



COUNCIL OF AGENCIES SERVING SOUTH ASIANS

*The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians'*

## November 2020 Newsletter

### 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**: <http://cassa.on.ca/toolkit2020/>

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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).

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

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CASSA's Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday October 21st, 2020, 6-8pm on Zoom. The focus of the AGM was on Employment Equity as we released the findings of our 3-year research study on Employment Equity for South Asian Immigrant Communities in Toronto. The following are the full reports that were released as part of the research findings:

**Needs Assessment:** <http://cassa.on.ca/.../2020/10/Needs-Assessment-Report.pdf>

**Policy Recommendations:** <http://cassa.on.ca/.../10/Policy-Recommendation-Report.pdf>

The event also featured a panel discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on employment for South Asians in Ontario with special guests Milan Nadarajah, Herleen Arora, and Dr. Yilmaz Dinc. Milan Nadarajah, Organizer at the Workers' Action Centre, presented on the impact of COVID-19 on precarious workers, particularly those who are South Asian, otherwise racialized, and/or with precarious immigration status in relation to their employment and health. Herleen Arora, Educator, Consultant, and Cofounder of Womxn Offering Wisdom and Partnership Development Officer at the Future Skills Centre, presented on the impact of COVID-19 on South Asian women in relation to their employability, health, and wellbeing and the importance of childcare reform. Dr. Yilmaz Dinc, Research and Evaluation Manager at Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC) presented on the impact of COVID-19 on immigrants, employment equity and upward mobility and policy changes that are urgently needed.

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

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CASSA held its Annual General Meeting on October 21, 2020. During this meeting, CASSA launched the Needs-Assessment and Policy Report for their Research on Employment Equity for South Asian Immigrant Communities in Toronto.

Following this launch, over the next six to eight months, CASSA will be conducting an advocacy campaign to bring attention to the issues highlighted in the reports and our recommendations. CASSA will engage with policy makers, politicians, employers, regulatory bodies, advocates, and racialized immigrant

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Funded by:

# 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

## 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 went LIVE in early September and is accessible at: [647-846-2233](tel:647-846-2233).*

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

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**টরন্টোর 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




**ਜੀ.ਟੀ.ਏ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਊਥ  
ਏਸ਼ੀਅਨਾਂ ਲਈ  
ਕੋਵਿਡ-੧੯ ਹੈਲਪਲਾਈਨ**

**647-846-2233**

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

ਕੋਵਿਡ-੧੯ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ:  
ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ, ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਬੈਨੀਫਿਟ, ਸਪੋਰਟ  
ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ, ਮੁੜ ਖੁੱਲਣ ਦੇ ਅਸੂਲ, ਅਤੇ ਫੂਡ ਸਕਿਊਰਿਟੀ

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




Canada <sup>مالي تعاون:</sup> United Way  
Greater Toronto

**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




நிதியுதவி: Canada <sup>United Way</sup>  
Greater Toronto

**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.




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**THE RACIAL EQUITY IN EDUCATION PROJECT**

**BE A PART OF ACTIVE CHANGE**

The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians is looking for Muslim students to participate in active change to combat racial inequity in education.

**YOU MUST BE:**

- ✓ A Muslim-identifying student (age 14-18)
- ✓ Attending a **Public, Catholic, or Private high school in the GTA**
- ✓ Interested in advocacy work focused on racial inequity in education systems

**WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?**

- Participate in virtual social advocacy training for 10 hours/a month
- Receive a **\$100 honorarium**
- Raise public awareness on racial inequities & implement change within the education system

**APPLY BY NOV 9, 2020 AT**  
[WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/P9W69MP](http://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/P9W69MP)



## Outreach Coordinator

The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians is partnering with the Urban Alliance on Race Relations to counter racial inequity in the Canadian education system.

CASSA is looking for Muslim high school students, and Muslim parents/guardians of students to participate in advocacy workshops and leadership training in an effort to raise public awareness of racial systemic discrimination.

If you are interested, please fill out an application at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/P9W69MP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P9W69MP) by **November 9th**. Participants will receive a **\$100 honorarium**, community service hours, and references. For any questions or concerns, please contact: [eman@cassa.on.ca](mailto:eman@cassa.on.ca)

# Opportunities

Council of Agencies Serving South Asians is a social justice non-profit umbrella agency working towards the empowerment of South Asians in Canada. A Project Manager will be hired to work on various anti-hate and anti-racism initiatives including the Collaborative for Combatting Online Hate project, the Anti-hate Community Leaders' Group, and the Anti-hate Conversation Series.

**Contract:** 1.5 year contract: 37.5 hours/week

**Salary:** \$50,000 annual salary (plus 6-8% benefits)

**Start date:** Immediate

**Description:** A Project Manager will be hired to work on various anti-hate and anti-racism initiatives including the Collaborative for Combatting Online Hate project, the Anti-hate Community Leaders' Group, and the Anti-hate Conversation Series. The Collaborative for Combatting Online Hate is a national project designed to build capacity of the social justice sector to tackle online hate and develop and implement a national social media campaign to combat online hate. The Anti-hate Community Leaders' Group is a group of 30+ community leaders and agencies committed to tackling the issues of hate crimes and hate speech in Canada. The Anti-hate Conversation Series is a bi-weekly virtual series to shed light on issues related to hate, racism, and oppression and opens conversations of allyship and support around those issues.

