COUNCIL OF AGENCIES SERVING SOUTH ASIANS

The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians'

February 2022 Newsletter

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Project Updates

South Asian Vaccine Engagement Collaborative -

Wardah Malik, *Vaccine Engagement Coordinator*

This month SAVEC is launching an improved and updated website. The new page streamlines information sharing and makes audio and video content readily available without having to navigate the entire website. We took all viewer concerns into account and are excited to share what the VET has to offer, including: new infographics on booster vaccines, our podcast series which features health experts across Canada, and a new community involvement campaign with colorful and powerful illustrations. The launch is set for February 15, 2022 so please follow cassa.on.ca/vaccine closely.

Hate Crime Reporting -

Lakhdeep Dhaliwal, *Hate Crime Reporting Project Coordinator*

The Hate Crime Reporting project moved into police consultation phase and now has begun to share the data with police services while exploring next steps in terms of training and capacity building. We welcome our news member to the team, Maiura Muralitharan joins us with a wealth of knowledge and experience to help further this project into actionable benchmarks. Police service meetings wrap up in March 2022, the project will then proceed into its culmination phase. For further information please contact Lakhdeep Dhaliwal - program coordinator. lakhdeep@cassa.on.ca

1. The Equity in Education project has completed recruiting for Volunteer Cohort 2, and have been onboarding our new volunteers. Volunteers have the following trainings coming up:

- **Introduction to Advocacy:** a workshop designed to familiarize student & parent volunteers with the Ontario school board systems, governance structures, and bureaucratic methods of making change in the education system.
- **Anti-Islamophobia 1-on-1 Workshop:** a workshop done by CCMW's Dare To Be Aware program, to educate students on how Islamophobia presents itself in Canadian society. The workshop examines Islamophobia through an intersectional and gendered lens. (February 1st, 2022
- **Leadership & Action Planning Workshop:** Harmony Movement's action-planning workshop is designed to develop advocacy and leadership skills, while teaching students how to form concrete action plans to establish change in the community.

2. The Equity in Education project is looking for Muslim parents of high school students to participate in advocacy work with the TDSB and PDSB, and receive leadership and community organizing trainings. Volunteers will receive a $100 honorarium for their participation. If you are interested in influencing positive change for the Muslim community in the education system, please reach out to eman@cassa.on.ca

3. The Peel District School Board is currently working on an Anti-Islamophobia strategy to implement board-wide, including mandatory Islamophobia training, parent & community involvement, and enhanced accountability frameworks. CASSA is working with Peel Parent Involvement Committee and the Peel Board, as well as various community organizations, to comprise a comprehensive strategy that will make the education system more inclusive for Muslim students and parents.

(1) New Podcast Episode:

Title: New podcast episode! Part 31: In conversation with Eman Zahid on the Coalition for Racial Equity in Education

Description: In this episode, CASSA's Anti-Hate Initiatives Project Manager, Maryam, talks to Eman Zahid, CASSA's Muslim Outreach Coordinator, about the Coalition for Racial Equity in Education. The Coalition is a collaborative project between CASSA, Urban Alliance on Race Relations, Tamil Canadian Civic Centre for Action, Chinese Canadian National Council of Toronto, and Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators. If you want to get involved as a high school student or parent, please contact eman@cassa.on.ca

(2) Coming Soon! #EradicateHate Toolkit launching on February 10th!

Project Coordinator

The GBV research study is now in its second phase. Data clean up is almost complete. The team is also working on a literature review related to GBV, the South Asian community in the west, potentially during a pandemic. We hope these findings will substantiate or supplement our own findings. The team welomes suggestions on any findings or studies that pertain to the above-mentioned topics. More information on the project may be found here: http://cassa.on.ca/gbvstudy/ For more information, contact dinoba@cassa.on.ca

Messages from Members

Gender-based Violence and Systemic Barriers Faced by Community

SAWRO is organizing a community discussion to explore the unique challenges and barriers faced by immigrant women to accessing gender equity. This discussion will explore the experiences of GBV as faced by precariously employed South Asian women in their workplaces, communities, and by policies, and the particular challenges faced by women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Community women will also present their recommendations to address GBV

Register here.

