

COUNCIL OF AGENCIES SERVING SOUTH ASIANS

The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians'

July 2021 Newsletter

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Canada Day

Rather than traditional Canada Day celebrations that come on July 1, we encourage reflection over commemoration. The tragic discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves and events depicting the existence of systemic racism prompt Canadians to take this day to **remember, reflect and take responsibility.** This year, we stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities and are reminded of the work that left to be done in combatting systemic racism.

COVID-19 Helpline for South Asians

This COVID-19 Helpline is funded by the Government of Canada, United Way and Indus Community Services and managed by the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) 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 COVID-19 Helpline provides 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, Bengali and Punjabi.** Recorded information is available on the Helpline 24/7 and live Intake Specialists are available 7 days a week. Call **647-846-2233** or **1-866-300-3454** (For Out of GTA callers) to access the Helpline.

The Helpline went LIVE in early September and is accessible at: 647-846-2233.

We highly encourage and appreciate if members could share the helpline with their networks and on their social media.







Employment Equity for South Asians -Cynthia Saxena, Employment Equity Coordinator

CASSA is continuing to advocate the policy recommendations created in the <u>Moving Towards</u> <u>Decent Employment</u> reports. CASSA has launched a <u>Business Charter</u> for both small and large businesses where they can pledge their commitment to anti-racism practices and supporting racialized communities to gain equitable outcomes in employment.

If you would like to support, collaborate or know more about this advocacy campaign, please reach out to Cynthia: <u>cynthia@cassa.on.ca</u>

The Coalition for Racial Equity in Education is working on passing motions regarding racial equity issues at Ontario school boards.

Our next training weekend for volunteers is July 10 & 11.

The next CASSA Community meeting will be held in the first two weeks of June, and volunteers will receive emails regarding specific details.

Volunteers and community members interested in the project can access the training materials

from our last training weekend using these links:

Parent Meeting Folder, click here.

Students Meeting Folder, click here.

We will begin recruiting the 2nd volunteer cohort in July, so if you are interested in participating in the project, please fill out this form: <u>https://form.jotform.com/210544427161246</u>



CREE Ant-Hate Community Forum

This forum provides an overview of hate-crimes in Canada and demonstrates how to document and report online hate. Attendees get a **\$20 Amazon gift card.** Register here:

South Asian Vaccine Engagement Collaborative -

Wardah Malik, Vaccine Engagement Coordinator

CASSA's Vaccine Engagement Team, as part of the South Asian Vaccine Engagement Collaborative, is starting work on a new information hub that will streamline the information sharing process and alert community members to available vaccines. The hub will also focus on displaying new educational content relevant to all of Toronto, including videos on vaccine mythbusting, youth outreach, and overcoming second dose hesitancy.

Past Issues

PUT A NAME TO THE STATISTIC.

Call for

(C*I*ASS*I*

Stories

get vaccinated so make sure to watch the CASSA website and reach out with relevant notices by contacting <u>wardah@cassa.on.ca.</u>



While statistics on racism provide vital information, it is personal stories and

If you're a visible minority who has experienced online hate in a way that has

experiences that drive the message home.

impacted you, we want to hear your story. Shared experiences might be used as part of

Please submit your story through this google

Funded by the Government of Canada Canadä

our project on combatting online hate.

Thank you for opening up about your

form: https://bit.ly/3eNcyaB

experience!

IN COLLABORATION

WITH THE ANTI-HATE COMMUNITY LEADERS' GROUP

Collaborative to Combat Online Hate - Maryam Faisal, Anti-Hate

Project Coordinator

New podcast episode is now live!

Check out CASSA's Podcast channel here: Spotify: <u>https://spoti.fi/2QG4HDr</u>

Call for Submissions: Put A Name to the Statistic: Call for Stories. While statistics on racism provide vital information, it is personal stories and experiences that drive the message home. If you're a visible minority who has experienced online hate in a way that has impacted you, we want to hear your story. Shared experiences might be used as part of our project and social media campaign on combatting online hate. Please submit your story through this google form: <u>https://bit.ly/3eNcyaB</u> We thank you for opening up to us and helping us combat online hate.

