



We Are Here For You

New FCJ Refugee Centre video: learn about how FCJ Refugee Centre keeps providing services during these difficult times.

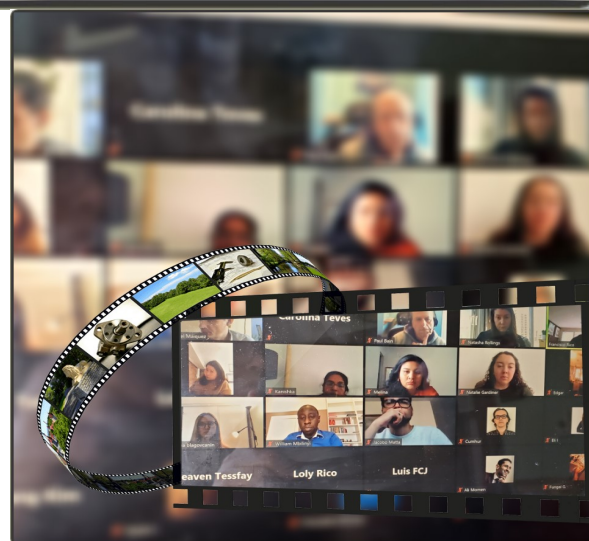


WE ARE HERE FOR YOU: VIDEO



In solidarity with all of those who have been left behind, the FCJ Refugee Centre has been determined to be an open door in a global lockdown. We have been more active than ever, and we want to share some of this with you.

We invite you to watch our recent video through our website or our YouTube Channel.



<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/2021/04/we-are-here-for-you/>

OUR DOOR REMAINS OPEN

Since the beginning of spring we have been assisting 1500 individuals and almost 500 families to receive food and emergency item kits on a weekly basis.

We deliver food and support across 12 different routes in Toronto and the GTA, including Scarborough, York, Etobicoke, and even Brampton, with 11 volunteer drivers.

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEUR SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Our Women's Entrepreneur Skills Workshops are back! Facilitated by Carolina Gajardo, the workshops aim to connect women with each other and help them develop business skills, using their cultural abilities and traditions. Join us online every other Friday at 4:30pm.

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/2021/03/womens-entrepreneur-skills-workshops/>



WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEUR SKILLS WORKSHOPS

JOIN THE WORKSHOPS ONLINE

With:
Carolina Gajardo

**Connecting women with each other
and developing business, skills, using
their cultural abilities and traditions**

Contact information:

Maria Alejandra Ramirez Bolanos
maria.ramirez@fcjrefugeecentre.org
416- 469 97 54 ext. 232



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Walking with Uprooted People

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR NON-STATUS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

For the first time ever, a welfare system is available to people without status in Toronto.

TEMPORARY COVID ISOLATION EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUND

Assisting individuals who due to a severe financial hardship are not able to access COVID testing and/or complete the required period of isolation.

This one-time assistance is available through FCJ Refugee Centre and is for individuals not eligible to receive any other financial support.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ✓ Required to isolate as they are: COVID-19 positive, required to self-isolate or awaiting a test result
- ✓ Not eligible for income assistance/COVID benefits
- ✓ Facing financial hardship that poses a direct barrier to seeking COVID testing and/or completing the isolation period

HOW TO ACCESS IT

The following information is required:

- Name of the client
- Their Phone Number
- Email address
- Language spoken

Agencies can refer their clients that meet the criteria by emailing Jessie Khout jessie.khout@fcjrefugeecentre.org with a subject line COVID IESF or by calling 416 469 9754 ext 243.

Clients can also contact Jessie directly. (Remote appointment only)



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Funded by



CHILD MINDING PROGRAM AND ENGLISH CLASSES

Child-Minding has become one of the most successful virtual programs of the FCJ Refugee Centre. We are currently working with 40 children and we are about to start a new group that we expect to have the same size. Through the program, children 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 children, in a safe environment.



