



COUNCIL OF AGENCIES SERVING SOUTH ASIANS

*The Council of Agencies Serving South Asians'*

# November 2021 Newsletter

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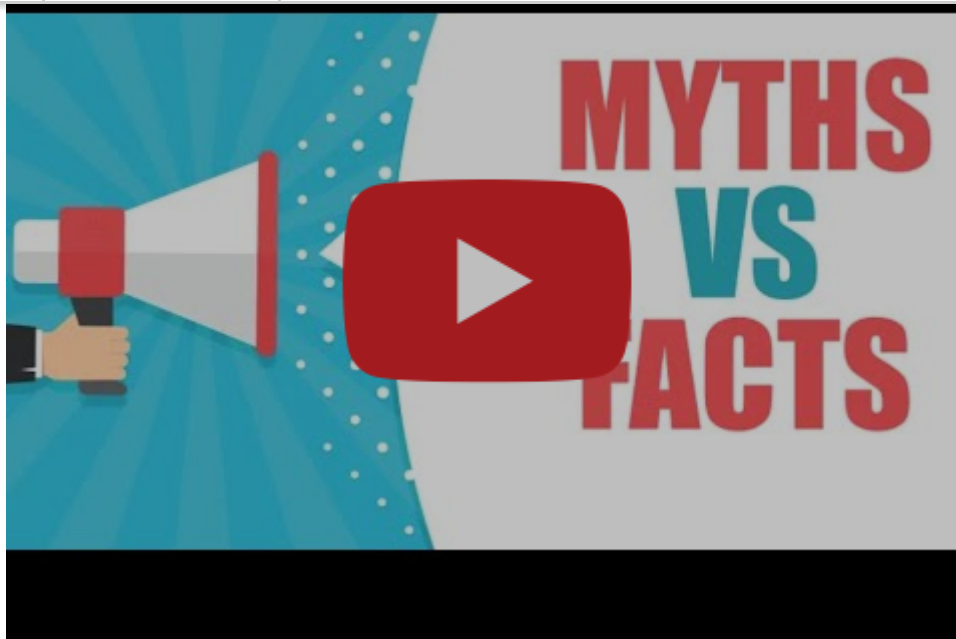
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# Project Updates

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## [South Asian Vaccine Engagement Collaborative - Wardah Malik, Vaccine Engagement Coordinator](#)

This month, CASSA's vaccine engagement team is relaunching the Hub, starting off a new training series, and hosting town halls on community issues. Beginning with COVID passports then moving onto youth (ages 5-11) vaccines, the town halls will involve experts from across Toronto who have expert knowledge to answer questions raised by our communities and volunteers. Please review our hub and social media for updated information on links and event registrations. Please keep a look out for these releases and reach out to [wardah@cassa.on.ca](mailto:wardah@cassa.on.ca) if you have story to share about the pandemic and its affect on your community.

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Click here to view the full playlist of vaccine education videos available in 4 different languages: English, Punjabi, Tamil, and Urdu.

[Vaccine Myths vs Facts](#)  
[Vaccine Education Series](#)

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### **Hate Crime Reporting -**

[Lakhdeep Dhaliwal, Hate Crime Reporting Project Coordinator](#)

November is here and the Hate Crime Reporting project is in full stride. Focus groups continue to centre community voice and the community survey is open until December for residents of Ottawa, Peel, York and Toronto to share their experiences with reporting. As this two pronged approach continues, CASSA project lead - Lakhdeep Singh Dhaliwal welcomes input from service providers and community partners looking to learn more about the project and those interested in hosting a virtual community focus group. This month's focus group served alongside Bangladesh Centre & Community Services. This group of seniors shared experiences and knowledge while asking questions to learn more about hate crime reporting in their community. It was a successful dialogue with insight and interconnection. Please click [here](#) for more information. Survey can be found [here](#).

