



COUNCIL OF AGENCIES SERVING SOUTH ASIANS

The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians'
March 2021 Newsletter

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Project Updates

[COVID-19 Helpline for South Asians -](#)

[Nikhita Dogra, Project Manager](#)

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](tel:647-846-2233).*

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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



مالي تعاون:  Canada  Indus 

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 لئے ٹول - فری نمبر:
1-866-300-3454

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

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



द्वारे वित्त पोषित:  Canada  Indus 

जी.टी.ए में रह रहे साउथ एशियन लोगों के लिये कोविड-१९ हेल्पलाइन

 **647-846-2233**

जी.टी.ए से बाहर रहने वाले टोल फ्री नम्बर पर सम्पर्क करें: 1-866-300-3454

कोविड-१९ पर जानकारी:
स्वास्थ्य और सुरक्षा, सरकारी लाभ, समर्थन
सेवाएं, दोबारा खुलने के प्रोटोकॉल, तथा
खाद्य सुरक्षा

रिकॉर्डेड जानकारी और लाइव इनटेक
स्पेशलिस्ट इन भाषाओं में उपलब्ध हैं:
अंग्रेजी, उर्दू, हिंदी, तमिल, पंजाबी और
बंगला



অর্থায়নে:  Canada  Indus 

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



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

647-846-2233

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

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

ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੋਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਲਾਈਵ ਇਨਟੇਕ ਸਪੋਸਲਿਸਟ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹਨ: ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ, ਉਰਦੂ, ਹਿੰਦੀ, ਤਾਮਿਲ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, ਅਤੇ ਬੰਗਲਾ



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pchs Serving Diverse Communities

South Asian Community Support Association

ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਊਥ ਏਸ਼ੀਅਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਕੋਵਿਡ-19 ਹੈਲਪਲਾਈਨ

647-846-2233

ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਊਥ ਏਸ਼ੀਅਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਕੋਵਿਡ-19 ਹੈਲਪਲਾਈਨ ਨੰਬਰ: 1-866-300-3454

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

ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੋਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਤੇ ਲਾਈਵ ਇਨਟੇਕ ਸਪੋਸਲਿਸਟ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹਨ: ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ, ਉਰਦੂ, ਹਿੰਦੀ, ਤਾਮਿਲ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, ਅਤੇ ਬੰਗਲਾ



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South Asian Community Support Association

Food Baskets for Seniors - Nikhita Dogra, *Project Manager*

CASSA has partnered with SacredHand Canada to provide food baskets for low-income South Asian seniors in the GTA. These food baskets are meant to last up to one month or more and contain essential items such as rice, flour, canned foods, oil, lentils, spices, and more. To determine their eligibility to receive a free food basket, seniors can call the COVID-19 Helpline at 647-846-2233. Service is provided in English, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, or Bangla. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Food baskets are for low-income South Asian seniors only - annual income has to be under \$40k.
- Seniors who are living alone or with their partner only - not living in joint families
- Age of at least one of the seniors has to be 65 or over
- For seniors living in the Greater Toronto Area only - Peel, York Region, Toronto, and Durham region
- One food basket per household only

This initiative is funded by the *Government of Canada New Horizons for Seniors program*.

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SENIORS

If you are a **South Asian senior** (age 65 or over) living in the **Greater Toronto Area** (Peel Region, York Region, Durham region, and Toronto) & are **not able to afford** essential monthly groceries, **please call the Covid-19 Helpline** to see if you are eligible for a free food basket:

647-846-2233



Talk to one of our intake specialists or leave a message with your **name and phone number** and someone will get in touch with you. Service is provided in **English, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, or Bangla**.

The food package includes **essential items** that can last you **up to one month or more**.



It includes items such as rice, flour, lentils, canned beans/olives/corn, onions, potatoes, oil, dates, tea bags, sugar, salt, other spices, tortillas, honey, and oats.

Fresh fruit and vegetables may also be added to each order prior to delivery.

This message has been sent by the **Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA)**. Funding for this service has been provided by the **Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Fund**.