Renika Maynard providing the art class

Throughout the child minding program we support both the creative skills and expressions of future generations to come by connecting to families through a 1.5 hour long virtual zoom class, in which members of our dedicated staff work to teach members of the program the basics of art (like shapes or colors), music (such as how to sing or read chords), and basics of French (colors, days, numbers, etc)



In the English Classes we are currently running 12 groups with 15 students thanks to the support of our volunteers. We offer 3 different English levels (beginners, intermediate and a conver-

sation group) to students from the city of Toronto, as well as from Brampton, Ajax, St. Catharines, St Jacobs, Sudbury, Lemington, London, etc. Our waiting list is increasing every day, so we hope to be able to offer more classes in the future. The classes are totally free and open to anyone who cannot attend other institutions.

Many of these students are mothers who are at home with their children and are looking for activities for them, as well as the opportunity to improve their English.

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:

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FCJ Refugee Centre

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FCJ YOUTH NETWORK

The FCJ Youth Network is continuing our monthly family dinner tradition, this time with a twist!

For our *Family Dinner: Snack Takeover*, we invite the newcomer youth in our community to join us with their favourite snack.

During our virtual family dinner, everyone will share with the group why their snack is the tastiest, and we will bring out our competitive sides with various games.

Interested in joining us? Reach out to us via email at fcjyn@fcjrefugeecentre.org or via WhatsApp at 437-833-2427.



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WEEK & CCR TALK TO ACTION

At the beginning of March, the FCJ Youth Network had the pleasure of hosting a “Youth Engagement Week” which featured three virtual events for migrant youth and their allies. We had a successful games night which brought out our competitive sides, a youth engagement 101 workshop, and with the support of the CCR Youth Team, we hosted our Talk To Action. Each of these events were created to leverage youth capacity to share their perspectives, identify their challenges and brainstorm how take to make positive changes in their communities.

The theme of our Talk To Action was access to services. We were so happy to have approximately 20 participants in our session and want to extend a big thank you to Maria and Dequana for the amazing job they did facilitating the discussion. Our participants identified many existing barriers which make services inaccessible to them, and identified many potential solutions.

NEW SEMESTER OF THE UPROOTED U PROGRAM

We’re so excited to announce that the second semester of Uprooted U is beginning in May. And we are thrilled to be welcoming back our amazing co-teachers, Tyler Correia and Jesse Kohut.

Held over twelve weeks, this semester will offer a weekly two hour blended course, incorporating foundational academic skill building and advanced implementation of these skills.

Throughout the course, students will be guided in developing critical thinking, writing, and reading skills, while engaging in assignments to challenge themselves and expand their horizons.

This program will also offer weekly study hall sessions, and each student who successfully completes the course will be provided with a certificate.

“A HISTORICAL MOMENT”: COVID-19 VACCINATION

Over 50 residents and staff at the FCJ Refugee Centre received their vaccines during the first vaccination day organized by the University Health Network's Social Medicine Program and the Women's College Hospital's Crossroads Clinic for Refugees. The COVID vaccination clinics successfully continued in April and May.

In addition, FCJ is supporting the vaccination of residents of Toronto without OHIP cards. The registration is online (<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/2021/05/supporting-the-vaccination-of-residents-of-toronto-without-ohip-cards/>) or by email vaccine@fcjrefugeecentre.org



COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

Residents of Toronto without OHIP cards please send the following information:

- Your complete name
- Local phone number
- Date of birth

REGISTRATION:

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/2021/05/supporting-the-vaccination-of-residents-of-toronto-without-ohip-cards/>

vaccine@fcjrefugeecentre.org

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PRIMARY CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC

The FCJ Refugee Center Primary Care Clinic and Mental Health Clinic Program has remained open during this COVID-19 pandemic, despite the rules of distancing and restrictions on public care.

To date, more than 700 medical appointments have been filled, mostly by virtual consultations, for both for recurring patients and new patients. We are pleased to witness the improved health of many patients due to the treatments and sessions provided.