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

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"This project is made possible by the Ministry of the Solicitor General in the form of direct support from The Safer and Vital Communities Grant."

anonymously capture the voice of community members in Toronto, Peel region, York region and Ottawa on hate incident reporting. What is a hate incident? Where do hate incidents occur? Why do some in the community report hate incidents while others do not? How can hate incident reporting be improved upon? This survey only takes 5-10 minutes to complete, and those who complete the survey will receive a **\$10 gift card** as an honorarium.

**Anti-Hate & Equity Education - Naima Raza and Eman Zahid, Anti-Hate Education Project Coordinators**

Are you a Muslim high school student or parent/guardian? Would you like to combat racism and Islamophobia in the education system? CASSA is recruiting volunteers for its Coalition for Racial Equity in Education (CREE) project in collaboration with the Urban Alliance on Race Relations.

This project will equip you with advocacy skills in order to make the education system more equitable for Muslim students and staff. Over the past year, CREE has held community forums, training sessions with volunteers, conferences, and has supported a motion to establish an anti-Islamophobia strategy at the Peel District School Board.

Apply by **December 1st** by completing [this](#) form.

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

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**Are you a South Asian woman?**  
 Have you faced any violence in your home or outside the home?  
 We want to hear from you for our **RESEARCH STUDY!**  
 You could help change lives!  
 To participate in a focus group and receive a \$50 gift card, please contact Dinoba Kirupa at [dinoba@cassa.on.ca](mailto:dinoba@cassa.on.ca)

Project Coordinator

The gender-based violence research study's majority of focus groups have been completed and have been a great success. Although the stories were saddening and eye-opening, many participants have shared their lived experiences transparently. Many of them also viewed the focus groups as moments to vent and find solidarity among others who have been through the same.

We are still in the process of **recruiting more participants**, particularly in **British Columbia**. If anyone knows any South Asian serving agencies that may wish to partake in the study, please let us know. Interviews with executive directors and GBV experts are wrapping up at this point and have been extremely insightful. The data collection phase is expected to be completed by mid-November and the next phase of analysis will be underway soon after.

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



AVAILABLE ON SPOTIFY, APPLE & GOOGLE PODCASTS

**ANTI-HATE CONVERSATIONS.**

PART 29: ONLINE HATE, BILL C-36, ALGORITHMS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH. IN CONVERSATION WITH RYAN CHAN.

RYAN CHAN

PROJECT LEAD, CHINESE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Anti-Hate Initiatives -

Maryam Faisal, Project Manager

A new podcast episode is up! In tandem with the launch of the #EradicateHate campaign, in this episode, Ryan Chan (CCNC-SJ) and I discuss online hate, freedom of speech, Bill C-36, and more. Check out the episode on [Spotify](#) or alternatively available on Apple and Google Podcasts.



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## VIDEO Submissions

Have you been personally impacted by online hate? Do you want to share your story with others?

**FIVE SELECTED VIDEOS WILL RECEIVE A \$75 HONORARIUM.**

**SUBMIT: [TINYURL.COM/CASSAVIDEO](https://tinyurl.com/cassavideo)**



social media

platforms: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#)

We're also accepting video submissions! Five selected videos will receive a \$75

**honorarium.** Submit

through: [tinyurl.com/cassavideo](https://tinyurl.com/cassavideo)

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

## CASSA's Annual General Report 2021



2021

### ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT



CASSA's Annual General Meeting took place virtually this year on **October 20, 2021 from 5-7 pm**. CASSA has also released the [Annual General Report of 2021](#), available on the CASSA website. This meeting involved partners, board members, and CASSA staff in expressing our commitment to working across racialized communities through partner agencies and community leaders continues to be central to our work.