Funded by the
Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program

Canada

বৃদ্ধদের সুখ:

আপনি যদি গ্রেটার টরন্টো এরিয়ায় (পিল অঞ্চল, ইয়র্ক অঞ্চল, ডারহাম অঞ্চল এবং টরন্টো) বসবাসকারী কোনও দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার প্রবীণ (বয়স 65 বা তার বেশি) হয়ে থাকেন এবং প্রয়োজনীয় মাসিক প্রোদারি কিনতে সক্ষম না হন তবে দয়া করে কোভিড -19 হেল্পলাইনে কল করুন এবং আপনি বিনামূল্যে খাদ্য ঝুড়ির জন্য যোগাযোগ কিনা তা জানুন :

647-846-2233



আমাদের একজন ইনটেক বিশেষজ্ঞের সাথে কথা বলুন অথবা আপনার নাম এবং ফোন নম্বর সহ একটি বার্তা রাখুন, আমাদের এখন থেকে একজন আপনার সাথে যোগাযোগ করবে। এই পরিষেবাটি ইংরেজি, উর্দু, হিন্দি, পাঞ্জাবী, তামিল ও বাংলা ভাষায় সরবরাহ করা হবে।

খাদ্য প্যাকেজটিতে এমন প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিস অন্তর্ভুক্ত থাকে যা আপনি এক মাস বা তার বেশি সময় ধরে রাখতে পারবেন।



এর মধ্যে চাল, ময়দা, মসুর ডাল, ক্যানকৃত -শিম/ জলপাই/ কর্ণ, পেঁয়াজ, আলু, তেল, খেজুর, চা ব্যাগ, চিনি, নুন, অন্যান্য মশলা, টাট্টালাস, মধু এবং ওটস রয়েছে।

প্রদানের আগে প্রতিটি প্যাকেজ টাটকা ফল এবং শাকসবজিও যুক্ত করা হতে পারে।

এই বার্তাটি ক্যান্টিন অব ডেভেলপিং সার্ভিসেস (CASSA) কর্তৃক প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। এই পরিষেবার জন্য অর্থায়ন কানাডার সরকারের নিউ হরাইজন ফর সিনিয়র্স ফান্ড দ্বারা সরবরাহ করা হয়েছে।



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Canada

முத்தவர்களுக்கு இலவச உணவு கூடைகள்

நீங்கள் கிரேட்டர் டொராண்டோ என அழைக்கப்படும் **டொராண்டோ பெரும்பகுதியில்** (பீல் பிராந்தியம், யார்க் பிராந்தியம், டர்ஹாம் பிராந்தியம் மற்றும் டொராண்டோ) வசிக்கும் **தெற்காசிய மூத்தவர்** (வயது 65 அல்லது அதற்கு மேற்பட்டவர்கள்) மற்றும் **அத்தியாவசியமான மனிதகைப் பொருட்களை வாங்க முடியாவிட்டால், தயவுசெய்து கோவிட் -19 உதவிசேவையை அழைத்து** இலவச உணவு கூடைக்கு நீங்கள் தகுதியுள்ளவரான என்று பாராருங்கள்:

647-846-2233



எங்கள் உள்ளக நிபுணர்களில் ஒருவரிடம் பேசுங்கள் அல்லது உங்கள் பெயர் மற்றும் **தொலைபேசி எண்ணுடன்** ஒரு செய்தியை அனுப்பங்கள். பின்பு எங்கள் அலுவலகத்தில் இருந்து யாராவது உங்களுக்கு தொடர்பு கொள்வார்கள். **ஆங்கிலம், உருது, இந்தி, பஞ்சாபி, தமிழ் மற்றும் வங்காள மொழிகளில்** சேவை வழங்கப்படுகிறது.

உணவு தொகுதியில் ஒரு மாதம் அல்லது அதற்கு மேற்பட்ட காலம் நீடிக்கும் அத்தியாவசிய பொருட்கள் உள்ளன.



அரிசி, மாவு, பயறு, தகரத்தில் அடைக்கப்பட்ட பீன்ஸ் / ஆலிவ் / சோளம், மற்றும் வெங்காயம், உருளைக்கிழங்கு, எண்ணெய், பேர்சை தேநீர் பைகள், சர்க்கரை, உப்பு, பிற மசாலாப் பொருட்கள், ரொட்டிகள், தேன் மற்றும் ஓடல் போன்ற பொருட்கள் இதில் அடங்கும்.

விநியோகத்திற்கு முன் ஒவ்வொரு அழைப்பும் சரிபார்த்து புதிய பழங்கள் மற்றும் காய்கறிகளும் சேர்க்கப்படலாம்.

