

# WINTER - SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER



**FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE**  
*Walking with Uprooted People*



## WHAT IS NEW?

**Filmmaking Youth Project**

**Finding Home outside of Toronto**

**Forum on International Migrant Trafficking**

**Family Dinner: last Wednesday of every month**


**Memories and Recipes from all around the world**

**Guide for refugee claimants entering for USA**

**Breaking Barriers: Responding to Community Needs Tool Kit**

**Mondays is a drop in at FCJ Refugee Centre**

**Placement student experiences at FCJ Refugee Centre**



**FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT TRAFFICKING**

JOIN THE FIGHT  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
UWINDSOR SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

[WWW.MIGRANTTRAFFICKINGWINDSOR.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WWW.MIGRANTTRAFFICKINGWINDSOR.EVENTBRITE.COM)

## FINDING HOME OUTSIDE OF TORONTO

*Supporting families and individuals who want to voluntarily resettle outside of Toronto*



**JOIN US IN CREATING THE FILM OF THE DECADE**

**COME TO: 208 OAKWOOD AVE, YORK, ON M6E 2V4  
WEDNESDAYS: 4:30-6:00**

Contact: Tee-Jay

Email: [t.ndjoze@fcjrefugeecentre.org](mailto:t.ndjoze@fcjrefugeecentre.org)



**Breaking Barriers**

*Responding to community needs*

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

208 Oakwood Ave. Toronto ON

## FILMMAKING YOUTH PROJECT

FCJ Youth Network is inviting newcomer youth interested in learn about storytelling and filmmaking. The project "The Past, The Present, Our Future" was launched with the Storytelling series of workshops that are taking place on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 pm.

The film initiative aim is to highlight the experiences of newcomer youth in Toronto and is looking to have different voices of youth involved in the project.

FCJ Refugee Centre has an open door policy so any youth who wants to join the project is welcome to come. We are located at 208 Oakwood Ave. (one block north from St Clair West). Contact person: Tee-Jay Ndjoze Siririka [t.ndjoze@fcjrefugeecentre.org](mailto:t.ndjoze@fcjrefugeecentre.org)

# THE PAST, THE PRESENT, OUR FUTURE

FCJ Youth  
Network  
Film Project

Interested?

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

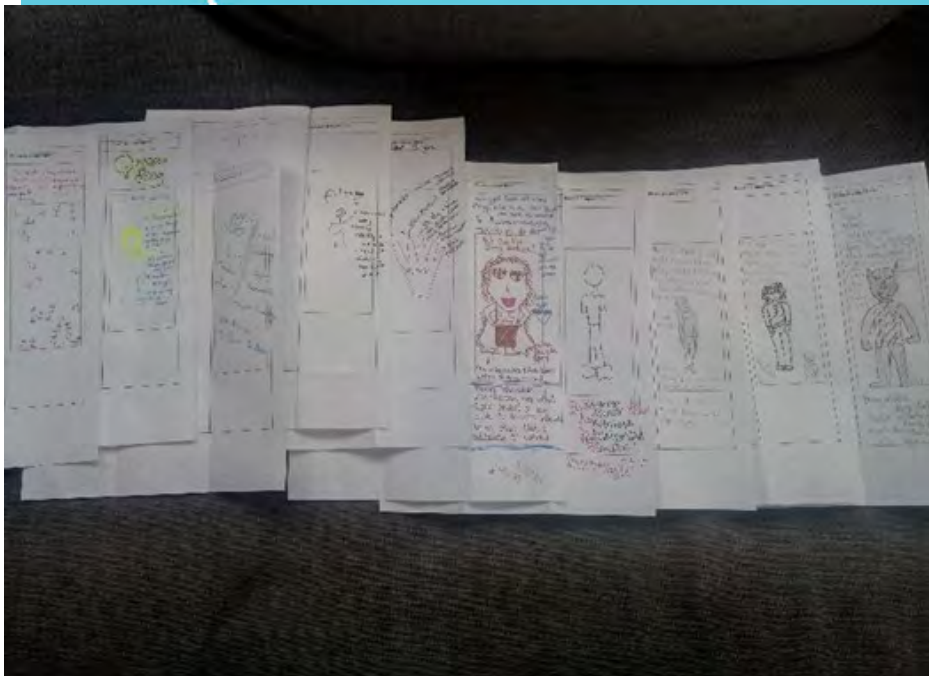
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DIRECTOR: Henley Christopher		
CAMERA: Emily		
DATE: 05-26-2018		