Note: You will be contacted beforehand if we decide to use your experience as part of our campaign! Please email <u>maryam@cassa.on.ca</u> if you have any other questions or concerns.

Hate Crime Reporting -

Lakhdeep Dhaliwal, Hate Crime Reporting Project Coordinator

The Hate Crime Reporting Project has struck an advisory committee that will meet to review project scope and outcomes on **June 30th**, **2021**.

This advisory group of cross sectoral professionals will help guide the project and specifically the community survey that will go live this year. This survey will invite all members from the community to participate in the survey and to centre the truth with regards to the experience of hate in our communities. The following year, community forums will ultimately lead to police service recommendations and cultural competency capacity building sessions for officers.

Currently, a review of resources and service providers is underway to determine gaps in reporting hate crimes, the next steps will lead to concrete experiences, shaped by facts and stats surrounding hate in our communities (York, Peel, Toronto, Ottawa). We look forward to action herein!

lakhdeep@cassa.on.ca



<u>Systemic Discrimination in Housing -</u> Khalood Kibria, Social and Racial Equity Planning Coordinator

JULY 6 WORKSHOP: ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IN THE GTA

The second workshop in the series "Claiming the right to housing in the GTA" hosted by the Right to Housing Toronto (R2HTO) and the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA) will

Although legal protections against discrimination in housing exist, marginalized communities in the GTA continue to face discrimination in accessing housing. This workshop will provide an overview of systemic discrimination in housing and the legal frameworks that protect people from discrimination. Participants will hear first-hand accounts from lived experts who have experienced discrimination in housing. **Register** <u>here</u>.

Health Equity Summit 2021 -

Mahdiba Chowdhury, Health Equity Coordinator

2021 Health Equity Summit - COVID-19 Response: Road to Recovery

CASSA will be hosting our **10th Annual Health Equity Summit** virtually. The Health Equity Summit is a recognizable event that addresses health-related disparities, particularly those affecting South Asians and other racialized communities. This year's Summit plans to address the concerns with *reopening society after months of social isolation*. The Summit will provide an opportunity for public health professionals, community leaders, researchers, academics, socialservice providers, and decision-makers alike to demonstrate our collective capacity to improve health equity in ongoing and future public health crises. Specifically, we will be looking at topics related to access to critical health services, mental health and addiction concerns, reducing stigma and discrimination, and building resilience. Following the plenary session, we will provide an opportunity for attendees to voice their questions and concerns during the breakout session.

The Summit will be held using **Zoom** on **Wednesday**, **September 22nd** and **Thursday**, **September 23, 2021 at 10am – 2pm**. <u>mahdiba@cassa.on.ca</u>

Statement on attack on Muslim Family in London

Past Issues

Statement on the attack on the Muslim family in London, Ontario

June 7, 2021

It is with profound grief, shock, and sadness that we write this statement to absolutely condemn the horrifying terrorist attack on a Muslim family in London, Ontario today, which left 3 adults and 1 teenager dead and orphaned an eight-year-old boy.

The <u>Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)</u> along with the <u>Anti-hate Community</u> <u>Leaders'</u>. <u>Crown</u> has been working to bring attention to hate-motivated crimes and create policies and programs to combat all forms of hate crimes and hate speech since 2019. Following the Quebec Mosque massacre of 2018, we resolved to do whatever we can to ensure such a terrorist act is not repeated in Canada. After today's attack, we know much more is to be done before we can rid ourselves of hate in this country.

Today's incident hits too close to home for CASSA, as the deceased family was related to one of our staff members. Our thoughts, prayers, and support go out to the survivors of the family, especially the eight-year-old boy who has lost his entire family because of blind hate and Islamophobia. Today, tens of thousands of Muslims families across Canada are alarmed, scared, and fear for their safety.

We, as members of the Anti-hate Community Leaders' Group and other social justice organizations, demand the harshest punishment for the terrorist who committed this erime to bring swift justice to the deceased family.

