



COUNCIL OF AGENCIES SERVING SOUTH ASIANS

# October 2020 Newsletter



COUNCIL OF AGENCIES SERVING SOUTH ASIANS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**OCTOBER 21, 2020  
6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM**

**LOCATION: ZOOM**  
(LINK WILL BE SENT TO THOSE WHO REGISTER)

- Agenda:**
- 6pm: Welcome and CASSA Business Segment
  - 6:45pm: Release of Findings from CASSA's Research on Employment Equity for South Asian Immigrant Communities in Toronto
  - 7:15pm: Panel Discussion on the Impact of COVID-19 on Employment of South Asians in Ontario
  - 8pm: End of event

Please RSVP to Aneesah Siddiqi no later than October 19th, 2020: [aneesah@cassa.on.ca](mailto:aneesah@cassa.on.ca)

### CASSA's Annual General Meeting (2020)

The focus of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on *Employment Equity* as we release the findings of our 3-year research study on Employment Equity for South Asian Immigrant Communities in Toronto. The AGM will take place on **Wednesday October 21st, 2020, 6-8pm** on Zoom.

The event will also feature a panel discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on employment for South Asians in Ontario. Please RSVP to Aneesah Siddiqi no later than **October 19th, 2020** to get access to the Zoom link:

[aneesah@cassa.on.ca](mailto:aneesah@cassa.on.ca)

# Project Updates

## **Legal Education for Refugee Women Toolkit** - Yomna Omar, *Project Coordinator*

The Legal Education for Refugee Women toolkit has launched on **September 8th, 2020**.

The toolkit is available in 4 different languages: *English, Arabic, Tamil, and Urdu*. Short infographic summaries for each of the toolkit's 11 topics are available in 8 languages: English, Arabic, Bangla, Farsi, Punjabi, Spanish, Tamil, and Urdu.

Both toolkit and infographics can be found on CASSA's Website, under current projects→ Legal Education for Refugee Women (2020) or by clicking on this link: <http://cassa.on.ca/toolkit2020/>

The infographics in the 8 different languages are also available for download from this google folder:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1HczEKfS4\\_pGJiLICcbvbOU1kOdmD89J](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1HczEKfS4_pGJiLICcbvbOU1kOdmD89J)

We urge all CASSA's members to share the toolkit content with staff, colleagues, and clients, as you see fit.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the project coordinator at [yomna@cassa.on.ca](mailto:yomna@cassa.on.ca).

## **Annual General Meeting 2020** - Aneesah Siddiqi, *Social Planning Coordinator*

CASSA's Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday October 21st, 2020, 6-8pm on Zoom. The focus of the AGM will be on Employment Equity as we release the findings of our 3-year research study on Employment Equity for South Asian Immigrant Communities in Toronto.

The event will also feature a panel discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on employment for South Asians in Ontario. Please RSVP to Aneesah Siddiqi no later than **October 19th, 2020** to get access to the Zoom link: [aneesah@cassa.on.ca](mailto:aneesah@cassa.on.ca).

## **COVID-19 Helpline for South Asians** - Nikhita Dogra, *Project Coordinator*

This Covid-19 Helpline is funded by the Government of Canada and managed by the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians in partnership with the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario, Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action, Bangladeshi Canadian Community Services, South Asian Women's Rights Organization, and Punjabi Community Health Services.

The Helpline will provide information about health & safety during COVID-19, details on the reopening process, government benefits, and support services available to communities in English, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Bangla and Punjabi. All recorded information is available 24/7

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The Helpline went LIVE in early September and is accessible at: [647-846-2233](tel:647-846-2233)

## COVID-19 Helpline for South Asians - Nikhita Dogra, Project Coordinator

This Covid-19 Helpline is funded by the Government of Canada and managed by the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians in partnership with the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario, Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action, Bangladeshi Canadian Community Services, South Asian Women's Rights Organization, and Punjabi Community Health Services.

The Helpline will provide information about health & safety during COVID-19, details on the reopening process, government benefits, and support services available to communities in English, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Bangla and Punjabi. All recorded information is available 24/7 and live Intake Specialists are available on a set schedule every week.