Snacks and tokens will be provided

JOIN US IN CREATING  
THE FILM OF THE  
DECADE

COME TO: 208  
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# THE WINTER OF STORYTELLING



Great turn out at the first storytelling workshop at FCJ Refugee Centre. The workshop was facilitated by Shay Shay, who guided the whole group through storytelling techniques.

With the participation of more than 15 youths, the FCJ Youth Network started their film project.

If you could not make the first week of February, you can still join the group any Wednesday and catch up on the project.



# FAMILY DINNER

On the last Wednesday of every month, the FCJ Youth Network gather to celebrate a night full of amazing food, culture and music.

During the Family Dinner, the youth group is ready to share a special recipe that they have selected from home.

The secret of every recipe is a special ingredient: a lot of love!

You are invited to join our Family Dinner on the last Wednesday of every month and bring your recipe.

Every recipe is added to the Youth Recipe Book "The Bestie Book", a collection of memories, recipes, poems and much more. To read it please follow the link here:

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/FCJ-Bestie-Book.pdf>


FCJ YOUTH NETWORK PRESENTS:

## *End-of-the Month Family Dinner*

Join us for a gathering to celebrate a night full of amazing food, culture, music and laughs.

JOIN US AND BRING YOUR RECIPE

208 OAKWOOD AVE, YORK,  
ON M6E 2V4



## The Bestie Book



**MEMORIES  
RECIPES  
POEMS &  
MORE**

the youth group is a place you can come and feel appreciated. all of your troubles and struggles disappear, and you are respected.

this is your home.

-chinue



## INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE CONSIDERING MAKING A REFUGEE CLAIM IN CANADA ENTERING FROM THE USA

### Cautions

- If you apply at an official border crossing and you do not meet one of the exceptions to the Safe Third Country Agreement, you will not be allowed to make a refugee claim in Canada. You will be immediately returned to the USA where you may be detained and put into removal proceedings.
- If you are found ineligible to make a refugee claim for other reasons (for example, you made a previous claim in Canada or the USA, or you are inadmissible for serious criminality or security), you will face deportation to your country of origin (not the USA). You may be held in immigration detention. There will be very little opportunity to show that you are at risk.
- If you are found eligible to make a refugee claim in Canada, you will need to show that you face persecution in your country of origin. If you do not face persecution, your claim is likely to be rejected and you will face deportation to your country of origin (not the USA).
- It is often difficult to show that you face persecution if you have been outside your country of origin and living in the USA for several years.
- Do not expect to have an immediate right to work in Canada. If your claim is eligible, you may apply for a work permit but processing can take several months.

A person who makes a refugee claim at an official border crossing (a Port of Entry) is subject to the Safe Third Country Agreement and therefore generally CANNOT make a refugee claim in Canada. When a person is found ineligible to make a refugee claim based on Safe Third Country:

- The person is returned to the USA the same day (generally under a removal order which bars the person from returning to Canada without authorization for 12 months);
- Canadian authorities notify US authorities at US Port of Entry;
- The person can never make another refugee claim in Canada.

There are some exceptions to the general rule.