Wednesdays Feb. 16,23,March 2,9 &16.

COMMUNITY+Connects with Workman Arts invites you to register for Visual Story Telling Workshop! Before people learned how to write, they would tell each other stories. We, ourselves, are a collection of stories through our experiences, cultures, and ancestry. This course teaches you how to story tell in your art through world building, character design, story boarding, and creative brainstorming. Students will learn how to incorporate inspirations from mythology and their ancestry, and learn the basic principles of art in order to create their own visual story.

About the instructor:

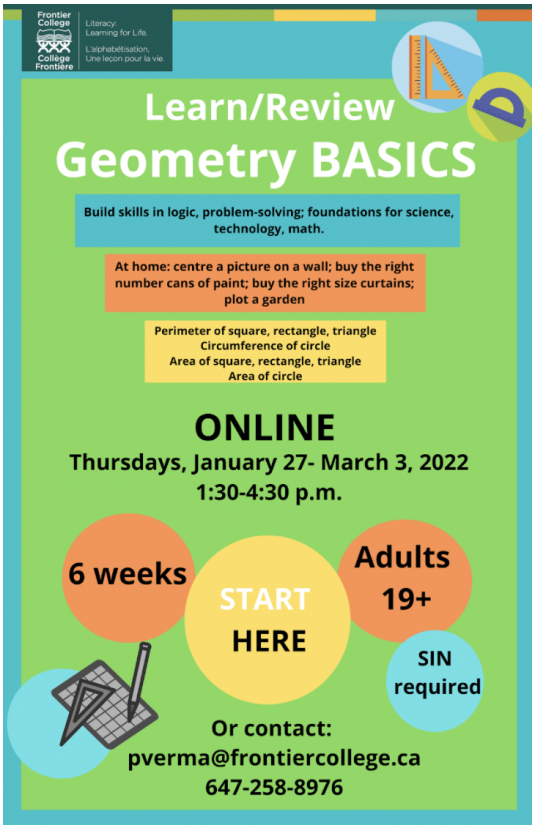
Serene is a Chinese-Canadian creative and an expert daydreamer, who utilizes her passion in storytelling to produce digital and traditional imagery that provokes child-like wonder and captures nostalgia. Her work draws on her interest in mental health, East Asian history and mythology, and all things fantasy. Serene has worked as a freelance traditional painter and digital illustrator for 6 years, supporting other independent musicians, writers, and artists. She strives to create awareness in the beauty of Asian cultures and otherwise marginalized communities. Alongside her art, Serene's versatile background includes her highly-proficient academic education in business and years of entrepreneurial experience exemplified in three of her start-up businesses.

Visual Storytelling Workshop: Online Drawing for Youth - *Scarborough Arts*

Dream up exciting new worlds ☀️🐊🔮 & characters through the power of visual storyboarding and creative brainstorming. Scarborough Arts' newest **FREE** program with Serene Illustrations and Workman Arts is for youth ages 13-18 ready to bring their visual stories to life 💫 Register at bit.ly/scarbsatellite

#NoVacancy Window Installation - *SR Beauty Saloon*

Scarborough Arts has teamed up with the Tamil Archive Project to showcase art by Scarborough-based Tamil artists in the window of the SR Beauty Saloon in Golden Mile. The works of Scarborough artists Dhiviya Prabaharan Shanmugadevi and Vijay Saravanamuthu Two Seedlings are up now until the end of February. Learn more at scarborougharts.com/novacancy



Geometry Basics Course - *Frontier College*

Join us to build skills in logic, problem-solving, foundations for science, technology and math. For Adults 19+, a 6-week basic geometry course.

Geometry Basics Online Classes start on **January 27- March 03, 2022.**

Interested candidates: CLICK HERE

series with artist and researcher Sarah Waithe . This FREE program runs Tuesdays from February 15 to March 15. Sign up and learn more at bit.ly/scarbsatellite

Opportunities

HALCO employment opportunities

Community legal clinic and Legal Aid Ontario postings

Community legal clinic and Legal Aid Ontario employment postings can generally be found on the Legal Aid Ontario website: https://www.legalaid.on.ca/more/corporate/careers/

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (Part-Time, One-Year Contract)

The HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO), a community legal clinic serving the needs of people living with HIV in Ontario, is seeking an administrative assistant for a part-time (one-year) contract at three days per week (seven hours per day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday). The successful applicant will be expected to work in the office.