The Helpline is accessible at: [647-846-2233](tel:647-846-2233)



Funded by: Canada <sup>Int'l</sup> United Way Greater Toronto

# COVID-19 HELPLINE FOR SOUTH ASIANS IN THE GTA

647-846-2233

TOLL FREE # FOR OUT OF GTA CALLERS: 1-866-300-3454

INFORMATION ON COVID-19: HEALTH & SAFETY, GOVERNMENT BENEFITS, SUPPORT SERVICES, RE-OPENING PROTOCOLS, AND FOOD SECURITY

RECORDED INFORMATION & LIVE INTAKE SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE IN: ENGLISH, URDU, HINDI, TAMIL, PUNJABI, AND BANGLA

Logos: CASSA, SATCO, BCS, TAMIL CONNECTION, pchs, South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario



অর্থসহায়তা: Canada <sup>Int'l</sup> United Way Greater Toronto

# গ্রেটার টরন্টোতে বসবাসরত দক্ষিণ এশিয়ানদের জন্য কোভিড-১৯ হেল্পলাইন

647-846-2233

টরন্টোর বাইরে থেকে কল করার টোল ফ্রী নম্বর: 1-866-300-3454

কোভিড-১৯ এর তথ্য, স্বাস্থ্য এবং সুরক্ষা, সরকারী উপকার বা সুবিধা, সাপোর্ট সার্ভিস, পুনরায় খোলার নিয়মাদি, এবং খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা

রেকর্ড করা তথ্য এবং ইনটেক বিশেষজ্ঞদের সাথে কথা বলা: ইংরাজী, উর্দু, হিন্দি, তামিল, পাঞ্জাবি, এবং বাংলা

Logos: CASSA, SATCO, BCS, TAMIL CONNECTION, pchs, South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario

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ரொறொன்ரோ பெரும்பாகத்  
தெற்காசியர்களுக்கான  
கோவிட் - 19 (COVID-19)  
தொலைபேசி உதவித்  
தொடர்பு

647-846-2233

ரொறொன்ரோ பெரும்பாகத்துக்கு வெளியிலிருந்து  
அழைப்பவர்களுக்கான கட்டணமற்ற தொலைபேசி  
எண்: 1-866-300-3454

கோவிட் - 19 பற்றிய தகவல்கள்: சுகாதாரமும்  
பாதுகாப்பும், அரசாங்கத்தினால்  
வழங்கப்படும் உதவிகள், ஆதரவுச்  
சேவைகள், மீளத் திறப்புக்கான  
நடைமுறைகள், உணவுப் பாதுகாப்பு

பதிவு செய்யப்பட்ட  
தகவல்களையும் மற்றும்  
நிபுணர்களிடமிருந்து  
தகவல்களை நேரடியாகவும்  
ஆங்கிலம், உருது, இந்தி, தமிழ்,  
பஞ்சாபி, வங்காளம் ஆகிய  
மொழிகளில்  
பெற்றுக்கொள்ளலாம்.



جی ٹی اے میں رہنے والے  
جنوبی ایشیائی افراد کے  
لئے ہیلپ لائن

647-846-2233

جی ٹی اے سے باہر رہنے والے کالرز کے لیے ٹول - فری نمبر:  
1-866-300-3454

کووڈ 19 پر معلومات:  
صحت اور حفاظت، حکومتی فوائد اور خدمات،  
دوبارہ کھولنے کے عمل سے متعلق قواعد، اور  
کھانے کی حفاظت

ریکارڈ شدہ معلومات اور براہ راست  
دستیاب ماہرین:  
انگریزی، اردو، ہندی، تامل، پنجابی، اور  
بنگلہ



ਜੀ.ਟੀ.ਏ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਊਥ  
ਏਸ਼ੀਅਨਾਂ ਲਈ  
ਕੋਵਿਡ-19 ਹੈਲਪਲਾਈਨ

647-846-2233

ਜੀ.ਟੀ.ਏ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਰਹਿ ਰਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਟੋਲ-ਫ੍ਰੀ ਨੰਬਰ: 1-866-300-3454

ਕੋਵਿਡ-19 ਥਾਂ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ:  
ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ, ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਬੈਨੀਫਿਟ, ਸਪੋਰਟ  
ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ, ਮੁੜ ਖੁੱਲਣ ਦੇ ਅਸੂਲ, ਅਤੇ ਫੂਡ ਸਕਿਊਰਿਟੀ

ਵਿਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੋਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਲਾਈਵ  
ਇਨਟੈਕ ਸਪੋਸ਼ਿਸਟ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ  
ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹਨ:  
ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ, ਉਰਦੂ, ਹਿੰਦੀ, ਤਾਮਿਲ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, ਅਤੇ  
ਬੰਗਲਾ



Email [nikhita@cassa.on.ca](mailto:nikhita@cassa.on.ca) for  
more information.