Funded by Inner City Health Associates (ICHA)

The Primary Care Clinic of the FCJ Refugee Centre has changed its services due to the COVID19, please note the changes as below:

Primary Care Services (by appointment only, NO walk-ins)

At this moment we're doing phone and video call appointments only, after the 1st assessment and depending on your Health Concern the Physician will determine if you need an in person appointment.



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Contact us at
(416) 469 9754 and ask for
Elisa Ibarra - Coordinator of the Clinic
at ext.: 230 or option 6, to be screened
for eligibility and booked for an
appointment.

Please note that this is a free service for uninsured clients or for those who don't have a care provider elsewhere.

Primary Care Clinic

In the family medical part we have ensured that patients continue with medical care without interruptions, as well as with consistent medication for those in need. Our Clinic, funded by Inner City Health Associates is one of the few places in the City of Toronto that provides assistance to any uninsured person, regardless of immigration status. We have an amazing team of physicians who come to our Clinic to help our clients and community: Dr. Susan Woolhouse, Dr. Leila Makhani, Dr. Richard J. Doan, Dr. Naheed Dosani, Dr. Kate MacNaughton, Dr. Aiah Soliman, Dr. Anita Kang and Dr. Iline Guan.

IMMIGRATION HELP AND REFUGEE SUPPORT

We continued providing consistent aid in processing applications, supporting clients in making phone calls to Legal Aid, and making referrals to lawyers.

Since spring time we started to provide two virtual orientation sessions every Tuesday. The sessions are focused on the first steps of how to claim refugee protection and how to start a Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) Considerations application.



**TUESDAYS
10:30 AM**



Information Sessions

Find answers to the most common questions about:

- REFUGEE PROCESS
- H&C APPLICATIONS
- LEGAL AID

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Immigration and Refugee Support

Primary Care Clinic
Youth Network

MARTES 2:30 PM



Sesiones informativas

Encuentra respuesta a preguntas relacionadas con:

- PROCESO DE REFUGIO
- APLICACIÓN POR RAZONES HUMANITARIAS
- AYUDA LEGAL (LEGAL AID)

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Immigration and Refugee Support

Primary Care Clinic
Youth Network



REGISTER

[fcjrefugeecentre.org/
events](https://fcjrefugeecentre.org/events)



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Inscripción

[fcjrefugeecentre.org/
events](https://fcjrefugeecentre.org/events)

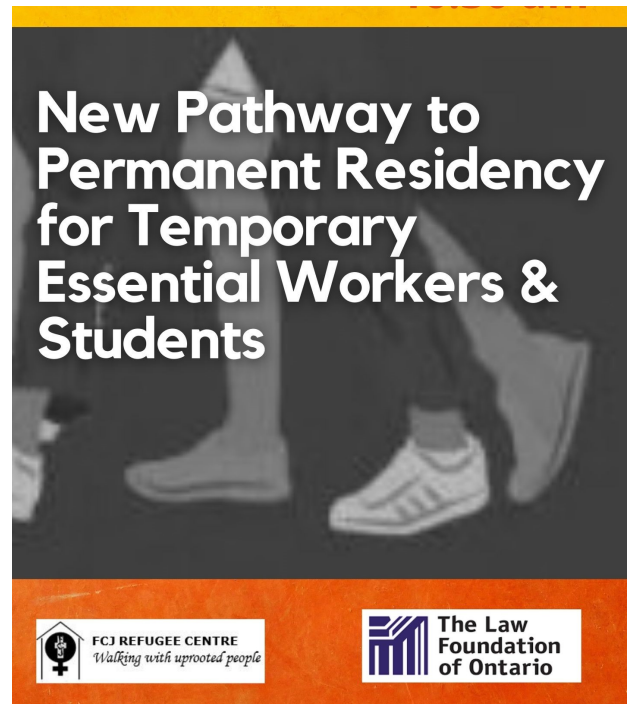


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WEBINARS AND PODCASTS

Thanks to the support of the Law Foundation we can keep providing virtual information sessions/webinars and producing our BORDERLESS VOICES PODCAST. The information is for communities and front-line workers who serve vulnerable newcomer sectors, non-status and precarious migrant populations. Some of the topics we have been facilitating through our webinars and podcast:

