Anyone without official immigration status living in Canada

## IMPLICATIONS OF LIVING WITH PRECARIOUS STATUS

- Immigration Policies are ever changing - ability to regularize status becomes more difficult
- Lack of access to public and social services – healthcare, education, stable and secure employment.
- Lack of financial stability
- Lack of recognition of academic or professional credentials/experience from country of origin
- Separation from family, personal networks
- Fear of contacting police or authorities in an emergency, for fear of detention or deportation
- Living in fear and with uncertainty about the future
- Manipulation & oppression from institutions and individuals in positions of power

## EDUCATION SYSTEM IN CANADA

- Education in Canada is Provincially Administered
- The Ministry of Education is the ministry of the Government of Ontario responsible for government policy, funding, curriculum planning and direction in all levels of public education, including elementary and secondary schools.

## EDUCATION ACT

### Section 49.1

Section 49.1 was added to the *Education Act* in 1993 to ensure that minor children are not denied an education because of their immigration status or that of their parents. The section reads as follows:

“

A person who is otherwise entitled to be admitted to a school and who is less than eighteen years of age shall not be refused admission because the person or the person's parent or guardian is unlawfully in Canada.

## FEES: DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

### What are examples of 'domestic' status?

- Canadian Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Convention Refugee
- Protected person
- Refugee Claimant\*
- Rejected Refugee Claimant\*
- Non-status\*
- Minor Child of International Student\*
- Minor Child of Work Permit Holder\*

### What are examples of 'international' status?

- Visitor/Tourist (less than 6 months in Canada)
- Foreign National outside Canada

## ACCESS TO ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

- School aged children who have arrived in Canada as visitors must wait 6 months before entering school
- School aged children who have made a port-of-entry refugee claim can enter right away as they will have the Letter of Acknowledgement of Claim
- School aged children who have made an inland refugee claim need to wait for their refugee documents to enter school
- School aged children with parents who hold a valid Study or Work Permit before the child is enrolled in school have the same fee exemption as domestic students

## However...

- School aged children who have arrived in Canada as visitors must wait 6 months before entering school\*
  - \*students must prove date of entry
  - \*students 'can' enter right away if one parent has been living in Canada for over 6 months
    - \*parent must prove date of entry into Canada
  - \*family must prove residence in Toronto – added complications if outside GTA
    - \*challenges with different visa type
  - \*alternative custody arrangements from outside Canada are not respected
- School aged children who have made an asylum claim in Canada can enter right away\*
  - \*delays caused by assessment tests
  - \*schools refusing admission without additional documentation from Board
- \*lack of communication between Boards \*TDSB/TCDSB and partner institutions (schools, assessment centres etc.)

## PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS IN TORONTO

- TDSB (Toronto District School Board)
- TCDSB (Toronto Catholic District School Board)

## TCDSB (TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD)

- Newcomer students will generally be supported directly at the home school at the Elementary School Level (ages 4-13)
- Newcomer students at the Secondary School Level (ages 14-20) will generally be directed to The Orientation Centre for an English and Mathematic Assessment Test to assign their Grade level and to allocate a school.

### **Book an Appointment Today**

We provide services to families who have students between the **ages of 14-20** who wish to attend a TCDSB secondary school and are new to Canada, have been away from Canada for more than one year or have relocated from Quebec.

Contact us to book an appointment.

Email: [orientation.centre@tcdsb.org](mailto:orientation.centre@tcdsb.org)

Phone: 416-393-5500

# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

## HOW TO FIND YOUR LOCAL TCDSB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

### Elementary School Locator

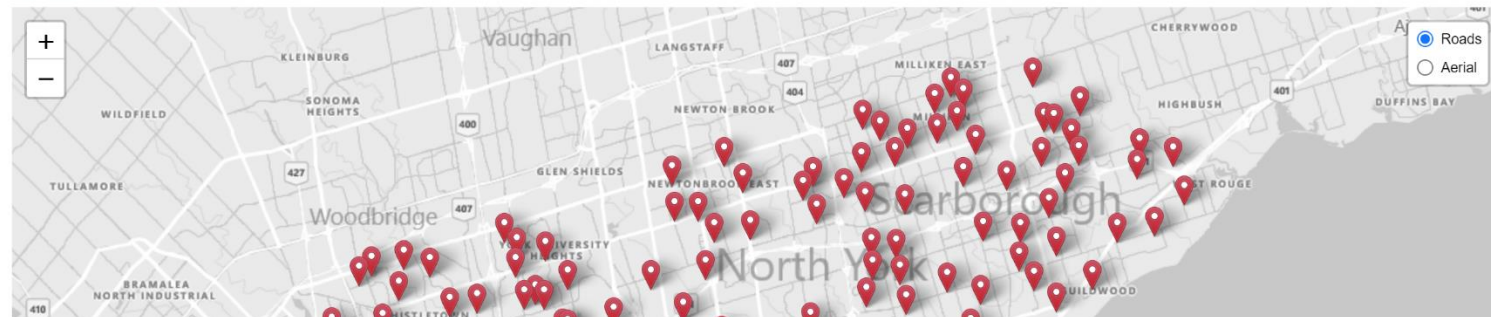
[CLICK HERE!](#)

Use our school locator to find your local Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) elementary schools.