Despite the Agreement, a person may be able to make a refugee claim in Canada at a Port of Entry if the person

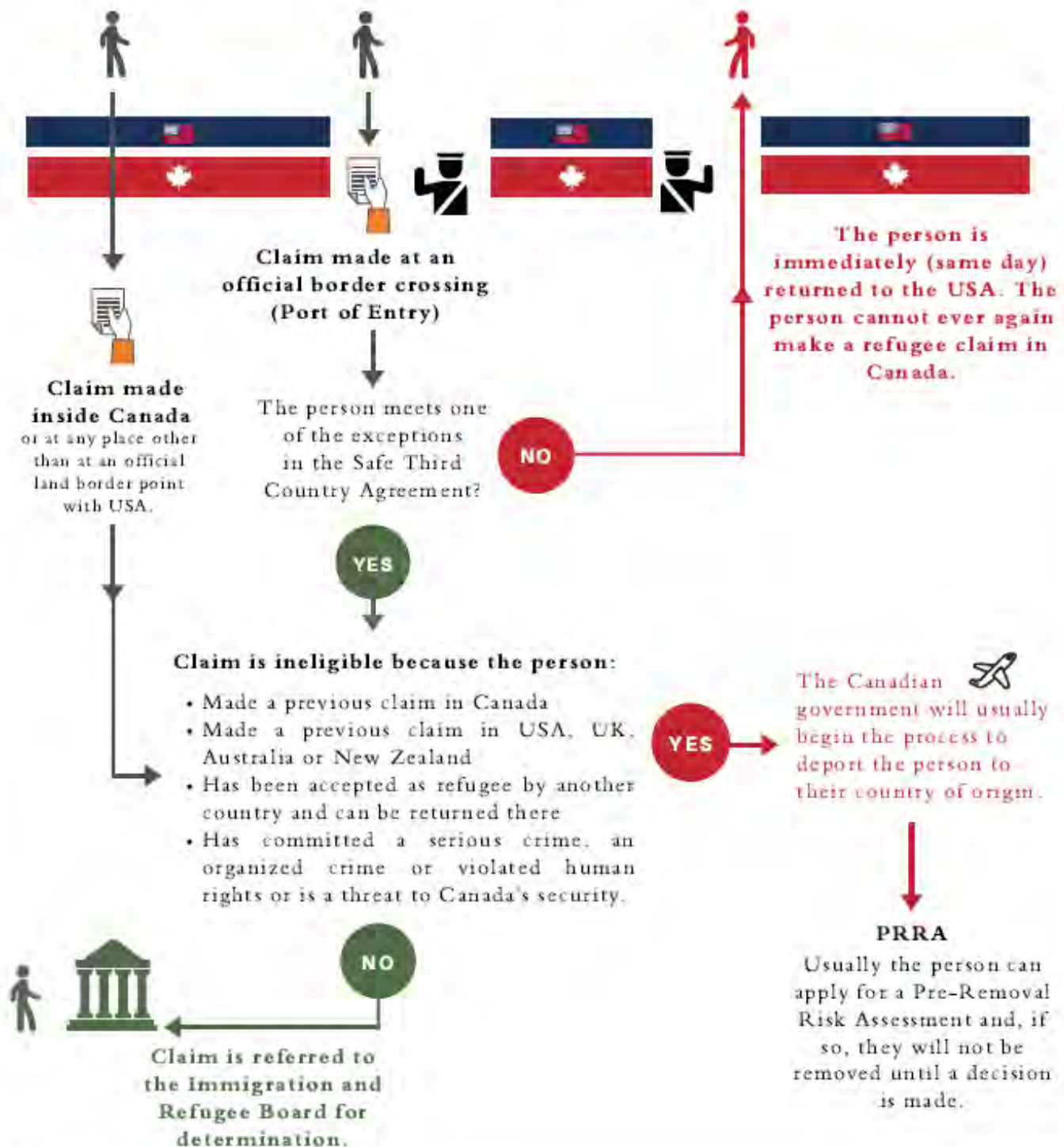
You can find the complete guide in English and Spanish version at the Canadian Council for Refugees website:

<https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/refugee-claims-from-us-info.pdf>



Canadian Council for Refugees  
Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés

## Making a refugee claim in Canada entering from the USA





## FINDING HOME IN INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

We are very pleased to announce a new pilot program that FCJ has begun in this new year along with the support of the city of Toronto. Our program "Finding Home in Inclusive Neighbourhood's (FHIN)", offers a new opportunity to refugee claimant families in order to address the housing issues and lack of space in shelters that newcomers face in Toronto.