## Job Opportunity with CASSA: Project Manager for Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Initiatives

A Project Manager will be hired to work on various anti-hate and anti-racism initiatives including the Collaborative for Combatting Online Hate project, the Anti-hate Community Leaders' Group, and the Anti-hate Conversation Series.

Apply by **Nov. 5, 2020**.

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

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At the South Asian Allyship Network, our goal is to mobilize the South Asian diaspora (including Indo-Caribbeans, Afro-Indians, etc.) to advocate for social justice and human rights and build a strong network of activists from our communities. We came together a few months ago after we recognized the lack of a collective South Asian voice in support of systemic anti-Black racism efforts. Through this organization we seek to explore the complicity of our own communities in perpetuating anti-Black racism and systemic oppression, and look to begin engaging in direct action efforts with established community organizations. [Click here to apply.](#)

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## Messages from Members

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 & ENGAGEMENT

# Virtual Indigenous Knowledges Gathering 2020

One Dish, One Spoon: Conversations on Global Sustainability

November

16

**Land & Water Sustainability**

1 p.m. Craft And Learn: Corn Husk Dolls\*

7 p.m. Keynotes: The Dish With One Spoon - Dan Longboat &amp; Rick Hill

November

17

**Food Sustainability**

1 p.m. Cook and Learn: Pow Wow Cafe\*\*

7 p.m. Panel: Reclaiming Indigenous Food Systems, Knowledges &amp; Values for a Sustainable Future Panel

November

18

**Cultural Sustainability**

1 p.m. Plant and Learn: Medicine Teachings\*

7 p.m. Keynote: Indigenous Matriarchs Rising - Shayla Stonechild &amp; Sunshine Tenasco

November

19

**Fashion Sustainability**

1 p.m. Craft and Learn: Beading 101\*

7 p.m. Panel: Building Resurgence Through Fashion

November

20

**Breakout Sessions**

10 a.m. A) Building Identity and Cultural Sustainability

10 a.m. B) Building Wellness through Indigenous Food Systems

1 p.m. A) Building Connection through Land and Water

1 p.m. B) Building Resurgence through Fashion

\*Workshops: (open only to Indigenous students, staff, alumni, and community members)

Register online at [www.eventsquid.com/event/10577](http://www.eventsquid.com/event/10577)

 @HumberIndigenous

 @HumberIndig

 @HumberIndigenous

## Virtual Indigenous Knowledges Gathering 2020

In considering the diversity of practices and traditions that exist within Indigenous nations, Indigenous education offers possibility, hope, and opportunity not only for the enhancement of educational outcomes but, conceived broadly, for the health and wellness of broader communities. It contributes to the scope of human understanding, offering values, philosophies, conceptual frameworks, and important perspectives on how to move forward in sustainable ways.

This year's theme, **One Dish, One Spoon: Conversations in Global Sustainability**, envisions an education system centred in place, community, and planet. IKG will bring students, educators, and communities together once again to explore the knowledges, skills, and education strategies required to build a better future. IKG will feature an exciting program of keynote presentations, panel discussions, and breakout discussion circles, alongside rich cultural programming.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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## Are you currently living with or know someone who lives with Type 2 Diabetes?

If you are 18 or older and have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, you may be eligible to participate in a research study

### Study for South Asians with Type 2 Diabetes at the University of Toronto

We are looking for South Asian adults 18 years and older who have been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes or know someone with Type 2 diabetes to look into their experiences of seeking diabetes-related healthcare in Canada.

This study aims to look into the experiences of South Asians seeking diabetes-related health services, the problems they face, and recommend solutions to better serve the diabetic needs of the South Asian population in Canada.

Respondents will be asked to participate in a telephone interview conducted in English.

NO personal information will be collected.

Participation will involve:

- 1 interview lasting about 30 minutes
- **A \$40 gift card per interview** as compensation for your time

#### Location

- Telephone interviews conducted from your home

#### Are you eligible?

In order to participate, you must be:

- 18 years or older
- South Asian (i.e. **from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal**)
- Diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes
- Fluent in English

If you are unsure about meeting the requirements, call or email a member of the study team:

- Minal Waqar (Principal investigator)
- [minal.waqar@live.com](mailto:minal.waqar@live.com)

+1-647-493-8284

Eligibility:

- 18 years+, South Asian
- Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes
- Fluent in English

Participation involves:


1 interview (30 minutes) and a **\$40 gift card/interview**

Call 647-493-8284 or email


[minal.waqar@live.com](mailto:minal.waqar@live.com) to

participate


 +1 -647-493-8284
 Department of Geography



**UHN**  
COURAGE LIVES HERE




Kidney Health Education and Research Group

**Did you know?  
Ethnic minorities\* face barriers in accessing kidney transplantation?**


**UHN is investigating the knowledge & attitudes individuals may have toward kidney transplantation and donation**


**WE WANT YOUR OPINION!**  
[kidney.questionpro.ca](http://kidney.questionpro.ca)




**Complete the survey for a chance to enter your name in a draw to win one of six \$50 Amazon gift cards!\*\***

Contact us for more information

  
[nefros.net](http://nefros.net)

  
 416-340-4800  
ext. 6582

  
[culturalgroups@nefros.net](mailto:culturalgroups@nefros.net)

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\* East Asian, South Asian, & African Canadian; \*\* Terms & Conditions Apply    Version Date: April 24, 2019

## Survey: Knowledge and Attitudes Towards Kidney Transplantation & Donation

Complete the survey for a chance to win 1 of 6 \$50 Amazon Gift Cards!