- New pathway to permanent residency for temporary essential workers and students
- Free professional psychological and emotional support for refugee claimants or rejected refugee claimants
- Housing Challenges During COVID-19
- Impact of COVID-19 on the refugee process
- Emergency assistance during COVID-19
- COVID-19: Workers' Rights



Other successful programs are the Virtual Ready Tours and Refugee Appeal Info sessions. The orientations are provided by officers of the IRB/RPD and RAD.

RAD INFO-SESSIONS

A FREE PROGRAM FOR REJECTED REFUGEES

This is a great opportunity to meet RAD officers who will explain the refugee appeal process step by step.

May 27th & Jun 10th at 2:30 pm
(Every Other Thursday)

The sessions will provide the Appellant with a FREE opportunity to be better prepared for the submission of their appeal before the RAD

SEE APPEAL VIRTUAL INFO-SESSION

ORIENTATION FOR REFUGEE CLAIMANTS APPEALING THEIR NEGATIVE REFUGEE APPEAL DIVISION (RAD) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE BOARD

Learn:

- What you need to do to appeal your negative decision
- The documents you need for your appeal
- What happens during an appeal

REGISTRATION

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/refugee-appeal-orientations-online/>

CONTACT:
Carolina Teves
cteves@fcjrefugeecentre.org

VIRTUAL READY TOURS

A FREE PROGRAM FOR REFUGEE CLAIMANTS.

This is a great opportunity to meet IRB/RPD officers who will explain the refugee hearing process.

May 20th & June 3rd at 1:30 pm
(Every Other Thursday)

ARE YOU A REFUGEE CLAIMANT?

JOIN ONE OF THE IRB-RPD VIRTUAL READY TOURS

Learn:

- What is a virtual refugee hearing
- How to be prepared
- What to expect
- Who participates

REGISTRATION

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

CONTACT:
Carolina Teves
cteves@fcjrefugeecentre.org

PLACEMENT STUDENTS EXPERIENCE DURING COVID-19



I started my placement at FCJ Refugee Centre in January and was so excited to be part of such an important organization in the community. I am new to Toronto but have heard about the Centre and the work that they do. I wasn't surprised that they have adapted their services to be able to work remotely through this pandemic. The overarching support that the Centre offers for refugees in Canada continues to impress me as I learn more and more about the agency.

As a placement student I worked in Settlement and Integration by supporting clients with critical applications such as study and work permits and Permanent Residence applications. I also supported the Anti-Human Trafficking team with H&C applications and most recently started teaching a beginner ESL class on Saturday mornings which has been really fun. I have expanded my knowledge about the refugee and newcomer experience and process in a short amount of time and have gained valuable skills from this work. I have enjoyed my experience and am so grateful for the support from everyone at the FCJ Centre. Coming into this experience, I was nervous because the work we are doing is so important and has a great impact on somebody's life but the team at FCJ has made this feel much less intimidating. Everyone is so passionate and knowledgeable and I always knew I could turn to somebody for help and guidance.

While I wish I could've met clients and staff in person, it has been wonderful being able to connect with so many people. I've had 20 minute conversations turn into an hour on the phone with clients just sharing their stories. I value this kind of time with clients and appreciate that they trust me and FCJ Refugee Centre to support them in meeting their needs.

Jovana Blagovcanin-

George Brown Placement Student

SUPPORTING THE VACCINATION OF RESIDENTS OF TORONTO WITHOUT OHIP CARDS

A big thank you to all the doctors, nurses and medical students from UHN, Women's College Hospital and FCJ Refugee Centre community for your hard work during the Vaccine Clinics.

**Connect with us**

416- 469 9754



437-217 3786



647-971 2153 Migrant Workers