

2021 WINTER NEWSLETTER

- Child Minding
- English Class
- Primary Care Clinic: Resources

- Food Drive Program
- Income Security Program
- CRS-CERLAC Virtual Student Conference

FREE VIRTUAL ENGLISH CLASS

- Beginner
- Intermediate

Every Wednesday

12:00



FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE
Walking with uprooted people

At the FCJ Refugee Centre we continue working in solidarity with precarious migrants. We understand that this is a difficult and uncertain time for many, and we're here to support and provide information to anyone who is in need. We continue walking with uprooted people and building together a borderless humanity. If you or anyone you know are in need of food security, income support or any basic need do not hesitate to contact us.



cerlac
centre for research
on latin america and
the caribbean

2021 CRS-CERLAC VIRTUAL STUDENT CONFERENCE

**RECOGNITION, AGENCY,
AND DESERVINGNESS:
(RE)FRAMING REFUGEE, BLACK, AND
INDIGENOUS MOVEMENTS**

**FEBRUARY 26
9AM-6:30PM EST
FEBRUARY 27
10AM-6PM EST**

For more information
yorkcrscaucus@gmail.com

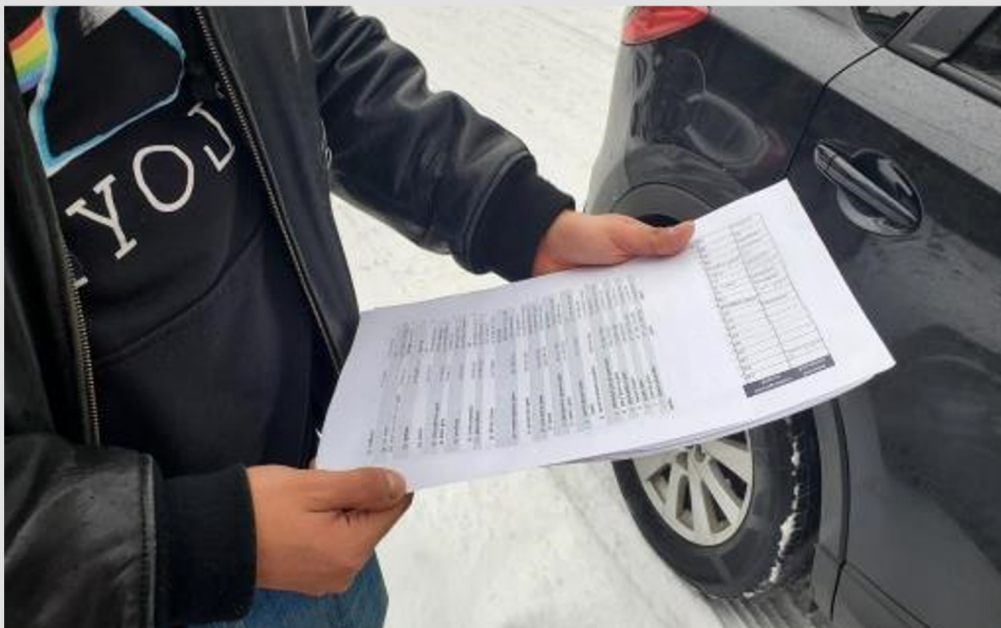
<https://crscaucus.info.yorku.ca/crs-cerlac-2021-conference/>

You are invited to attend the Annual Student Conference hosted by York's Centre for Refugee Studies(CRS) on February 26 and 27. CRS is an organized research unit dedicated to advancing the well-being of refugees and others displaced by violence, persecution, human rights abuse and environmental degradation.

Food and Income Security Program

We are pleased to let you all know that through our Food Distribution Program we were able to continue providing food hampers to many households around the City and the Greater Toronto Area.