In interested, contact:

[nefros.net](http://nefros.net) |

Call 416-340-4800 x 6582 |

[culturalgroups@nefros.net](mailto:culturalgroups@nefros.net)



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The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Canada's Minister for Women and Gender Equality, and Alberta's Lieutenant Governor Salma Lakhani are keynote speakers! Every ticket your purchase goes towards CCMW's Dr. Lila Fahlman Scholarship Fund.

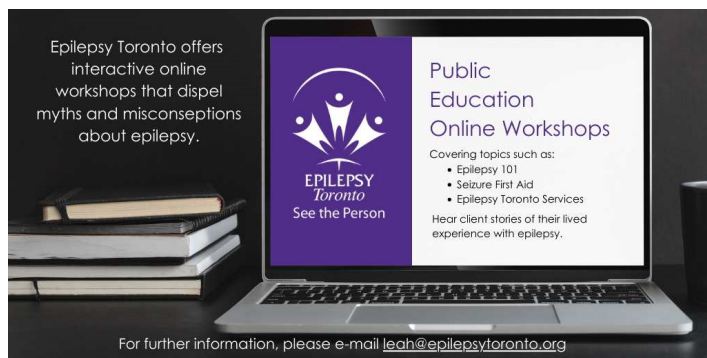
Click [HERE](#) to purchase your tickets today!!

This year, **Women Who Inspire Awards 2020** is a global, virtually stimulating event to celebrate achievements of Canadian Muslim Women Who Inspire and is scheduled to take place on Sunday, **November 15, 2020 from 11 am to 1 pm EST.**

The **Women Who Inspire Awards annual fundraiser** recognizes Canadian Muslim women in the community who are committed to doing important work and dedicated to improving the lives of others.

#### WWI2020 Event Overview:

- Women Who Inspire Awards and the Dr. Lila Fahlman Scholarship presentations
- Spoken Word with Timaj Garad
- Thought-provoking panel discussion on "Racial Reckoning: Where to Muslims Stand ?"



## Epilepsy Toronto - Online Workshops

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](mailto:leah@epilepsytoronto.org)

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## ஸ்கான் 2020-21 செயற்திட்ட ஆணைக்கான கருத்துக்கணிப்பு SCAN's 2020-21 Action Mandate Survey

### SCAN's 2020-21 Action Mandate Survey (English/Tamil)

The Scarborough Civic Action Network (SCAN) is a non-partisan network that aims to support civic engagement activities across Scarborough to address inequities. In this survey, SCAN is seeking broad community input from Scarborough residents and stakeholders to decide SCAN's 2020-21 Action Mandate. **By completing this survey, you will effectively be casting a ballot for what you think SCAN should focus on for 2020-21.** This survey takes about 3-5 minutes to complete.

## Important News

### Alleged racism highlights diversity divide in rural Ontario

People of colour (POC) say they've been the target of racism in their new communities and have been made to feel unwelcome and unwanted. These alleged acts of racism are highlighting the rural-urban divide when it comes to diversity in rural communities. In an effort to help other families looking to move out of the city, two Toronto researchers have started a project called [Ninety Minutes From Toronto](#).

### In post-COVID Canada, racialized communities will face the most challenges

Arab, Middle Eastern, and West Asian Canadians represent 11 per cent of Toronto's COVID-19 cases, yet only make up 4 per cent of the city's total population. These are also disproportionately the individuals

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unemployment rates in Canada.

## Indians biggest beneficiaries as Canada to admit 401,000 new immigrants

Indian immigration into Canada has jumped exponentially in the last three to four years. While 39,340 Indian immigrants were admitted in 2016, the figures jumped to 85,000 in 2019—a rise of 105 per cent. Immigration Minister Marco Mendicino said on Friday while announcing the new immigration targets, "Newcomers are playing an outsized role in our hospitals and care homes, and helping us to keep food on the table."

## Teachers at Scarborough school refusing to work after COVID-19 outbreak

Teachers at a Scarborough elementary school - Glamorgan Junior P.S - refuse to work Monday over fears for safety after their school remained opened despite a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak.

A number of staff at a Scarborough elementary school with 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases and another 58 students in self-isolation refused to work there on Monday and it is unclear whether they will return to their classrooms tomorrow.

The work refusal left only 11 adults to supervise children who remained at the school by mid-morning on Monday.

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