For any inquiries, please contact

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

## Messages from Members

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Cybersecurity Training Program

[www.culturelink.ca/cybersecurity/training](http://www.culturelink.ca/cybersecurity/training)



**Cybersecurity Training Program**  
FAST-TRACK YOUR CYBERSECURITY CAREER

Prepare for the ITCA Cybersecurity Fundamental Certificate

Highlights	Eligibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One week of Canadian Career Development Training.</li> <li>Seven weeks of Technical training provided by Certified Cybersecurity Professionals.</li> <li>Access to free online practice materials and practice exams.</li> <li>Monthly networking sessions with potential employers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent Resident or Convention Refugee</li> <li>Post-secondary degree in IT or related field</li> <li>Interest in IT and understanding of Coding</li> <li>Minimum CLB Level 7-8</li> </ul>

**CONTACT US!**  
Email [cybersecurity@culturelink.ca](mailto:cybersecurity@culturelink.ca)

Funded by:  Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financed by:  Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

If you are a newcomer interested in pursuing a career in Cybersecurity, CultureLink's training program will give you the tools to get you started:

- Free lectures, online practice materials, and exams
- Monthly networking sessions with potential future employers
- Access to employment counselling and settlement referrals

### Who is it for?

- Newcomers with education in IT, high interest in IT, and coding background
- Permanent Resident or Convention Refugee ONLY
- A minimum of CLB level 7 & 8 – Proof of a valid CLB level 7 & 8 in all the four areas completed within last 24 months

The first step to sign up for the training is attending an Information Session! To register, contact Aqeela at [asaddiqui@culturelink.ca](mailto:asaddiqui@culturelink.ca).

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27 AT 2PM • LIVE ON YOUTUBE & FACEBOOK**

Scarborough Arts' 36th Annual Juried Exhibition

**NEW DEPTHS**

 [youtube.com/user/scarborougharts](https://youtube.com/user/scarborougharts)  
 @ScarboroughArts

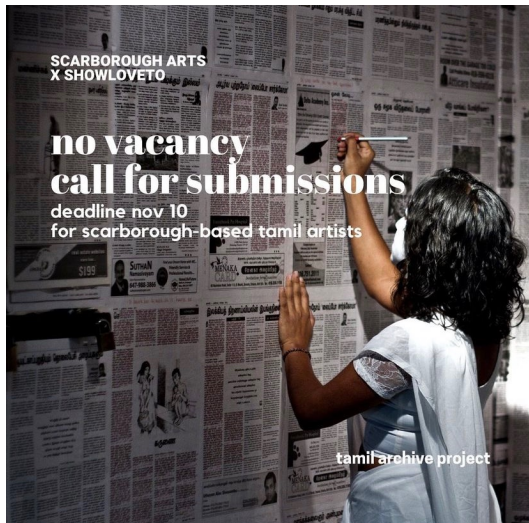
 **scarborough arts**

### [Scarborough Arts' Annual Juried Exhibition - Scarborough Arts Events](#)

Scarborough Arts are back with its 36th [Annual Juried Exhibition](#). After another year in pandemic and a world in flux, we asked artists how they have retreated inward. **In what ways has our community of artists been pushed or challenged to reimagine themselves, find new**

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This year's exhibition is juried by queer interdisciplinary Anishinaabe (Algonquin) artist, [Natalie King](#), and Scarborough-based poet and community organizer, [Elizabeth Mundayo](#). Our Annual Juried Exhibition, "New Depths," will be happening on **Saturday, November 27, 2021 from 2PM-4PM** via livestream on our [Youtube](#) and [Facebook](#). Folks may RSVP for an advance link [here](#).



### **No Vacancy: Call for Artist Submissions - Scarborough Arts x Tamil Archive**

Tamil Archive Project and Scarborough Arts are curating a Scarborough storefront art exhibit from 1 December 2021 - 28 February 2022. We invite artists to submit their completed works to be considered for the exhibition under the theme 'no vacancy' which may be broadly interpreted. This opportunity is open to all career stages and age groups. Artist Fee: \$600, Deadline 10 November 2021. [Submit here](#).



**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 [here](#).**



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**BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS**  
FREE workshop

Begins: November 1, 2021  
12 sessions: Mondays & Wednesdays  
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.



**FOR:**  
**Adults 19+ with limited/few computer skills**

**You need:**  
- a computer with mic and camera  
- SIN

**Register HERE or call or email LEO:**  
**647-258-8976**  
lwong@frontiercollege.ca

Frontier College Scarborough is excited to bring you another 6-week virtual workshop: Basic Computer Skills. This workshop begins in November.