We also extend our support to organizations such as the National Council of Canadian Muslims as they navigate this crisis and work with law enforcement and policy makers to ensure justice is served.

In solidarity.

Across Boundaries Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP) Bangladeshi Canadian Community Services Canadian Anti-Hate Network Canadian Arab Federation Canadian Arab Institute

Community Leaders' Group has been working to bring attention to hate-motivated crimes and create policies and programs to combat all forms of hate crimes and hate speech since 2019. Following the Quebec Mosque massacre of 2018, we resolved to do whatever we can to ensure such a terrorist act is not repeated in Canada. Read the full statement here.

Statement of Solidarity with Indigenous Communities



ncil of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)) Finch Avenue East, Suite 301A Scarborough ON, M1S 4Z5 Phone: 416-932-1359 cassa@cassa.on.ca Website: www.cassa.on.ca

June 3, 2021

The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) would like to offer its deepest condolences t families, relatives, and communities of the 215 children whose bodies were found on the grounds of th former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

We are deeply grieved by this news, but we are not shocked. The Canadian Residential School System was an instrument of genocide, with the last residential techool closing as recently as 1996. These schools were sites of emotional, physical, intellectual, and sexual abuse that were used by the Canadian state to advance the project of settler colonialiam by upcoofing Indigenous children from their communities, permanently separating them from their families, and sampling them of their culture and language. Indigenous neepel motivation lacks of prime over 150 m00 Indigenous in not an existed incident. Over the commo of the and not restructed to their families, and not restructed to their families – Indigenous committies have always known that such mass graves existed all around the country.

The lowering of flags is not enough. The stories that continue to come out of residential schools are not simply a "dark chapter" in Canadian builtory, but an ongoing reality reflecting the violence that settler colonialism inflicts on Indigenous people. In so many ways, settler colonial violence continues to be part of the modern Canadian landsrage - a lack of access to clean water, conging violence against flaggenous women, land theft, disproportionate spread of disease, coercien of Indigenous children into the Child Welfare system - the Canadian government, and all settler Canadians have a responsibility to address these inequalities.

Although we may not have been among the initial colonizers of this land, the South Asian immigrant community must not forget that we live, work, and play on Indigenous lands. It is our responsibility to stand with Indigenous anisms at they demand accountability and justice for the violance done to them and their children. We must recognize our responsibility to educate ourselves, listen to the initial caretakers of this land, and lake action to how solidarity with Indigenous people.

For those needing support, please call: National Indian Residential School Crisis Line, 1-866-925-4419

As we mark National Indigenous History Month this June, let us commit to greater education and calls to action. Some resources to begin your learning and unlearning:

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission: <u>http://nc.ca/asseta/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf</u>
 The National Inquiry into Missing and Mutdered Indigenous Women: <u>http://www.mniwg-field.ac.or/inactercont/</u>
 Native Women's Association of Canada's Action Plan to End the Attack Against Indigenous Women. Grifts, and Gender-Diverse People: <u>http://www.wac.ac/</u>

Contact: Samya Hasan Executive Director

The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) would like to offer its deepest condolences to the families, relatives, and communities of the 215 children whose bodies were found on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. It is our responsibility to stand with Indigenous nations as they demand justice for the violence done to them and their children. We must recognize our responsibility to educate and listen to the initial caretakers of this land, and show solidarity with Indigenous people.

Read CASSA's full statement here.