New CASSA Staff

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Cynthia Saxena is a graduate of the University of Toronto where she majored in Political Science and Equity Studies. Cynthia has worked as a Junior Professional Consultant at UNICEF's Regional Office in Bangkok where she was part of the Education team and worked on the Girl's Education Initiative to ensure every girl learns and thrives. She has also worked at UNESCO in New Delhi in the education team during the COVID-lockdown in India where she created a teacher training course to help them manage students' mental health. She has also interned at an NGO in India, worked in Public Affairs at the Ontario Legislative Building, and in marketing outreach with a renowned Author.



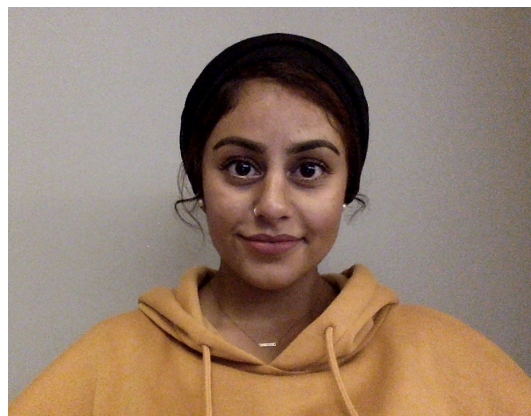
#### **Shazia Khalid - Intake Specialist/Translator**

Shazia has been working as a social worker and freelance translator for the last 16 years. She has hands-on experience of handling all interpretation and translation assignments for various Canadian media outlets and community organizations. She has been an active volunteer for newcomers and settlement agencies. Currently, she is working with the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA), an umbrella organization of agencies, groups, and individuals that provide services to the South Asian Community.

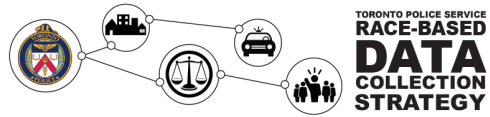


#### **Eman Zahid - Muslim Community Outreach Coordinator**

Eman is a student at the University of Toronto completing an Honors Bachelor of Arts in English and Women and Gender Studies. She is passionate about implementing her knowledge of social justice and advocacy to create effective change for marginalized communities in Canada. As the Muslim Community Outreach Coordinator, Eman is responsible for organizing education system related sessions to increase public awareness about racial inequality in the Muslim community. Eman is an avid reader and meme connoisseur.



# Opportunities



## COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL RECRUITMENT

The Race-Based Data Collection Community Advisory Panel (CAP) is a volunteer grouping that will comprise 12 citizens of Toronto who will advise the Toronto Police Service (TPS) on the implementation of their new race-based data strategy.

### Composition

It will have strong representation from Toronto's Black, racialized, and Indigenous communities and include individuals who can provide complementary perspectives (academic, professional, lived experience) on the implementation of the strategy; specifically, the collection, analysis and oversight of this data. We welcome applications from diverse 2SLGBTQ+, youth, newcomers, multi-faith individuals.

### CAP Expectation

- The CAP meets 4 times yearly
- The CAP members are expected to invest approximately 10 to 15 hours quarterly
- An honourarium will be provided for your time

Applications are due by October 30, 2020

ACCESS THE APPLICATION FORM BY CLICKING HERE:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPSCAP>

For more information, please contact Ty Smith  
 Ty.Smith@torontopolice.on.ca pr 437-688-1607

## Toronto Police Service Race-Based Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Recruitment

The Equity, Inclusion and Human Right Unit is pleased to share with you and your community members an opportunity to join our **Community Advisory Panel (CAP)** for the TPS's Race-Based Data Collection Strategy.

You will be required to submit your résumé or Curriculum Vitae as part of the process.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPSCAP>



### Employment Opportunity

<b>Job Title:</b> Case Manager Early Psychosis Intervention	<b>Date Posted:</b> September 24, 2020	<b>Report to:</b> Supervisor – Mental Health Program
<b>Job Posting #</b> EPI-CM-015/2020-21	<b>Date Closed:</b> October 7, 2020	

**About Organization:**  
 Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS) is a pioneer community based not for profit, charitable organization. PCHS has been fulfilling the needs of the diverse populations for 30 years by providing services in the areas of addictions, mental health, geriatric, health promotion, domestic violence, parenting, settlement and services for women, children and youth. PCHS has several research studies to its credit and recognized as an innovative organization for community development and its Integrated Holistic Service Delivery Model. PCHS is accredited. PCHS is a 2SLGBTQ sensitive organization.