இந்த செய்தியை உள்ளேயும் வெளியேயும் சேவை செய்தல் மூலம் உடனடி உதவிசேவைகளை இந்த சேவைகளை தகுதி அளவளவையுடன் கனடா அரசாங்கத்தின் நிதியுதவியுடன் வழங்கியுள்ளது.



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बुजुर्ग के लिए मुफ्त भोजन की टोकरी

यदि आप **ग्रेटर टोरंटो एरिया** (पिल क्षेत्र, यॉर्क क्षेत्र, डरहम क्षेत्र और टोरंटो) में रहने वाले एक **दक्षिण एशियाई के बुजुर्ग** (उम्र 65 या अधिक) हैं, और आवश्यक मासिक किराने का **सामान वहन करने में सक्षम नहीं हैं, कृपया कोविड -19 हेल्पलाइन पर कॉल करें**, यह देखने के लिए कि क्या आप मुफ्त भोजन की टोकरी के लिए पात्र हैं।

647-846-2233



हमारे किसी इंटेक विशेषज्ञ से बात करें या अपने **नाम और फोन नंबर** के साथ एक संदेश छोड़ दें। कोई आपके संपर्क में आ जाएगा। सेवा **अंग्रेजी, उर्दू, हिंदी, पंजाबी, तमिल** या **बांग्ला** में उपलब्ध है।

भोजन की टोकरी में **आवश्यक वस्तुएं** शामिल हैं जो आपको **एक महीने या उससे अधिक तक** रोक सकती हैं।



इसमें चावल, आटा, दाल, डिब्बाबंद बीन्स / जैतून / मक्का, प्याज, आलू, तेल, खजूर, टी बैग, चीनी, नमक, अन्य मसाले, टाट्टाला, शहद, और ओट्स जैसे आइटम शामिल हैं।

डिलीवरी से पहले ताजा फलों और सब्जियों को भी ऑर्डर में जोड़ा जा सकता है।

यह बार्ता कान्टिन ऑव डेवेलोपिंग सर्विस (CASSA) द्वारा भेजा गया है। इस सेवा के लिए हम कनाडा सरकार के न्यू होराइजन फंड द्वारा संचालित किए गए हैं।



Funded by the
Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program

Canada

To access the toolkit in its 4 languages and its infographic in the 8 languages available

(English, Arabic, Bangla, Farsi, Punjabi, Spanish, Tamil, and Urdu), you can [click here](#).

To download the infographics in the 8 different languages, you can [click here](#).

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, or would like CASSA to discuss how to use the Toolkit with your staff, please contact the project coordinator at yomna@cassa.on.ca.

Employment Equity for South Asians -

Cynthia Saxena, Employment Equity Coordinator

CASSA is continuing to advocate the policy recommendations created in the Moving Towards Decent Employment reports. As part of our social media strategy, we are currently requesting your support in creating creative content to reach employers and community members online and highlight the experiences of South Asian immigrants in their search for decent employment.

Community Video Submissions

If you or anyone else in your organization is interested and comfortable, **please send a short (minimum 15 seconds to a maximum 60 seconds) video of yourself describing the most shocking thing you've heard from a racialized client while searching for work or at work in Canada.** It could be anything such as a racist, sexist, homophobic, micro-aggressive, or discriminatory remarks/behaviour. If you're not comfortable with having your face in the video, you can also record one of a black screen/your organization banner with your voiceover. Our goal is to raise awareness of the kind of experiences racialized immigrants have in finding a job and advocating for positive change. **Your 15-50 second recorded video will be shared on our social media.** Please send your video to Cynthia at cynthia@cassa.on.ca. You may also WhatsApp it to her on **917-371-4818**. If you have a Tik-Tok/Instagram/Twitter account, feel free to share your handle with Cynthia and she will ensure you are tagged for your video and contribution! Please also reach out to her for any questions or clarifications.

Women's Day Forum

In support of this year's International Women's Day, CASSA also organized a **International Women's Day Forum: A Better Future for Racialized and Immigrant Women at Work** on **March 8th, from 4p.m to 6p.m.** Panelists discussed the unique experiences of South Asian immigrant women and the tailored approaches needed to support their empowerment in the labour market.

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On **March 24th from 2p.m. to 4p.m.**, CASSA will also be holding a virtual forum to share our Policy Recommendations with Ministers, MPPs, MPs, Councillors, and other policy-makers. If you would also like to attend, please register [here](#).