Important Information

🔍 Type your address

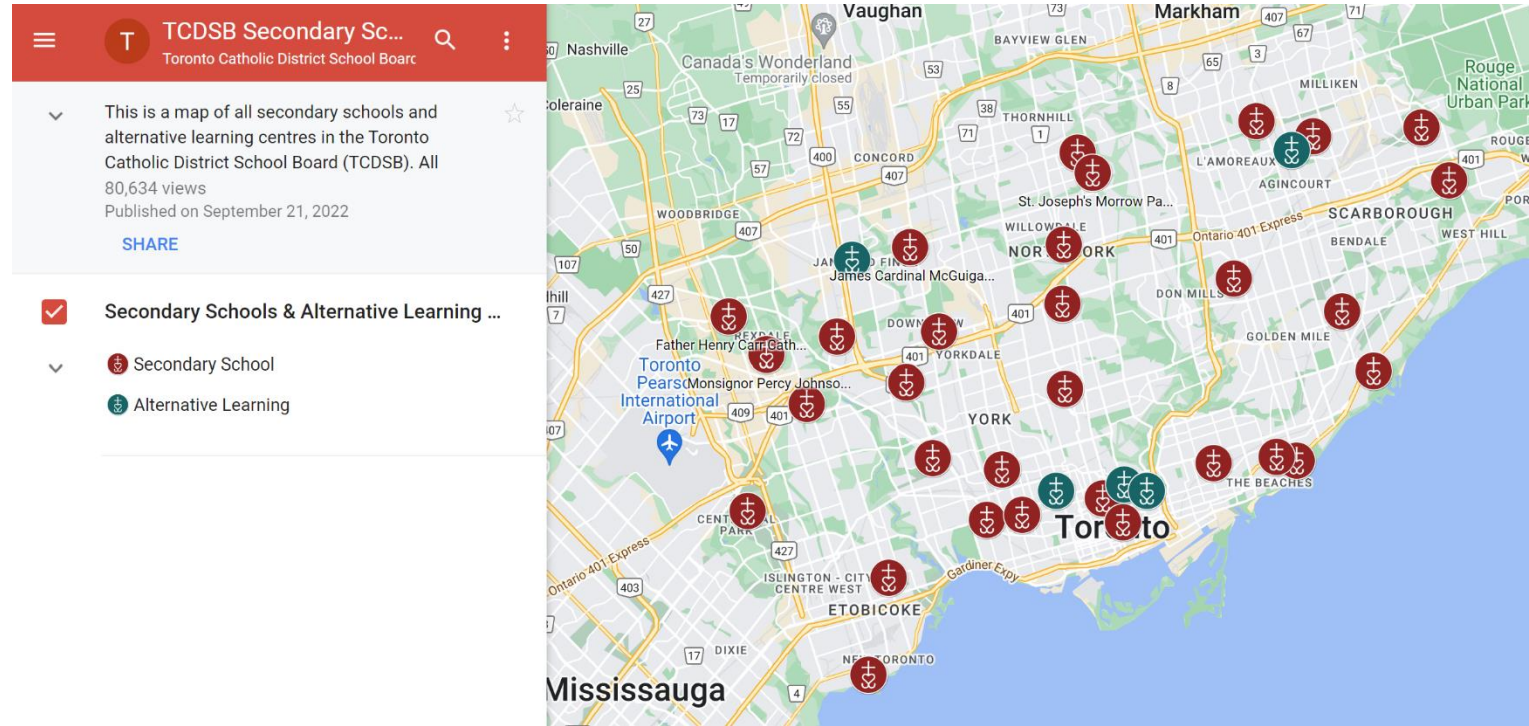
School Year: **2023/24**



# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

## HOW TO FIND YOUR LOCAL TCDSB SECONDARY SCHOOL?

[CLICK HERE!](#)



## WHERE CAN I REGISTER FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

- You can register your child at the school in-person

OR

- You can create an account and register online here - [CLICK HERE!](#)