Thanks to the City of Toronto, The Food Distribution Program is currently expanding to support more families and precarious migrants who have been affected by the second wave of Covid-19. Over the last month, our list of families participating in the program grew from 85 families from last year to around 240 houses at the moment. In addition, our routes increased from 5 to 12 in order to expand our reach and serve as many communities as possible, connecting our beautiful city during these very trying times. In tandem with food delivery, our program has also been able to support precarious migrants in a multitude of ways, from providing much needed one time rent assistance, to informing our city's most vulnerable about the COVID-19 virus and how to keep themselves and their families safe.



Getting ready to start the food delivery of the week: checking the distribution list and making sure about the routes for delivery

The Food Distribution Program has allowed our Centre to reach out to those who are uprooted within our community, supporting them as much as possible during these trying times. For this, we are deeply grateful to our volunteers and everyone involved in this program for making this possible.



So far we are covering 12 routes for the food delivery and supporting over 1000 individuals





FOOD AND INCOME SECURITY PROGRAM

CONTACT

Sebastian Garcia

segarcia@fcjrefugeecentre.org

Maria Ramirez

maria.ramirez@fcjrefugeecentre.org

416-469-9754 ext. 231&232

www.fcjrefugeecentre.org



FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE
Walking with uprooted people



United Way

Child Minding is a program funded by the City of Toronto and is looking to support children with their homework and other recreational activities after class. Kids can have support with Math, English or any homework from school. Also they can spend time learning how to make some crafts, easy recipes, music, doing some exercise with dancing class, learn how to draw with new techniques, practicing their reading and interacting with other kids, in a safe environment.

Free Child Minding Program for Kids under 18

For more information contact
Melina Castro at
melina.caroprezo@fcjrefugeecentre.org
or
Maria Ramirez Bolanos
maria.ramirez@fcjrefugeecentre.org
416-469-9754 (ext. 232)

Every Tuesday from 3:00pm to 4:30 pm
Thursday from 4:30pm to 6:00 pm.

FOLLOW US:

FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE
Walking with uprooted people

FCJ Refugee Centre

RefugeeCentre

You only need to have internet and any device (cellphone, tablet or computer) and we will provide a link where you can join the group. Kids will receive the material for the class when it is needed. For more details contact Melina Caroprezo at: melina.caroprezo@fcjrefugeecentre.org . **Registration is open.** More information in English, Spanish and Portuguese through our Podcast:

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/podcast/spanish-episode-11-cuidado-infantil/>

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/podcast/portuguese-episode-3-child-minding/>

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/podcast/episode-21-child-minding/>

BORDERLESS VOICES PODCAST

EPISODE # 21

CHILD MINDING

SUPPORTING KIDS ONLINE

BORDERLESS VOICES PODCAST

EPISODE # 3

Portuguese

AULA INFANTIL

apoiando crianças

BORDERLESS VOICES PODCAST

EPISODE # 11

CUIDADO INFANTIL

APOYO CON TAREAS Y OTRAS ACTIVIDADES

FREE ENGLISH CLASS



The English teachers have helped the ESL program evolve to a more structured and stable program.

The students need to register, sending an email to esl@fcjrefugeecentre.org using the form below, with their name, email, and which class they want to attend.

For the Beginner English Class we send to the students an email every week with the link and the material that we will use in the class. This material includes basic grammar and vocabulary. We include exercises that we do together in class, while reviewing all the material. The classes are through Zoom platform, and run on Mondays at 2:00pm (except on

long weekends).

For the Intermediate Level Conversation Group the students receive the link every week through the Zoom platform, and the classes are Thursdays at 4:00pm. This is for students who already know the basic grammar and vocabulary but want to practice English and work on their confidence to express themselves in daily life.

Sign up to learn and/or improve your English.

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/our-programs/settlement-programs/english-classes/>

esl@fcjrefugeecentre.org or 416 469 9754

PRIMARY CARE CLINIC – FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

RESOURCES FOR UNINSURED INDIVIDUALS

Our Primary Care Clinic is not attending in person for drop-ins. Patients must have a prior phone call intake assessment in order to have an in-person appointment. Services are for Primary Care Services.