CASSA will also be shortly disseminating a Business Charter outlining the promises and initiatives that small and large-scale businesses will be pledging to take to ensure South Asian immigrants are not discriminated against when looking for decent employment. If you would like to support, collaborate or know more about this advocacy campaign, please reach out to Cynthia:

cynthia@cassa.on.ca

Racial Equity in Education -

Eman Zahid, Muslim Community Outreach Coordinator

CASSA Community Forum:

As part of the Racial Equity in Education project, CASSA is holding our second Muslim Community Forum - details coming soon!

The forum will discuss and revive issues posed in our first community forum, while providing the community with project updates, community resources and support, and a presentation on meaningful community engagement by **Rizwana Kaderdina**, Equity Teacher Facilitator at the York Region District School Board, and member of the Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students. We look forward to an evening of important discourse and guidance for Muslim youth interested in advocacy. Details and tickets to the forum will be posted on CASSA's social media page.

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on Race Relations

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

THE COALITION FOR RACIAL EQUITY IN EDUCATION (CREE) IS RECRUITING PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Are you passionate about community organizing? Would you like to help combat racism in the education system? Do you live in the Durham, Peel, Toronto, or York region? Here is your chance to help influence education in Ontario!

APPLY BY MARCH 19TH, 2021

Black Community: <https://bit.ly/3e93jc9>
 Chinese Community: <https://bit.ly/30d4KrE>
 Muslim Community: <https://bit.ly/30bbGFR>
 Tamil Community: <https://bit.ly/3sOlosD>

<https://cree-uarr.nationbuilder.com/>

local community organizations, on the Racial Equity in Education project, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The project is aimed at training our volunteers in leadership and advocacy skills, and building capacity for community engagement in combatting racial inequity in the Ontario school system.

Currently, we are **recruiting Muslim-identifying parents/guardians of students that are interested in advocacy work and engagement**. To apply, please email eman@cassa.on.ca.

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

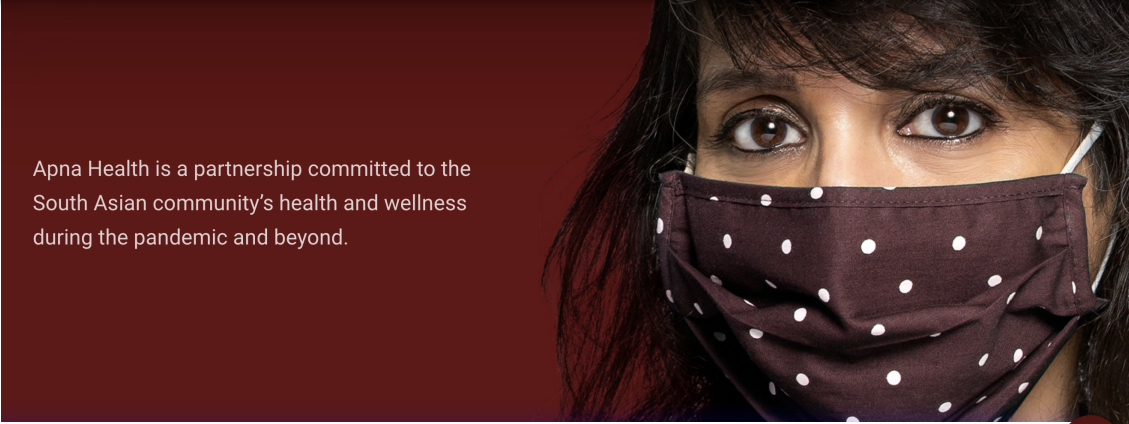
The Collaborative to Combat Online Hate has completed consultations with partner agencies and other experts. The team is currently organizing data from the consultations to begin developing the strategy. The project aims to build the digital literacy of our partner agencies to help them, their staff, clients, and members combat online hate. The project will also focus on developing anti-hate content and messaging to support those who become victims of online hate.

We have just launched a [survey](#) to understand the experiences members of racialized communities have had with online hate content. We would really appreciate it if you could fill out this short survey and share it with your networks; it's available in nine languages and will only take a few minutes of your time.

The survey can be found at linktr.ee/cassasurvey, which is completely **anonymous**, and will only be used to inform the development of the strategy to combat online hate. (I've attached the graphic below).

Please contact maryam@cassa.on.ca for questions or to collaborate.

Apna Health

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Apna Health is a partnership committed to the South Asian community's health and wellness during the pandemic and beyond.



[Get COVID-19 help & information in your language](#)



[Apna Health](#) is a partnership between CASSA, Indus Community Services and Punjabi Community Health Services dedicated to providing information on COVID-19 relief and vaccines.