Next Stop Canada @NextStopCanada · Feb 4

Wonderful to have @RefugeeCentre in our offices today. They do incredible work and we couldn't be more proud to be collaborating with them. 🇨🇦 🍷 #cdnimm



We aim to work with refugee houses and shelters inside the city of Toronto, so we are able to conduct regular orientation sessions that provide information on the refugee determination process, and on the option of the finding home outside of Toronto.

The goal of the program is to support refugee claimant families and individuals who want to voluntarily re-settle outside of Toronto by connecting refugee claimants with service providers outside of the city, ensuring the access of services in the resettled location, and providing free transportation to

support the move. If you are a refugee organization in or out of the city of Toronto, or a refugee claimant who is interested in this program, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Natalie Gardiner & Sebastián Garcia Arango  
Finding Home in Inclusive Neighbourhoods  
Project Coordinators  
[fhin@fcjrefugeecentre.org](mailto:fhin@fcjrefugeecentre.org)



# HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT LIVING OUTSIDE OF TORONTO?

*Come learn about our Finding Home  
in Inclusive Neighbourhoods  
initiative*

**A coordinated effort that aims to  
support families and individuals  
who want to voluntarily re-settle  
outside of Toronto.**

We connect claimants with refugee houses  
and organizations outside of the city, and  
provide free transportation to support the  
move.



**For more information contact  
Natalie G. & Sebastián G.  
FCJ Refugee Centre: 416-469-  
9754**

**[thin@fcjrefugeecentre.org](mailto:thin@fcjrefugeecentre.org)**





## FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT TRAFFICKING

Join the Legal Assistance of Windsor and FCJ Refugee Centre as we present a forum on the ongoing exploitation and trafficking of international migrants in Windsor. The more we arm ourselves with the critical knowledge of exploitation that is rife in our community, the better we can do to work towards a brighter future for all. This day will be complete with panel experts, network resources, and activities. Let's break the chains of human trafficking together.

Contact information: **Shelley Gilbert**: GilbertS@lao.on.ca or **Luis Mata**: lmata@fcjrefugeecentre.org

You can register through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/law-fcj-presents-forum-on-international-migrant-trafficking-tickets-88400966671>



## BREAKING BARRIERS: RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS TOOL KIT

The FCJ Refugee Centre recognizes that all uprooted people have strengths and capacities to contribute to the host country where their migration status is irregular. We understand and empathize with the experiences of precarious migrants who are viewed as disposable/temporary labour in Canada. The Centre strives to offer holistic support and find ways and means to help people formalize their status where possible.

Thus the intention of the Breaking Barriers tool kit is to share information with people with precarious status about access to services, what are the possibilities to regularize their immigration status, and what are their rights. Some of the content you can find:

### SECTION A: IMMIGRATION

- ⇒ How to regularize one's status
- ⇒ H&C applications
- ⇒ Legal Aid
- ⇒ Refugee Claims
- ⇒ Temporary Foreign Workers
- ⇒ Anti-human trafficking
- ⇒ Special cases of domestic violence - fearing deportation

### SECTION B: SETTLEMENT

- ⇒ Accessing services in the City of Toronto
- ⇒ Housing and Shelter
- ⇒ Health and Wellness
- ⇒ Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- ⇒ Financial and Employment Support
- ⇒ Education

You can download the complete document from our FCJ Refugee Centre website:

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/FCJ-Refugee-Centre-BREAKING-BARRIERS-Tool-kit.pdf>