Register by emailing:

[lwong@frontiercollege.ca](mailto:lwong@frontiercollege.ca) or call Leo at 647-258-8976

 Women and Gender Equality Canada    Femmes et Égalité des genres Canada

**Join us!**  
**Fighting Misogyny Project Kickoff**  
Tuesday,  
November 16, 2021  
From 7pm to 8pm  
on Zoom

**Register Here:**  
<https://forms.gle/dSlwGUA4J4NF3Ct7>  
Or email:  
[genderequity@bangladeshi.ca](mailto:genderequity@bangladeshi.ca)  
*Join Our Movement!*

"Fighting Misogyny and Stereotypes against Racialized Women and Girls in Toronto", an initiative of BCS funded by the Government of Canada.

**Learn More!**

- Project overview
- Project schedule
- Meet Experts, Leaders & Stakeholders



### **Fighting Misogyny: Kickoff Project - Join us! - Althea Therapy Services**

We are very pleased to invite you to join our project kickoff meeting on **Tuesday, November 16, 2021 from 7pm to 8pm**. Over the past weeks, we have worked hard on setting up the "Fighting Misogyny and Stereotypes against Racialized Women and Girls in Toronto" (Fighting Misogyny) funded by the Government of Canada.

This project (**Oct 2021- March 2022**) will support a feminist response and recovery from the current impacts of COVID-19 through systemic change. The project will directly benefit 300 racialized women and girls mostly from low-income South Asian communities and indirectly benefit over 20,000 people through media and social media campaigns.

Please Register [here](#) or email [genderequity@bangladeshi.ca](mailto:genderequity@bangladeshi.ca) to register.

## Opportunities

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Scarborough

JUMP Scarborough November 2021 Calendar

8-Day: Girls' Empowerment Program\*  
Every Wednesday (November 3, 10, 17, 24 & December 1, 8, 15, 22) 4 – 5:30p.m.  
\*for youth ages 15 - 19

Register Now

Job Fair: Globalfaces Direct  
Wednesday, November 17 1:50 – 3:30p.m.

Register Now

Work Safe: Employment Rights at Work  
Thursday November 25 10a.m. – noon

Register Now

Job Fair: Total Staff Recovery  
Thursday, November 11 1:50 – 3:30p.m.

Register Now

Correctional Services Recruitment Information Event  
Thursday, November 18 1:50 – 3:30p.m.

Register Now

Service Canada Information Event  
Monday, November 15 1:50 – 3:30p.m.

Register Now

Job Fair: Canstaff Inc. Agency  
Monday, November 22 1:50 – 3:30p.m.

Register Now

### Job Fair: Globalfaces Direct Globalfaces

Direct specializes in smart, scalable face-to-face fundraising services for charities around the world.

### Correctional Services Recruitment

**Information Session** -The Ministry of the Solicitor General is recruiting Correctional Officers. The starting salary for these positions is \$28.69 - \$33.74 per hour.

### Job Fair: Canstaff Inc. Agency The

Canstaff Employment Agency has been the agency of choice for many companies across the GTA for over a decade.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Project Associate – Hate Crime Reporting

N/A · Part Time · Ontario

Apply Now

### Canada Summer Jobs Position

For Youth Between 15 to 30

**Position Title:** Project Associate – Anti-hate and Equity in Education

**Reporting to:** Project Manager

**Duration:** 15 Weeks

**Hours:** 20 hours/week

**Pay:** \$15/hour

**Start date:** Immediate

### Job Posting: Project Associate – Hate Crime Reporting - CASSA

Canada Summer Jobs

Position For Youth Between

**15 to 30 years of age**

**Reporting to:** Project

Manager

**Duration:** 15 Weeks Hours:

20 hours/week

**Pay:** \$15/hour Start date:

Immediate

*The Project Associate will work with the Project Lead on community survey and community focus groups aimed at residents of Toronto, York, Peel, and Ottawa regions. [Click here for more information and to apply.](#)*

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TIMES CHANGE  
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Times Change Women's Employment Service is an incorporated non-profit charitable community agency. For over 45 years, we have been providing women with free employment workshops, computer training, counselling and resources. Our mandate is to advance gender equality by helping women increase their prosperity through sustainable and satisfying employment.