Apna Health is committed to the South Asian community's health and wellness during the pandemic and beyond. We are here to help and can provide access to a variety of supports to the South Asian community, as well as connect its members to culturally sensitive and culturally appropriate information and resources in the language they understand.

CASSA's Blog Series

CASSA has launched a **BLOG** series that discusses a range of topics from pressing issues to our current projects! All our posts are written by CASSA's very own project coordinators!

Check out our current blog entries: cassa.on.ca/cassablog

- Employment Difficulties for South Asian Immigrants
- The Presence of Anti-Blackness in the Muslim Community

If you'd like to contribute a topic or blog entry, please feel free to contact us at sakshi@cassa.on.ca.

Messages from Members

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STEPS CHALLENGE

This May, STEP UP and Support Life-Saving Breast Cancer Research!

It's a big goal, but there's work to do. Every year more than 27,000 Canadians are diagnosed with breast cancer. Join the **One Billion Steps Challenge** this May and help fund life-saving breast cancer research!

Challenge your family, friends and colleagues!

Sign up online and download our mobile app to share your progress with your challengers, track your ranking against the entire pool of participants and share your fundraising and steps achievements on your social media channels.

Register at mothersdaywalk.ca

You can get your steps anywhere and anytime that's right for you. Join us every day in May to walk, step, dance – however you want to move!

There is no cost to join. We've got great workout videos, a weekly Spotify playlist and awesome prizes to keep everyone motivated throughout May, including a **grand prize for the participant who raises the most money!**

We will send you the link to download the mobile app (iPhone and Android) that will track your steps from May 1- 31.

As we mark the 30 anniversary of our Annual Mother's Day Walk, we invite everyone to join us. This May, do something good for yourself while also doing something to help prevent 14 Canadian women from dying of breast cancer every day.

#mothersdaywalk & #BCSCstepchallenge



Every year more than 27,000 Canadians are diagnosed with breast cancer. Join the **One Billion Steps Challenge** this **May** and help fund life-saving breast cancer research! Sign up online and download our mobile app to share your progress with your challengers, track your ranking against the entire pool of participants and share your steps achievements on social media.

There is **no cost** to join. We've got great workout videos, a weekly Spotify playlist and awesome prizes to keep everyone motivated throughout May, including a **grand prize** for the participant who raises the most money!

Register at: mothersdaywalk.ca

United Nations CSW65 Parallel Event
Racialized Women in Canada: A Conversation about Gender-based Violence and Inequality

Wednesday 17 March 2021 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 pm
 On the **NGO CSW 65 Virtual Platform**

Organized by the **Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change** and **YWCA Canada**

Racialized women in Canada face disproportionate levels of violence and significant barriers to gender equality, including a large gender-based and racial wage gap, poor labour market outcomes, health inequities, and inequitable access to income support. In this session, our expert panelists will address the impact of the various structural barriers on racialized women's experience of gender-based violence in Canada.

Join us to hear from:
 Shalini Konanur, Executive Director / Lawyer, South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
 Anvy Go, Director, Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
 Samiya Hasan, Executive Director, Council of Agencies Serving South Asians
 Debbie Douglas, Executive Director, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
 Maya Roy, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Canada

Logos: SALECO, CSALC, YWCA, CASSA, OCASI

How to Register:

Step 1: You must register to become an Advocate to go to UN CSW Events - Register to become a NGO CSW65 Forum Advocate: <https://bit.ly/3uH0DC1> (you will get an email that says: "Thank you for registering. Please give us 24 hours to send your login to the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum.")

Step 2: Once you get that email you can set up a username and password to the NGO CSW65 Virtual Platform and use the link they sent you to register for this event, or you can click on this link to log in once you have your (username and password): <https://bit.ly/3uH0DC1>

Step 3: Choose "See Schedule", Choose March 17 (along the top), Choose 2:00 pm (from the right side), Click + to register for our session or try this link: <https://bit.ly/3uH0DC1>

How to join a session that you are registered for: Log In. Under Schedule go to My Agenda. You will see a link to join the event 1 minute before it starts. If you any questions you can email Shalini at konanur2@iao.on.ca.

Racialized Women in Canada: A Conversation about Gender-based Violence and Inequality - UN CSW65 Parallel Event

Social Planning Toronto is hosting a virtual town hall meeting on Zoom to learn more about the 2021 City budget.