NIWIC Clinic

761 Jane St

Primary Care Services - drop in

Mondays and Thursdays at 11am

Midwife - Thursdays at 11am

*Call ahead 416-760-2810

Unison Health and Community Services

Oakwood Vaughan site

501 Oakwood Ave (647) 798-0441

Health Care Services (all ages) by appointment

Wed 1pm - 8:30pm

Thursdays and Fridays 9:00 am - 12:30pm

Edge OV clinic for youth aged 13 to 29 years.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1pm – 8pm

Saturdays: 1:30pm – 4:30 pm

Women's Health

Immigrant Women's Health Centre

Call to book an appointment: 416 323 9986

Rexdale Community Health Centre

Health Care Services by appointment only

416-744-0066 ext.4

Canadian Centre for Refugees and Immigrants.

4158 Sheppard Av E

Call to book an appointment: 647-267-2176

<https://www.symingtonpharmacy.ca/walk-in-clinic>

Currently accepting for a short limited time patients without OHIP

Queen West Community Health Centre

168 Bathurst St

Call to book an appointment: 416 703 8480



COVID TEST:


If you are sick; i.e. you have a fever, dry cough, difficulty breathing, body ache, sore throat, runny nose or if you have been exposed to a known COVID case and you need to be tested, please find below the COVID-19 testing locations: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations>

You must make an appointment to be tested at all locations.

COVID TEST RESULTS

People without an Ontario Health Card Number can now access their COVID test results online using the Patient Viewer. The individual will need the testing label that should be provided to them by the COVID-19 Assessment Centre.

FOR EMERGENCIES: Individuals can go to the nearest Emergency Room where they will be attended with no charge fee.




Think you might have COVID-19 (coronavirus) ? Check out our PODCAST!




Take a self-assessment

You can [take a self-assessment](#) to help you decide if you need a test.



Find a testing location

Find a [testing location](#) and learn what to expect during your test.



Check your results

After you've been tested, [get your results online](#).



Screen before school

Answer [these questions](#) before leaving for school.

IMMIGRATION HELP AND REFUGEE SUPPORT

We continue providing immigration help and refugee support online. Some of the services in this area are:

- Immigration orientation
- PRRA
- Refugee Process
- Refugee Appeal
- Work/Student permit
- H&C
- Sponsorships

SOME OF THE RECENT NOTIFICATIONS:

REFUGEE HEARINGS

The Refugee Protection Division, RPD, had been scheduling in-person and virtual hearings. However due to the emergency situation and the Ontario's Stay at Home order, all the hearings in person are moving to remote. More details at the IRB website:

<https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/news/2021/Pages/remote-only-hearings-january-18.aspx>

TEMPORARY PATHWAY TO PR

The federal government announced a temporary pathway to permanent residency for refugee claimants working in the health-care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On December 14, 2020, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) started to accept applications for permanent residence from refugee claimants who work in Canada's health-care sector and provide direct care to patients. Applications will be accepted until August 31, 2021.

The program is open to claimants waiting for their refugee hearing or who have received a negative refugee decision. FCJ Refugee Centre put together a summary of the program in the following document online:

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/2020/12/temporary-pathway-to-permanent-residency-summary/>

The complete information is on the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/healthcare-workers-permanent-residence.html>



If someone qualifies for the IRCC program and meets Legal Aid Ontario's financial eligibility, they will pay a lawyer who accepts legal aid work to help them with their application.

Beginning January 18, 2021, clients can make applications for this legal aid certificate by calling 1-800-668-8258 from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more details about this good news visit:

<https://www.legalaid.on.ca/in-briefs/lao-to-help-healthcare-workers-apply-for-permanent-residence/>
<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/webinar-how-to-do-a-work-permit-online/>



THE WORK WE DO IS THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR PLACEMENT STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Heaven is in her last semester at Seneca College and started her placement position at FCJ Refugee Centre last fall.