Messages from Members

Past Issues



South Asian Cardiovascular Risk Assessment Clinic

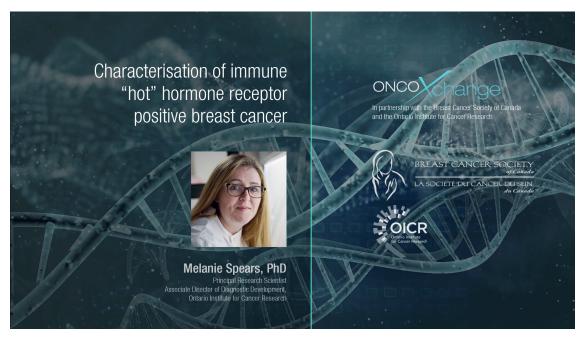
Live and virtual visits available



South Asian Risk Assessment Clinic - SANSAR

The South Asian Cardiovascular Risk Assessment Clinic went on hiatus at the beginning of the pandemic. SANSAR is pleased to announce that the clinic has been completely overhauled to be offered as a virtual or live clinic, based on patient preference. The new clinic will open to patients as of September this year, and patients from across Ontario are now eligible for virtual consultations upon referral by a physician.

Learn more <u>here</u>.



Funding for new project - Breast Cancer Society of Canada

Thanks to the support of our donors, today we are proud to announce our funding of a critical new research project, in collaboration with the **Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, (OICR)**.

Dr. Melanie Spears, Principal Research Scientist and Associate Director of Diagnostic Development at OICR provides an overview of the project:

"Previous breast cancer research has focused on the DNA of tumour. Our research will investigate the immune cells and the response of the immune cells to the tumour. Understanding the tumour biology and the immune micro-environment will allow for the development of diagnostic tests and

Digital Anti-Racism Education Project 2

Anti-Islamophobia 101 with:

Amira Elghawaby is a journalist and human rights advocate. She currently works in Canada's labour movement. Along with appearances on Canadian and international news networks. Amira has written and produced stories and commentary for CBC Radio. the Ottawa Citzen. Macleans's, the Walrus, the Literary Review of Canada, and the Globe and Mall. She is currently a contributing columnist for the Toronto Star.



Past Issues

DR. BARBARA PERRY Dr. Barbara Perry is the Director of the Centre

Dr. Barbara Perry is the Director of the Centry on Hate, Bias, and Extremism. She has writter extensively in the area of hate crime and right-wing extremism. Dr. Perry has also written on policing diverse communities, including work on social control in Native American communities. She has made substantial contributions to the limited scholarship on hate crime in Canada.



Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) Le conseil canadien des femmes musulmanes (CCFM)



Digital Anti-Racism Education Project 2 - CCMW

From recent events, we know that the dialogue against hate, racism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination must never stop! CCMW's **Digital Anti Racism Education 2 Workshops** are an excellent way to engage in this important conversation. The workshops are in **English & French** and on the following topics:

- How Islamophobia further marginalizes Black Muslims, Indigenous Muslims, 2SLGBTQI+ Muslims and Muslims with disabilities.
- Understanding cyberhate and online extremism to effectively counter online hate speech and narratives effectively.

Anti-Islamophobia 101: The 3.5-hour virtual workshop addresses realities of Islamophobia and the way it operates in Canadian society. Hosted by Amira Elghawaby, renowned journalist and human rights advocate. July 17 (English) and July 18 (French).

Countering Cyberhate 101 Virtual

Workshop: The 3-hour virtual workshop helps people better understand online hate speech and extremism, with interactive tools alongside engaging breakout sessions. Led by Dr. Barbara Perry, Professor, Director, Centre of Hate, Bias & Extremism. July 24 (English) and July 25 (French).

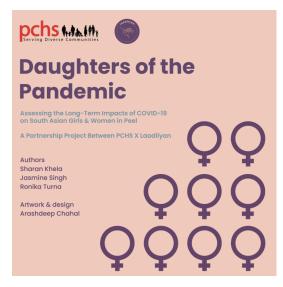


Past Issues

Cyberhate 101 Workshop in order to receive a certificate in Digital Anti-Racism Education. It is recommended that participants take the broader Anti-Racism 1O1 training before participating in the first workshop. The Anti-Racism 1O1 e-learning module can be found on: www.daretobeaware.ca

For workshop schedule, CLICK HERE

To register for upcoming workshops, CLICK HERE



Daughters of the Pandemic -

Laadliyan, PCHS

Laadliyah conducted community based research to learn more about the challenges South Asian daughters within the Peel Region have been facing as a result of COVID-19. Through candid community conversations with daughters of all ages living and/or working in Peel Region, they collected community narratives to inform their research. **Read the full report** <u>here</u>.