You can register as a NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum Advocate for free! While we still appreciate donations of \$25 or \$50 to help us run our office and cover our expenses for the Forum, you no longer have to pay to register as an Advocate on our virtual platform.

[Click here to register.](#)

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Safe TO Survey

The City of Toronto is currently in the process of developing an updated Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan called Safe TO. This plan will guide how social systems that serve Torontonians such as community services, healthcare systems, justice systems and police work together to meet community needs by changing how we think about safety.

The intention of Safe TO is to shift from a focus on emergency response to move to a culture of prevention.

The plan will prioritize four challenges: Community Trauma, Community Violence, Harm and Victimization, and Community Justice to help bring about a safer Toronto. Safe TO strives to incorporate the voices of individuals most impacted by the identified prioritized challenges, and to build on existing community strategies and solutions.

The following survey adds to other surveys developed by the City focusing on police reform and the new Community Based- Crisis Support pilots. This survey takes a broader approach by seeking the public's input on needs and priorities for community safety & wellbeing to inform the development of Safe TO. These aims are categorized under the following four question categories:

1. Needs for Wellbeing
2. Needs for Safety
3. Priorities for Wellbeing and Safety
4. Community Assets and Resources

The survey participation is completely voluntary. All responses will be anonymous. Please do not include any personal information about yourself or another individual (example: name, telephone number, address) in any of your responses.

This survey will take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

This survey will be available until March 15, 2021. The City values the voices input of all. If you have any concerns regarding this survey or to request an alternate format, please do not hesitate to contact Scott McKean at 647-628-5985 or in writing at 100 Queen St W, 14th floor, East Tower, Toronto ON, M5H 2N2

Thank you for your interest in improving the safety and wellbeing of Toronto.

21-0167 2021-02

What are your Community Safety and Wellbeing Priorities? The City of Toronto is currently in the process of developing an updated Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan called Safe TO

When the Safe TO plan is complete it will guide how social systems that serve Torontonians such as community services, healthcare systems, justice systems and police work together to meet community needs by changing how we think about safety. The City wants to understand your priorities for Safe TO Complete the [online survey](#) before **March 15, 2021**

Bridging the Service Gap: Pakistani and Tamil Community in Durham Region - Urban Alliance on Race Relations

The service gap experienced by South Asian communities in Durham region has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This event series aims to support the **Pakistani and Tamil** communities in North Pickering and North Ajax to navigate the services being offered through the various agencies and organizations in the region.

Pakistani Community: <https://durhampakistanicommunity.eventbrite.com>

Tamil community: <https://durhamtamilcommunity.eventbrite.com>

LET'S BRIDGE THE SERVICE GAP.

JOIN US FOR A SERIES OF ONLINE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS TO CONNECT WITH LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.

COVID-19 SUPPORT, LEGAL AND FAMILY SERVICES
 NEWCOMER SERVICES
 EDUCATION AND YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES
 HEALTHCARE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Urban Alliance on Race Relations

Open Letter - ABRARMH

"We are a group of motivated, compassionate, and resourceful young people with diverse lived experiences of marginalization. Long before the pandemic, many of us have faced exclusion, racism, and accessibility barriers when seeking mental health support...**To ensure that mental**

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Click [here](#) to sign the Open Letter to Prime Minister Trudeau.

Opportunities



INTERNAL/EXTERNAL JOB POSTING

Date Posted: February 19, 2021 Application Deadline: March 10, 2021

Job Title: TREM Counsellor
Hours of Work: 35hrs/week, Permanent full-time
Hourly Wage: \$29.34
Department: Counselling & Court Services
Reports to: Manager of Counselling & Court Services
Classification: Counsellor (Bargaining member position)

About Us
 Elizabeth Fry Toronto delivers gender based, trauma informed services and advocates for justice and equity for women and non-binary people who are criminalized and their families. We envision communities where women are not criminalized.

Summary
 This position supports women in the criminal justice system who have experienced Gender Based Violence by addressing the impact of trauma in their lives. The Trauma, Recovery, Empowerment Model (TREM) is an evidence based, group model, with measurable efficacy. Research shows that dealing with trauma is an essential step to rebuilding a safe and stable life, free from conflict with the law.

The TREM Counsellor position is responsible for the development, administration and evaluation of the program. Providing individual counselling and psycho-educational group intervention services on trauma issues, to women in the community, at the institutions, with condition of sentencing from the courts and child protection services.