**About Position:**  
 This position will work in partnership with CAMH, CMHA Peel, and SHIP to build on the existing Early Psychosis Intervention program. This program will increase the system's ability to intervene through timely, high quality, integrated, person directed, culturally appropriate counseling and supportive services. Case Manager will provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to individuals and their significant others. Services include individualized assessment, pertaining to the provision of specialized treatment and support services to clients experiencing a first episode in psychosis, their families and/or their significant others.

## Job Posting: Case Manager- Early Psychosis Intervention

Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS) is a pioneer community based not for profit, charitable organization looking to hire a Case Manager in Early Psychosis Intervention. Click [here](#) to view the full posting. Deadline to apply is **October 7, 2020**.

**Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Program (SIP)**

The purpose of the SIP is to support the implementation of projects to help communities with a demonstrated history of being victimized by hate-motivated crime through the enhancement of their security infrastructure. Public Safety Canada receives applications from December 1st to January 31st and from June 1st to July 31st of each year.

**Eligible applicants**  
 Funding is available to not-for-profit organizations that are at risk of being victimized by hate-motivated crime. It includes private educational institutions, and community centers.  
 Crown Corporations, publicly funded institutions, for-profit organizations and individuals are not eligible for funding.

**Funding criteria**  
 Approved projects may receive up to 50% of total project costs to a maximum Public Safety Canada contribution of \$100,000 per project. Proposals may be approved in their entirety or in part.  
 Applicants must demonstrate that they are able to provide at least 50% of the total project costs. These contributions must be from non-governmental sources and must be confirmed at the time the application is submitted.

## Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Program (SIP) Call for Applications.

The SIP is designed to help communities at risk of hate-motivated crime improve their security infrastructure, which will help make Canada safer for all Canadians. Approved projects may receive up to 50 per cent of total project costs, to a maximum of \$100,000 per project. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## Serve on the Board of Directors - Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW)

This is a Call for Nominations to serve on the Board of Directors

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for more information on the position.

Deadline to Apply: **Oct. 13, 2020.**

[Click here for the application >>](#)

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## Upcoming Events



### South Asian Disproportionally Affected by COVID-19 Webinar

COVID-19 has differently affected racialized and low-income people in Toronto at far higher rates than the general population.

The purpose of the webinar is to engage with local South Asian community groups to better understand risks and the concerns that they face and can work together to address those concerns.

[Register here>>](#)

## Messages from Member Agencies

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Computer Workshops

**OCTOBER 2020 ONLINE COMPUTER WORKSHOPS**

- Intro to PowerPoint**  
Friday, October 2 from 10am-11:30am
- Intro to Excel**  
Tuesday, October 6 from 10am-11:30am
- Intro to Excel 2**  
Friday, October 9 from 10am-11:30am
- Using Zoom for Virtual Interviews**  
Tuesday, October 13 from 10am-11:00am
- Applying for Jobs Online**  
Friday, October 16 from 10am-11am
- Using Gmail Efficiently for your Job Search**  
Friday, October 23 from 10am-11am
- Sage 50 Training/Certification:**  
Do you have a background in accounting and bookkeeping? You can complete online training and earn your certificate in Sage 50 for free (a value of \$439)

To register for any of these computer services, email [kary@timeschange.org](mailto:kary@timeschange.org)



Online workshops exploring Powerpoint, Excel, Virtual Interviews, Online Job Applications and other important computer tools.

Please email [kary@timeschange.org](mailto:kary@timeschange.org) or call 416-927-1900 (ext.0) to register.

**3D Workshop in Dance, Drama & Dimension**

3-D will be a workspace targeted for women and children in the South Asian community, to bring opportunities through learning and gaining knowledge in the disciplines of dance, drama, and dimensions of communication (ie. speech). his platform will highlight a workshop every month, allowing engagement and promoting self development. We will serve as a comprehensive source for help and support in learning dance, stage performances (for newbies and experienced), and acquiring improvisation skills through speech and drama.

**\$5 Registration - Contact:**  
[join3dworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:join3dworkshop@gmail.com)

OUR TEAM IS EXCITED TO LAUNCH...