We are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. We encourage applications from people living with HIV as well as individuals from HIV-affected communities and other equity-seeking groups. Accommodation will be provided during the hiring process and all information will be treated confidentially.

Responsibilities

- Greet clients and community members at the office
- Answer, screen and forward phone calls, and take phone messages
- Update calendars, book appointments and coordinate meetings/events
- Manage client filing system, including photocopying, scanning and faxing
- Maintain office supplies
- Maintain clinic membership records
- Input website content
- Other related administrative tasks as required

Job Posting: Administrative Assistant - *HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario*

The HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO), a community legal clinic serving the needs of people living with HIV in Ontario, is seeking an administrative assistant for a part-time (one-year) contract at three days per week (seven hours per day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday). The successful applicant will be expected to work in the office. More information here.

Compensation: $23.00 per hour, employer supported RRSP (5.5% of annual salary) and benefits

Application Deadline: February 14, 2022

Please submit a cover letter, résumé and references to HALCO Hiring Committee, at secordam@lao.on.ca.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE VACANCIES

Ontario Court of Justice

At the request of the Attorney General and in accordance with the *Justices of the Peace Act*, the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee invites applications for vacant Justice of the Peace positions in the Province of Ontario in the following court locations:

Barrie (Bilingual-1)	**Newmarket (1)**	**Sioux Lookout (1)**
Brampton (5)	**Orangeville (1)**	**Sioux Lookout (Indigenous-1)**
Brampton (Bilingual-1)	**Ottawa (1)**	**St. Catharines (1)**
Chatham (1)	**Ottawa (Indigenous-1)**	**St. Catharines (Indigenous-1)**
Cochrane (Bilingual-1)	**Owen Sound (1)**	**Sudbury (Bilingual-1)**
Durham (2)	**Owen Sound (Indigenous-1)**	**Toronto (8)**
Hamilton (2)	**Parry Sound (1)**	**Toronto (Bilingual-2)**
Kingston (Bilingual-1)	**Pembroke (1)**	**Welland (Bilingual-1)**
Kitchener (1)	**Pembroke (Bilingual an asset-1)**	**Windsor (2)**
Kitchener (Indigenous-1)		

A Justice of the Peace is an independent judicial officer who presides in court over various proceedings under federal and provincial statutes. This is a full-time appointment remunerated at $157,164 per annum with travel within the province required.

Qualifications:

Applicants must meet minimum qualifications as set out in the *Justices of the Peace Act*. Candidates must have at least 10 years of paid or volunteer experience, and:

- have a university degree;
- have a diploma or advanced diploma granted by a college of applied arts and technology or a community college following completion of a program that is the equivalent in class hours of a full-time program or of at least four academic semesters;
- have a degree from an institution, other than a university, that is authorized to grant the degree; or
- meet the educational equivalency requirement set out in s.2(1.3) of the *Justices of the Peace Act*

More information about the qualifications to become a justice of the peace can be found here.