JOB POSTING: TREM Counsellor - Elizabeth Fry.

The **TREM Counsellor** position is responsible for the development, administration and evaluation of the program. Providing individual counselling and psycho-educational group intervention services on trauma issues, to women in the community, at the institutions, with condition of sentencing from the courts and child protection services.

Hours of Work: 35hrs/week, Permanent full-time

Hourly Wage: \$29.34

[Click here to view the full application.](#)



INTERNAL/EXTERNAL JOB POSTING

(Date Posted: Friday, February 26, 2021; Application Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021)

Job Title: General Counsellor
Hours of Work: 28 hours/week, full-time contract (Contract duration: April 19, 2021 till March 31, 2022)
Hourly Wage: \$29.05
Department: Counselling & Court Services
Reports to: Manager of Counselling & Court Services
Classification: Counsellor (Bargaining member position)

About Us
 Elizabeth Fry Toronto delivers gender based, trauma informed services and advocates for justice and equity for women and non-binary people who are criminalized and their families. We envision communities where women are not criminalized.

Job Summary
 The General Counsellor position is responsible for the development, administration and evaluation of General Counselling Services. Providing individual counselling and psycho-educational group intervention services on a variety of issues to women in the community and at federal and provincial institutions, with condition of sentencing from the courts and child protection services. In this role the General Counsellor provides on-going psycho-education groups and counselling to women who meet the criteria of the program. In addition to providing direct service, the General Counsellor will actively work to deliver the program according to best practice standards as well as liaise and build partnerships with courts and other community partners.

The General Counsellor will adhere to the agency's values and service standards as well as program delivery and evaluation frameworks. Using a trauma-informed and harm reduction model of care, the Counsellor will ensure that service users accessing the programs are provided a warm, safe environment that fosters self-determination, healing, and growth. The incumbent will demonstrate a high degree of professionalism, initiative, collaboration, and solutions-oriented approach in the delivery of services. This dynamic position reports directly to the Manager, Counselling & Court Services. Working within the mandated protocols the General Counsellor will be required to fulfill the following core duties:

Client Support & Case Management

- Lead client assessments and interviews to determine client eligibility for individual or group counselling sessions.
- Work with an assigned caseload annually tracking client's progress.
- Identify and advocate on behalf of clients for support and services with internal and external resources, navigating through systemic barriers.
- Build and liaise with the clients' community supports to reduce risk of recidivism and enhance safety.
- Liaise with referral agencies, courts, institutions, and other community agencies.
- Engage in active problem solving around participants' needs for services as they transition out of the program.
- Provide information, resources, referrals and supports to program participants.

JOB POSTING: General Counsellor - Elizabeth Fry.

The **General Counsellor** position is responsible for the development, administration and evaluation of General Counselling Services. Providing individual counselling and psycho-educational group intervention services on a variety of issues to women in the community and at federal and provincial institutions, with condition of sentencing from the courts and child protection services. In this role the Counsellor provides on-going psycho-education groups & counselling to women who meet the criteria of the program.

Hours of Work: 28 hours/week, full-time contract April 19, 2021 till March 31, 2022

Hourly Wage: \$29.05

[Click here to view the full posting](#)

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Employer:	OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants f t
Job city:	Toronto
Application Deadline:	Friday, March 19, 2021 - 5:00pm
Job terms:	Full-time contract

Who we are

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants - OCASI acts as a collective voice for immigrant and refugee-serving organizations and coordinates responses to shared needs and concerns. OCASI is a registered charity governed by a volunteer board of directors and a membership of over 232 community-based organizations in Ontario.

Our mission is to achieve equality, access and full participation for immigrants and refugees in every aspect of Canadian life. OCASI prides itself on the highest standard of ethics and compliance with our values, our mission, and vision.

Project summary

The project is to organize racialized and im(migrant) and refugee women's groups (English and French) to explore interest and viability to convene a national network. The Bilingual National Coordinator will be responsible for conducting a literature review and environmental scan, developing a database of groups, convening regional and national roundtables and co-creation of a network charter. The project will be carried out using a feminist anti-racism and anti-oppression framework. The project will conclude in December 2022.

Coordinator - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

Full-time Contract Position until **Dec 2022**

Project summary: The project is to organize racialized and im(migrant) and refugee women's groups (English and French) to explore interest and viability to convene a national network. The Bilingual National Coordinator will be responsible for conducting a literature review and environmental scan, developing a database of groups, convening regional and national roundtables and co-creation of a network charter. The project will be carried out using a feminist anti-racism and anti-oppression framework.