Times Change is a single-layer organization where members of management also provide some front-line services, in addition to their leadership and management tasks. In understanding this, we are looking for a candidate who brings strong **knowledge, understanding and experience** from the non-profit sector. We are specifically looking for an individual with exceptional leadership skills **who has the ability to manage the organization as a team**, and a strong understanding of non-profit funders, such as Employment Ontario, United Way, Province of Ontario, and City of Toronto.

The Financial Administrator is responsible for full cycle financial accounting and reporting, budget preparation, project management, and strategic planning. As a key member of the Collective, the Financial Administrator provides strategic vision and direction to the financial success of the organization.

#### Core Responsibilities:

##### Accounting

- Responsible for Agency bookkeeping - maintain full and accurate financial records in compliance with GAAP and as required by funding agreements and the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA)
- Manage accounts receivable/payable and payroll, including ensuring payroll taxes are withheld and remitted
- Review and process reimbursements
- Keep records of invoices and tax payments
- Prepare monthly account reconciliations
- Create and update spreadsheets of daily transactions

## 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](mailto:cancerinfo@ontariohealth.ca). Do not send us any information about your health or your health card (OHIP) number



Visit [cancercareontario.ca/cervicalinterviews](https://www.cancercareontario.ca/cervicalinterviews) to learn more



**Ontario Health**  
Cancer Care Ontario



The Financial Administrator is responsible for full cycle financial accounting and reporting, budget preparation, project management, and strategic planning. As a key member of the Collective, the Financial Administrator provides strategic vision and direction to the financial success of the organization.

**Hours:** 35 hours per week

**Pay:** \$30.34 per hour with a generous benefit package, RRSP savings, a defined pension plan and flexible work from home options

**Start Date:** ASAP This is a full-time, permanent and unionized position

Please click [here](#) to view the full job description or email [hiring@timeschange.org](mailto:hiring@timeschange.org) for any questions

### Volunteers Needed - Ontario Cervical Screening Program

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: <https://www.cancercareontario.ca/en/get-checked-cancer/volunteers-needed-cervical-messages>.

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**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN A STUDY ABOUT FINANCIAL MISTREATMENT AMONG SENIOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN?**

This research study is trying to learn more about senior immigrant women's experiences of financial mistreatment by people close to them.

What it involves:

- A 45 minute interview by phone or virtually.

We are looking for individuals who:

- Identify as women
- Are over the age of 55
- Immigrated to Canada in the last 20 years
- Live in Ontario
- Have experienced financial mistreatment by a family member or partner.

The interview is confidential and participants will receive a \$50 e-gift card for participating.

Please contact:  
Premila Chellapermal, Project Coordinator  
Woman Abuse Council of Toronto  
pchellapermal@womanact.ca  
416-944-9242 Ext. 236

This research study is trying to learn more about senior immigrant women's experiences of financial mistreatment by people close to them. This study involves: a **45 minute interview** by phone or virtually.

#### Eligibility:

- Identify as a woman, **over age of 55**
- Immigrated to Canada in the last 20 years and live in Ontario
- Have experienced financial mistreatment by a family member/partner



## Racism and Multiculturalism in Toronto

We are searching for individuals to participate in a research project about racism and multiculturalism in Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 50, and have lived, worked, or studied in Toronto (or the GTA) for the past 5 years, we want to hear from you.

Individuals of all racial and ethnic identities are invited to participate in a 60-to-90-minute virtual interview.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Dr. Kalyani Thurairajah for more information at [Kalyani.Thurairajah@macewan.ca](mailto:Kalyani.Thurairajah@macewan.ca).