Opportunities



Job Posting: Financial Administrator

- Times Change Women's Employment <u>Service</u>

Position description: The Financial Administrator is responsible for financial accounting and reporting, budget preparation, project management, and strategic planning. The Financial Administrator provides strategic vision and direction to the financial success of the organization.

Salary: \$30.34 per hour + extended health benefits

Hours of Work: 35 hours/week (full-time)

Job Postings: Senior Project Manager Transformation: - City of Toronto

Position description: To provide strategic advice and leadership to a multi-year transformational review of the City's public engagement programs, services and strategies, incorporating best practices, interrelated processes, operational practices and procedures to enhance the overall delivery and continuous improvement of public engagement, particularly with Black, Indigenous and equity-seeking Torontonians.
Job Type & Duration: Full-time, Temporary, 18 months
Salary: \$103,303.20 - \$121,375.80, TM2548, WG7.5
Hours of Work: 35 hours/week (full-time)

Application Deadline: July 7, 2021

Apply here.

Job Postings: Stakeholder Engagement Lead: - City of Toronto

Position description: To actively create an environment of equity, innovation, collaboration, transparency, accountability and trust through the development and delivery of in-person and online engagement plans and activities that are purposeful and inclusive, and inform recommendations for enhancing the City's public engagement programs going forward.
Job Type & Duration: Full-time, Temporary, 18 months
Salary: \$88,979.80 - \$104,540.80, TM2318, WG6.5 Shift Information: Mon-Fri, 35hrs/wk
Application Deadline: July 7, 2021
Apply here.

Job Postings: Senior Corporate Management Policy Consultant: - City of <u>Toronto</u>

Position description: To actively create an environment of equity, innovation, collaboration, transparency, accountability and trust through the development and delivery of in-person and online engagement plans and activities that are purposeful and inclusive, and inform recommendations for enhancing the City's public engagement programs going forward.
Job Type & Duration: Full-time, Temporary Vacancy, 18 months Salary:
\$110,965.40-\$130,366.60, TM1158, WG8.0 Shift
Application Deadline: July 7, 2021
Apply here.

Past Issues

Join the Board of Directors



Opportunity: Board of Director - SANSAR

SANSAR is seeking dynamic and enthusiastic volunteers to join the Board of Directors. As a growing organization, we need new ideas and talent to further SANSAR's objectives. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at <u>admin@sansar.org</u>.

PowerPoint



JUNE 2021 ONLINE

Word

COMPUTER WORKSHOPS

Exce

Intro to Word Monday, June 7 from 10am-11:30am

Intro to Word 2 Thursday, June 10 from 10am-11:30am

Intro to Excel 1 Monday, June 14 from 10am-11:30am

Intro to Excel 2 Thursday, June 17 from 10am-11:30am

Using Zoom for Virtual Interviews Monday, June 21 from 10am-11:30am

Navigating Linked In Basics Friday, June 25 from 10am-11:30am

Sage 50 Training/Certification: Do you have a background in accounting or bookkeeping? Complete online training and earn your certificate in Sage 50.

To register for any of these computer services, email <u>booking.timeschange@gmail.com</u> and type computer workshops in the subject line.









<u>Computer Training -</u> <u>Times Change Women's</u> <u>Employment Service</u>

Translate

Times Change Women's Employment Service is hosting current software workshops through sessions led by their computer expert. This includes workshops for MS Word, Excel, Virtual Interviews, LinkedIn and even Sage 50 Training.

To register for any of these computer services, email <u>booking.timeschange@gmail.</u> <u>com</u> and type '**computer workshops'** in the subject line.

Past Issues

arts COUNCIL



BENEFITS:

Great for emotional well-being

Free art therapy program for seniors

- Supports cognitive functions
- Helps to cope with change and find calm during chaos
- Led by registered art therapists



REGISTER NOW!