APPLY TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NEW APPLICATION

PREVIOUSLY ENTERED APPLICATION

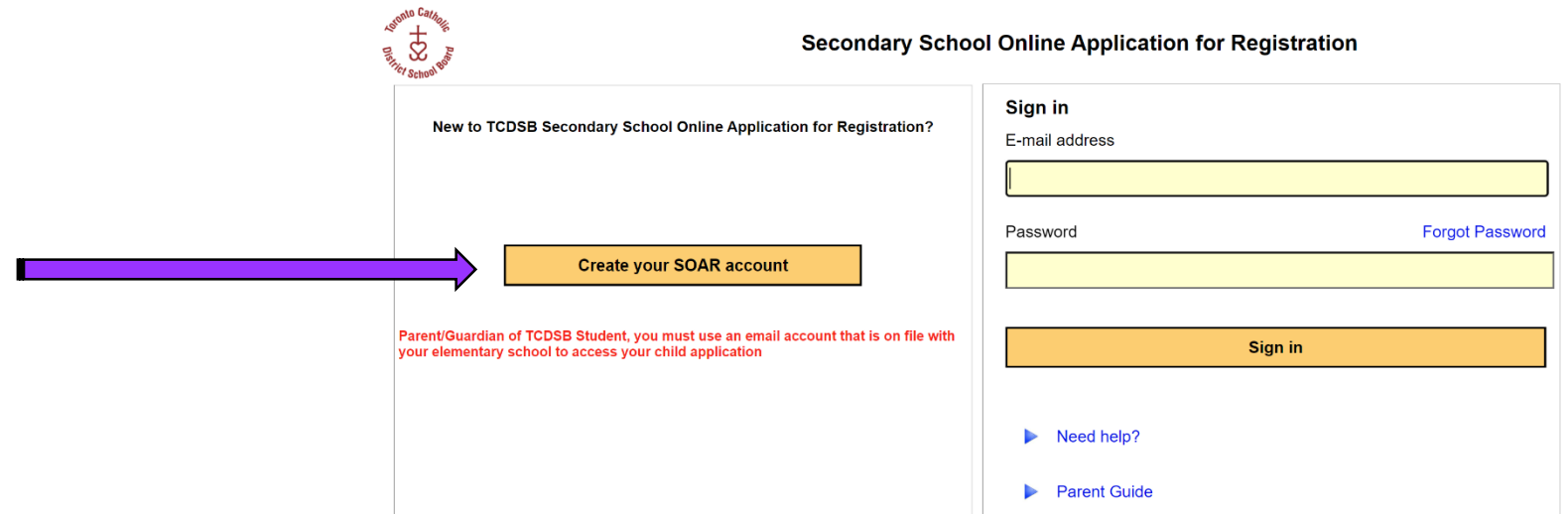


Registration for September 2023 has begun. Please complete the online application.

# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

## WHERE CAN I REGISTER FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL?

- You have to complete the online application and do an assessment test at the Orientation Centre
- You can create an account and register online here - [CLICK HERE!](#)



The screenshot shows the 'Secondary School Online Application for Registration' page for the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB). The page is titled 'New to TCDSB Secondary School Online Application for Registration?' and features a 'Create your SOAR account' button. A purple arrow points to this button. Below the button, a red note states: 'Parent/Guardian of TCDSB Student, you must use an email account that is on file with your elementary school to access your child application'. To the right, there is a 'Sign in' section with fields for 'E-mail address' and 'Password', a 'Forgot Password' link, and a 'Sign in' button. At the bottom of the sign-in section, there are links for 'Need help?' and 'Parent Guide'.

## WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED?

- Passport (parents + child(ren))
- Birth Certificate (child(ren))
- Baptismal Certificate (child(ren)/or parent) [ONLY MANDATORY AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL]
- 2 different Proof of address (this can be rental agreement, bank statement/letter, phone bill, utility bill, etc.)
- Refugee status documents if you are a refugee (parents + child(ren)); or
- Entry stamps/plane tickets/boarding passes from the day you entered Canada if you are non-status (parents + child(ren)); or
- Immigration documents if you are a Study/Work permit holder (parents + child(ren))

**YOU CAN REACH OUT TO US IF YOU NEED  
SUPPORT SECURING AN ENROLLMENT LETTER  
OR SUPPORT LETTER FOR YOUR PROCESS**

# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

## Connect with us:

 416-469-9754

 437-217-3786

 [info@fcjrefugeecentre.org](mailto:info@fcjrefugeecentre.org)

 [fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://fcjrefugeecentre.org)

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 FCJ Refugee Centre

## QUESTIONS?

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