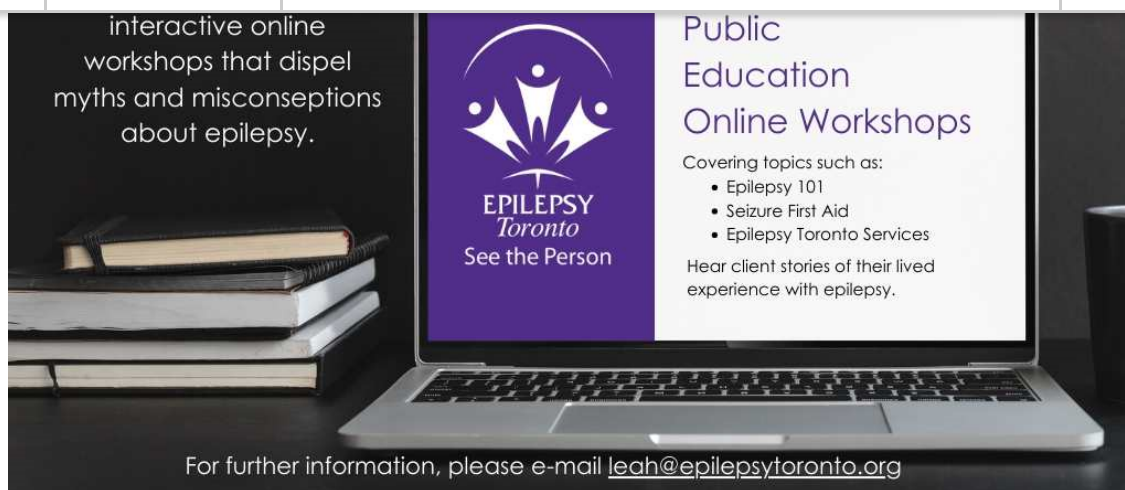
Click here to view the [full posting](#).



Youth Creative Piece Campaign - ABRARMH

The goals of the campaign surrounding collecting submissions is to allow youth a space to express themselves freely regarding the impact the pandemic had on their mental health. You can submit any form of creative piece: WRITING, A SHORT VIDEO, ARTWORK, DRAMA or COMEDY SKIT, etc.

Share your pandemic story by submitting a creative piece [here](#).

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interactive online workshops that dispel myths and misconceptions about epilepsy.

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

[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.

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 ready to rollout phase two of COVID-19 vaccine distribution Plan

With vaccine supply stabilizing and over two million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine expected from the federal government before the end of March, the province to enter Phase Two of its vaccine rollout. Between April 2021 and July 2021, up to nine million Ontarians will be vaccinated.

Starting March 15th, the province will launch an online booking system and a provincial customer service desk to answer questions and support appointment bookings at mass immunization

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Coronavirus prompts some recent newcomers to leave Canada for their home countries

The number of permanent residents who have been in Canada for less than five years declined by four per cent to 1,019,000 by the end of 2020 from 1,060,000 the year before, according to an analysis of Statistics Canada's labour force survey that measures the number of workers between 15 and 65 years old by their immigration status. [Read more.](#)

City of Toronto extends cancellation of in-person major events to July 1

To slow the spread of COVID-19, the City of Toronto is extending the cancellation of in-person City-led and City-permitted major outdoor events to July 1, including Canada Day parades, festivals and fireworks. This announcement does not include permits issued by the City's Parks Forestry and Recreation division for activities in parks and other City facilities/sites that are able to be permitted under the province of Ontario's framework for reopening or that may be permitted as we hopefully progress through that framework. Professional sporting events are also not included in this decision – those events rely on permissions from the provincial and federal governments in addition to Toronto Public Health. [Read more.](#)

Anxiety, depression, insomnia: Pandemic retraumatizing marginalized youth

Many are expressing going through depressing moods, being frustrated, not knowing what's coming next," Mechmechia said. Others are having sleeping problems and anxiety over their future — symptoms that are compounding their already-existing trauma.

This exacerbated mental health toll is not only affecting newcomers, Mechmechia and others said, but also Indigenous youth and other marginalized young people who already made strides to heal from previous trauma. COVID-19, experts said, has retraumatized these youth, with the potential for dire consequences if their mental health care needs are not met. [Read more.](#)

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