Free sessions run throughout the year, with multiple workshops in June and July. Spots are limited!

UPCOMING SESSIONS

June: 21st, 23rd, 30th, July: 7th, 8th, 12th, 15th 21st, 28th

bit.ly/mac-art-therapy for info and to register



Volunteers Needed

The Ontario Cervical Screening Program is doing interviews to find out how to make new cervical cancer messages better.

You may be able to do an interview if you

- Are 25 to 75 years old
- · Are a woman, trans man or non-binary person
- Speak English

About the interview

The interview will take 1 hour and 15 minutes. You can choose to be interviewed by phone or by videoconference. Do an interview and get a \$30 President's Choice gift card as a thank you.

If you are interested

- · Call us at 1-866-662-9233 toll free
- · Email us at cancerinfo@ontariohealth.ca. Do not send us any information about your health or your health card (OHIP) number



Visit cancercareontario.ca/cervicalinterviews to learn more



Markham Arts Council

The Markham Arts Council is hosting **FREE** group art therapy sessions for seniors.

Led by Registered Art

Therapists, seniors will

express and explore their

emotions through various art

mediums. There will be six

sessions in July.

Workshop by Janice LeBlanc:

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/14

7627691399

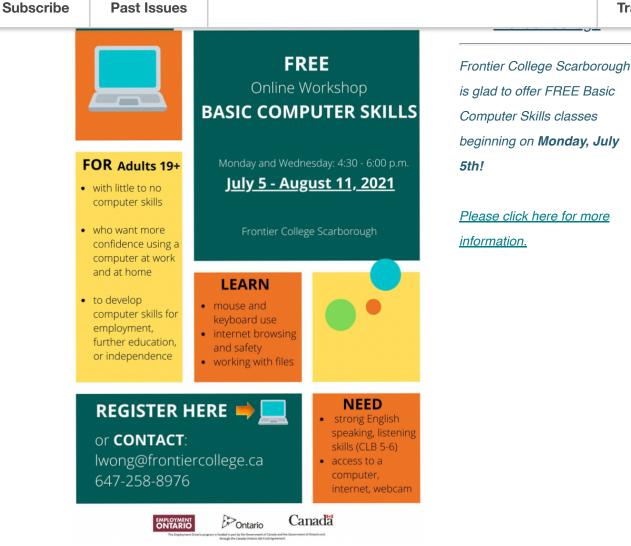
Workshop by Carah Elisheva: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/15 8603213481

Volunteers Needed -

Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario) **Ontario Health (Cancer Care** Ontario) is looking for volunteers to help improve their new cervical cancer messages.

Do an interview and get a \$30 gift card as a thank you!

Find out more here.



Past Issues

FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

For Internationally Educated Immigrant Women!

Research Participants Needed

Your participation in this study can help us better understand the labour market experiences of internationally educated immigrant women, whose academic and professional qualifications are from their countries of origin.

You will receive a \$25 gift card for your participation.

To be eligible for this study you must:

- > Have immigrated to Canada between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2017
- Have a university degree or a professional designation that was earned outside of Canada
- Worked full-time in a professional occupation in your country of origin for at least 2 years before coming to Canada
- > Worked in Canada (full-time or part-time) for a minimum of 2 years
- Are at least 25 years of age or older
- Must be fluent in English

If you answered YES to all the above, please contact the researcher at:

I.chinchamie@utoronto.ca

One-on-one online interviews (on a secure platform) lasting for about 1-2 hours will take place between you and the researcher at a time that is convenient to you. Your participation in this research will be entirely voluntary. All the information you provide will be kept confidential.

Educated Immigrant Women - University of Toronto

This study is examining the labour market experiences of internationally educated immigrant women, whose academic and professional qualifications are from their countries of origin. The findings will be used to advocate for changes that disadvantage internationally educated immigrant professionals. Interviews will be online and will last for about **1-2 hours.**

Participants will receive a \$25

gift card for their

participation. Email

I.chinchamie@utoronto.ca if

interested.