## 3D Workshop

Dance • Drama • Dimension

**What is 3D?**  
3-D is a workshop open to females in the South Asian community. Our focus is to enhance growth in the Arts, bringing opportunities and learning to those passionate in dance, drama and dimensions of communication.

We are excited to have **Guest Speaker Sutharshi Ignatious**, Founder of Beyond Theatre Foundation host our first workshop! Sutharshi is an activist/actress/choreographer and is excited to share her journey in the world of Arts.

**Join us at our first online workshop!**

@join3dworkshop

Supported by: YORK REGION ARTS COUNCIL

**OCTOBER 4TH, 2020**  
**11:00AM TO 1:00PM EST**

**\$5.00 REGISTRATION**

Contact us  
[join3dworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:join3dworkshop@gmail.com)





### **START-WATCH Survey**

We encourage you to watch this START-WATCH explanatory video and please fill-in the short survey here: <https://www.jotform.com/form/201517801809251>. Once you submit the survey, you will be eligible to enter a **weekly draw for a CAD\$35 Walmart gift card.**

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**Dress Up Your Life for Breast Cancer Research this October.**

**Dress for the Cause / Rose pour la Cause**

Visit [dressforthecause.ca](http://dressforthecause.ca)

PRESENTED BY cleo

**WORKER'S RIGHTS IN THE PANDEMIC**

Learn about your rights for sick days, CERB, Insurance and more!

**OCT 6 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**

Guest Speakers:  
David Aseerwatham  
Milan Naderajah

For more information on how to join please contact:  
416-261-4901 ext. 3229  
sshanmug@polycultural.org  
Virtual Zoom meeting

Must pre-register to join

**POLY CULTURAL**  
HUMANITY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Focuses: Immigrants, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada. Headlines: Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada, #CitizenshipCanada

**Workers Action Centre**

Defending Our Rights Workshop

**Time: Oct 6, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern**

Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83130526868>

Meeting ID: 831 3052 6868

**Dial by your location**

[+1 647 558 0588](tel:+16475580588) **Canada**

Epilepsy Toronto offers interactive online workshops that dispel myths and misconceptions about epilepsy.

**EPILEPSY Toronto**  
See the Person

**Public Education Online Workshops**

Covering topics such as:

- Epilepsy 101
- Seizure First Aid
- Epilepsy Toronto Services

Hear client stories of their lived experience with epilepsy.

For further information, please e-mail [leah@epilepsytoronto.org](mailto:leah@epilepsytoronto.org)

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misconceptions about epilepsy.

Topics include: *Epilepsy 101*, *Seizure First Aid* and *Epilepsy Toronto Services*. Hear client stories of their lived experience with epilepsy.

For further information, please email [leah@epilepsytoronto.org](mailto:leah@epilepsytoronto.org)

## Important News

### Suspect wanted following hate-motivated attacks in Etobicoke targeting South Asian residents

Toronto police are searching for a suspect who appears to be targeting and assaulting members of Etobicoke's South Asian community over the last two weeks. The suspect allegedly shouted racially-charged comments toward a 32-year-old man while holding an object in his hand. Police said the victim tried to call police, but the suspect took his phone and threw it to the ground. Officers from Toronto police's hate crime unit are investigating the four separate incidents and say all the victims are of South Asian descent.

### Some internationally trained doctors can apply for 30-day Ontario licence to fight COVID-19

International medical graduates who've passed their exams to practise in Canada, or have graduated from school in the past two years, can now apply for a supervised 30-day medical licence in Ontario to help fight COVID-19.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Response - Income Support and Benefits for People With Precarious Immigration Status

On March 18, the federal government announced the following additional support for families: Enhanced Canada Child Benefit will increase maximum annual payment by \$300 per child for the 2019-20 benefit year.

For individuals who are not eligible for any of the federal COVID-19 related benefits, they should consider applying for Ontario Works. Learn more about Income Supports for immigrant individuals!

### Free virtual programs offered for South Asian seniors in Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga

The #MonsterArts for Youth (MAY) seniors program, which provides South Asian art workshops to seniors in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), including Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga, is

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The program is offered by MONSTRAKTIV, a not-for-profit arts organization in Mississauga that also produces the #BollywoodMonster Mashup festival. The focus of the MAY seniors program is to address community issues, as organizers say there are very few cultural and language-specific programs available to South Asian seniors. Click [here](#) for program details.



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