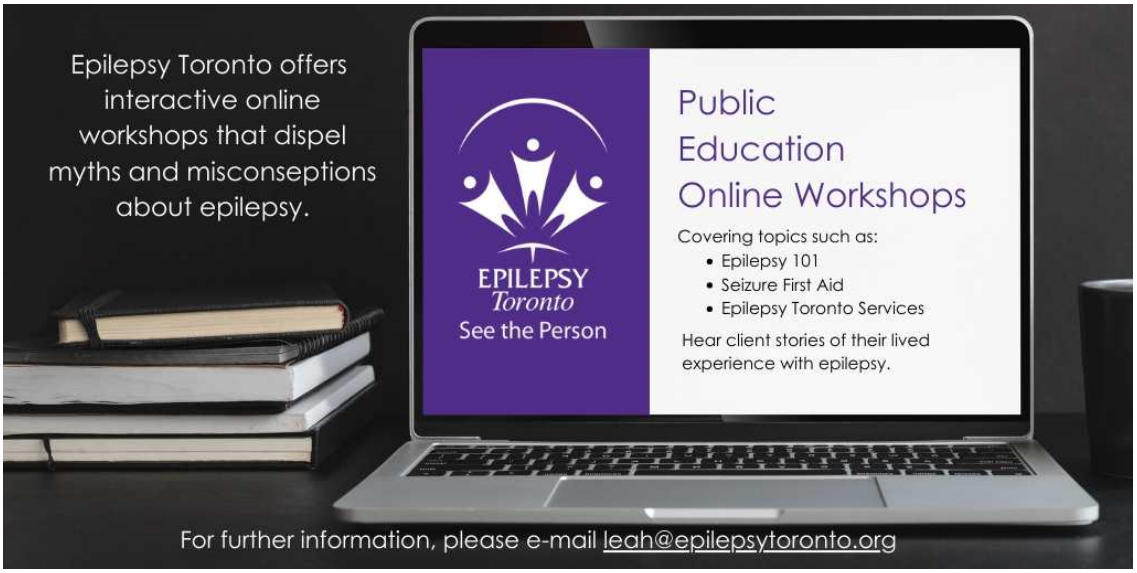
Qualifications:

Applicants must meet minimum qualifications as set out in the *Justices of the Peace Act*, and the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee invites applications for vacant Justice of the Peace positions in the Province of Ontario in the following court locations:

Applicants must meet minimum qualifications as set out in the *Justices of the Peace Act*. Candidates must have at least 10 years of paid or volunteer experience, and:

- have a university degree;
- have a diploma or advanced diploma granted by a college of applied arts and technology or a community college following completion of a program that is the equivalent in class hours of a full-time program or of at least four academic semesters;
- have a degree from an institution, other than a university, that is authorized to grant the degree; or
- meet the educational equivalency requirement set out in s.2(1.3) of the *Justices of the Peace Act*

More information here.



Combatting Epilepsy Misconceptions - *Epilepsy Toronto*

organizations, in 9 languages. It's the first in a series, addressing questions about the vaccine.

Epilepsy Toronto is offering interactive online workshops that dispel myths and 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

Important News

Ontario's top doctor stresses COVID vaccines for children 5 to 11 are safe, effective

Ontario's top doctor is stressing that COVID-19 vaccines for children aged five to 11 are safe and effective against the virus.

"I want to be clear that the pediatric Pfizer vaccine for children five to 11 is safe, effective, and provides strong protection against COVID-19 and variants," Moore's statement said. Speaking at a Toronto vaccine clinic, he encouraged parents to quickly send back consent forms for in-school vaccination clinics so Ontario can quickly get more kids protected against the virus.

Read more

Internationally educated nurses to be deployed to Ontario hospitals and long-term care homes

Ontario will be relying on internationally educated nurses to help fill staff shortages in hospitals and other health care settings. Health Minister Christine Elliott made the announcement at a press briefing on health capacity Tuesday afternoon.
According to Elliott, international nurses who have applied to practice in Ontario will have the opportunity to meet their application requirements by working in health-care settings "under the

to begin late this week, with onboarding new staff in the weeks ahead. Read more here.

Where do all the masks go? One Quebec company says it shouldn't be the garbage

One Quebec company, however, is trying to keep single-use face masks from ending up in the landfill by recycling them. For Eric Ethier, Go Zero Recycle president, it doesn't make sense for the masks to be thrown out when they are "100 per cent recyclable." "We have a capacity of (recycling) 50 million masks per day, so there is no limit," he said. "*Does it make sense in 2021 that you buy a disposable product without thinking, 'how am I going to dispose of it once I will be done with it? Doesn't make sense.*"

To read more, click here.

COVID-19: Omicron peak could be soon, some estimates show

Furness noted that modelling data in December showed that the peak of this wave was expected to hit mid-January. With this in mind, Furness said Canada is likely close to reaching the peak of the Omicron wave. However, he said it is important to remember that models are just estimates. " [Models] can only reflect the limited understanding you have in the first place to sort of protect what might be the case," he said. "I'm guessing that we're probably just about to peak in most places in Canada in the next week, two weeks, maybe a little bit longer than that."

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