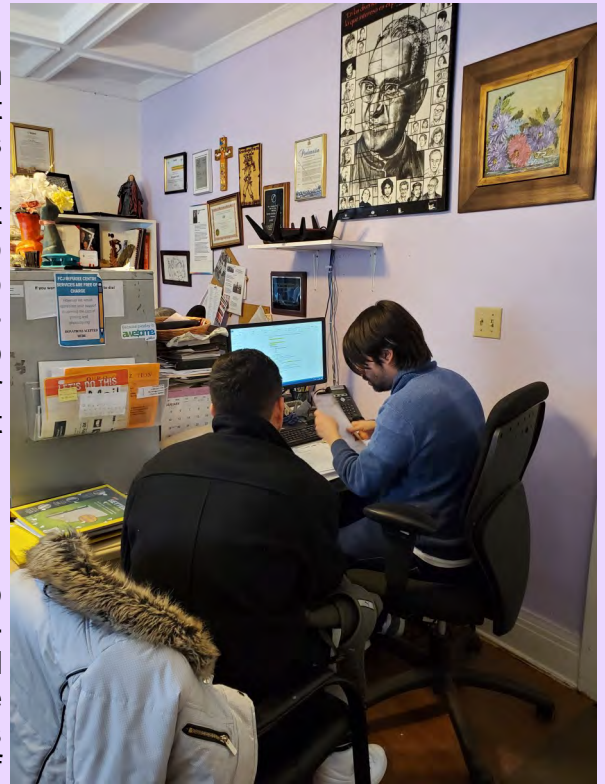


## PLACEMENT STUDENT EXPERIENCES AT FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

### EDGAR VALDERRAMA

My name is Edgar Valderrama Medina, I'm currently in the Social Service Worker Program at Seneca College. Looking for placement opportunities can be a bit of a daunting task fraught with uncertainty; especially because placement students rarely have that perfect hindsight regarding the agencies we pour so much time and effort into. Once it came to down to choosing between the FCJ and another agency, my experience so far proven that there has been no need to second guess or regret my choice. Since September 2019, I've been diligently completing my placement hours at the FCJ Refugee Centre.

The days feel short and can be exhausting. However, I know I can count on the support of everyone here to properly process and compartmentalize the difficult situations our clients on their day to day lives. As a social service worker in training, the FCJ offers an ample amount opportunities to interact and empower clients directly. As a person facing the inescapable dread of working in a system designed to squeeze every ounce of productivity and profit out me, the FCJ offers an opportunity to make sure my work actually a veritable impact on empowering someone in their day to day life.



### LENA NEDEL

My name is Lena Nedel, I am from Germany and for the past three months I have been an intern at the FCJ refugee center.

On my first day, I received a warm welcome by the team and was introduced to the way the office works. This is a generous, welcoming and happy space. It is loud, busy, productive and always full. In these whole three months, there has not once been a time when I was bored. Either I had a client for a work permit, PR or Legal Aid application, database, reception support, etc. One of the things I loved the most was the diversity and positivity at FCJ. I learned a lot about the programs but more important than that, I learned to appreciate and value my own life more. Talking to many clients and listening their stories made me realize how privileged I am and feel very glad to be here and give back to this wonderful community.

# DROP-IN DAY AT FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE



Mondays are Drop-In days between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm.

The FCJ Refugee Centre has been providing support to meet the multifaceted needs of diverse newcomer populations for 29 years.

Through our core programs we provide shelter for women and kids, immigration help and refugee support. We also run an open education project for newcomer youth, a primary care clinic and English classes.

We had a great start of the year! We are celebrating the positive decisions on some refugee claims and Humanitarian and Compassionate cases we have been supporting.

If you need help on immigration/settlement issues you are welcome to come any Monday (except long weekends) or contact us by phone or email: 416-469 9754 or [info@fcjrefugeecentre.org](mailto:info@fcjrefugeecentre.org)



## CONTACT US

208 Oakwood Ave. Toronto ON M6E 2V4  
416- 469 9754

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