Past Issues

Women in Future Careers Non-Traditional Careers for Women

Join our new 9-week online career-planning program for women interested in a career in STEM or the Skilled Trades

What to expect

- Comprehensive 9-week career-planning workshop
- Gain knowledge of career paths in STEM and Trades
- Exposure to higher-paying, in-demand careers
- Discover education programs for women
- Attend Guest Speaker events
- Connect with mentors in a related field
- 3-hour sessions, for 9-weeks, on Fridays

REGISTER HERE

for this innovative program

at Times Change!

Ontario 🕅

 START

 DATE

 Tuesdays

 July 13 - Sept 7

 1:30-4:30 PM

<u>Times Change Women's</u> <u>Employment Services</u>

Do you know of women interested in considering a career in STEM or Skilled Trades? This career planning for women is open for all women who need to change careers, and emphasis is on non-traditional careers for women. Slots available: 12

Date/Time: Tuesdays July 13-

Sept 7, 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

Register here:

https://www.timeschange.org/ cpw-application.html



IMES CHANGE

Combatting Epilepsy Misconceptions - Epilepsy Toronto

Here is a new COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin, developed by doctors in partnership with settlement organizations, in 8 languages. It's the first in a series, addressing questions about the vaccine.

Past Issues

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

<u>Study on representation of Racialized groups, LGBTQ2+ and Persons with</u> <u>Disabilities in film, TV and media - *Black Screen Office*</u>

Do you feel seen? Are there authentic portrayals of your community in Canadian media, or are there gaps in the way you are represented? The Black Screen Office is conducting a Canadawide study about the representation of Black, People of Colour, LGBTQ2+ and Persons with Disabilities in film, TV and interactive media, including a special report on Children's Media. "Being Seen" aims to create directives for the media industry to be more inclusive and authentic in its representation of underrepresented communities.

We invite you to participate in an **hour-long focus group**. Sign up <u>here</u>. All who participate in a focus group will be paid an **honorarium of \$50** each provided that they are not participating in the capacity of their employment.



<u>Leaders in Training Program - West</u> <u>Scarborough Community Centre</u>

The Leaders in Training (LIT) program is designed to serve youth (ages 13-16) and assist them in developing leadership skills and qualities. This program (July 5 - August 27) provides a safe space for youth and gives them the opportunity to explore their own talents, aspirations and goals. LIT strives to motivate individuals to reflect on their capabilities and empowers them to reach their full potential. Volunteer hours & certificates for attending! Register: contact yjs@wsncc.org.

When can you get your 2nd COVID-19 dose?

Several Canadian provinces will be administering second doses of COVID-19 vaccine earlier than expected, due to the high number of people who have received their first dose so far, and a big supply of vaccine. Vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illnesses like COVID-19. Ontario has now opened up vaccinations for all those: 18+ and living in hotspot areas. You can check to see if you are eligible by entering your postal code and eligibility group: Book your vaccine here.

Ontario's new roadmap to re-opening: the 3-phased plan

Step 1: An initial focus on resuming outdoor activities with smaller crowds where the risk of transmission is lower, and permitting retail with restrictions
Step 2: Further expanding outdoor activities and resuming limited indoor services with small numbers of people and with face coverings being worn.
Step 3: Expanding access to indoor settings, with restrictions, including where there are larger numbers of people and where face coverings can't always be worn.
For a breakdown on the reopening plan, click here.

Study of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness on South Asian community

"Our study is a prospective cohort study, meaning we enroll participants at the community vaccination clinics being held in South Asian 'hot spots' such as Brampton, and the rest of the GTA, and follow them forward in time to collect contextual information including their living and work conditions, clinical and health care access information," said Anand. "This study will allow us to understand where there is hesitancy, use the science to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccines, and lead to more people within the South Asian community making the choice to accept this life-saving vaccine"

To read more, click here.

Past Issues

Vaccine Hunters has compiled a list of COVID-19 Vaccination websites for community members to access and find the closest vaccination clinic to them. <u>Click here to view their compiled list.</u>



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