My name is Heaven, and I am in my last semester at Seneca College. I am currently assisting clients with their immigration applications (started off with work/study permits and PR now learning Sponsorships). I started my placement in the fall of 2020 (Sept).

I support the FCJ Refugee Centre by making sure all clients assigned to me are helped.

In the beginning, I was nervous, I still am! But the team is great at answering all and any questions I may have! This experience has really opened my eyes to how long and difficult the application process can be for some people. And it has really shown me how important organizations like FCJ are to the community. I have learn how important it is to take your time and look over your work. I have learnt how difficult and time consuming the immigration process is. I also learnt how to properly navigate the IRCC website and to be patient with it.

I enjoy my placement because it has allowed me to meet new people and help people.

Thank you,
Heaven

Valeria Pineda is a student at Seneca College and she is part of the Immigration and Refugee Support

When I began my placement at FCJ Refugee Centre last year in February, I was working with the Anti-Human Trafficking team and would also help with the Immigration and Refugee Protection team. Starting in September for my last year at Seneca, I started working with the Immigration and Refugee Protection team. I had heard about all the amazing ways FCJ Refugee Centre helps the Immigrant and Refugee community and I was very excited to begin working with them.

I was able to work with victims and survivors of Human Trafficking and Labour Exploitation by interviewing them on a case-by-case basis, translating documents and helping with applications such as Temporary Resident Permits. I also had the opportunity to conduct focus groups for Migrant Farm Workers in Windsor and Leamington. I also participated in a forum on "International Migrant Trafficking and Exploitation".

With the Protection team, I support clients by helping them fill out application forms such as: work permits, study permits, sponsorships and permanent residence cards. This service allows clients to continue moving forward in their process of obtaining status in Canada and often it lifts some weight off their shoulders.

My experience at FCJ Refugee Centre has been very educational and fulfilling. For example, being able to help make a person's migration journey even just slightly easier and hearing how thankful they are for this help. I've also loved the opportunity to work with the Centre because they are very united. Every member of the Centre is supportive of one another, understanding and extremely hard working. I am grateful to have been able to experience being part of a Centre that is not only a group of working colleagues but a group of people that consider one another like family.

As one of the main components of our Public Education Program, we continued providing webinars on different topics for anyone who needs information. During this difficult time and responding to community needs, we developed webinars for communities and front-line workers that serve vulnerable newcomer sectors, non-status and precarious migrant populations



We also keep producing BORDERLESS VOICES PODCAST with key information for anyone who needs support. The Podcast is in English, Spanish and Portuguese.



IRB-RPD VIRTUAL READY TOUR : The IRB-RPD is resuming the Ready Tours and they are now available online.

This is a great opportunity to meet the RPD staff who will explain the refugee hearing process and how to be well prepared for that moment. The conversation includes information on the Remote Refugee Hearings: length, who can participate and technical requirements. This is a unique opportunity for refugee claimants to ask questions to the staff of the RPD.

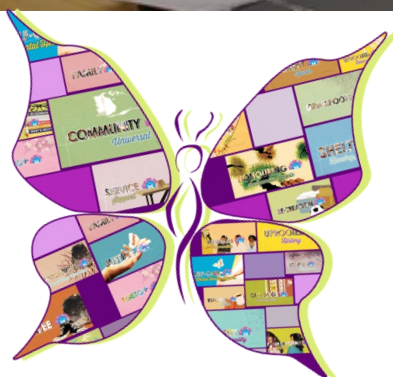


ARE YOU A REFUGEE CLAIMANT?

REGISTER HERE

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/events/virtual-ready-tour/>

VIRTUAL Ready TOUR



Connect with us



416- 469 9754



437-217 3786



647-971 2153 Migrant Workers



info@fcjrefugeecentre.org



www.fcjrefugeecentre.org



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@FCJRefugeeCentre



@RefugeeCentre