## Recruiting Research Participants - Woman ACT

We are searching for individuals to participate in a research project about **racism and multiculturalism in Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area.**

#### Eligibility:

- between age of 18 and 50
- have lived, worked or studied in Toronto/GTA for past 5 years

Participation includes one **60-to-90-minute virtual interview** (scheduled at your convenience between now and December 1).

**Individuals of all racial and ethnic identities are encouraged to participate.**

If interested, please contact [gureshin3@mymacewan.ca](mailto:gureshin3@mymacewan.ca) or email Dr. Thurairajah at [Kalyani.thurairajah@macewan.ca](mailto:Kalyani.thurairajah@macewan.ca).

This interview is **confidential** and you will receive a **\$50 gift card** for participating. Contact [pchellapermal@womanact.ca](mailto:pchellapermal@womanact.ca), if interested.

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## 'SAFE HANDS SAFE HEARTS' COVID-19 COUNSELLING SESSIONS

This research project is offering a free online 3-session counselling series to support and address LGBTQIA+ experiences during the pandemic.

### THIS PROJECT IS FOR YOU IF: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:

You identify as a LGBTQIA+ person.

You are 18 or older.

You would like support in navigating your experiences during the pandemic.

Support using COVID-19 preventative practices with a trained peer counsellor.

Exploring wellness and mental health during the pandemic.

Compensation of \$30 per session.



Register here: [www.safehandssafehearts.com/ca](http://www.safehandssafehearts.com/ca)

If you have questions, please contact:  
[shshstudy@whiwh.com](mailto:shshstudy@whiwh.com)



## Toronto

#SafeHandsSafeHearts is a partnership between Women's Health In Women's Hands and The University of Toronto Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) aiming to support sexual and gender minority communities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The project involves **3 online counselling sessions** to increase COVID-19 knowledge and protective behaviours, and reduce pandemic stress (anxiety, depression, loneliness).

We encourage any adults **over the age of 18** who identify as **LGBTQIA+** to apply. In addition to receiving the counselling service, participants will be compensated **\$30 per session (3 sessions + 2 survey = \$150)**. To apply, please fill out the screening survey here:

<http://www.safehandssafehearts.com/ca>. Please reach out to [shshstudy@whiwh.com](mailto:shshstudy@whiwh.com) should you have questions about the project.

Epilepsy Toronto offers 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](mailto:leah@epilepsytoronto.org)

## Combating 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

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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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# Funding Opportunities

## **SSHRC Funding for a Race, Gender and Diversity Initiative**

The [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#) (SSHRC) launched a new special initiative in August 2021 on the themes of **race, gender and diversity**. The new **Race, Gender and Diversity Initiative** will aim to provide financial support for partnership research to inform actions that address social disparities related to race, gender, and other forms of diversity.

Researchers from **not-for-profit organizations, in partnership with postsecondary institutions**, can submit applications for projects that are community-led and community based, and which are based on the lived experience of **underrepresented and disadvantaged groups**, including but not limited to women; *First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples; people living with disabilities; racialized communities; religious minorities; and LGBTQ2+ people, as well as individuals who identify as, or belong to, more than one of these groups.*

It is important to note that all organizations wishing to apply for a grant and administer the related funds, if awarded, must first obtain [institutional eligibility](#) at SSHRC. It is possible to start the process now if an institution does not currently have institutional eligibility by contacting [SSHRC](#) as soon as possible to discuss the required steps. You can consult the list of already [eligible institutions](#) on the SSHRC website.

For questions about this initiative please contact SSHRC by writing to [partnerships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:partnerships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca).

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## **Anti-Racism Anti-Hate (ARAH) Grant Program**

The [Anti-Racism Anti-Hate Grant \(ARAH\) Grant Program](#) focuses on supporting community-led initiatives that will increase public education and awareness on the impact of racism and hate, in all of its many forms. This **\$1.6M program is a 2-year grant** that supports community-led initiatives focused on increasing public education and awareness and will fund projects that build capacity, connect communities, and deepen understanding on the impacts of racism and hate. The program will have a tiered funding approach (**Tier 1: \$100K/project | Tier 2:**

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### **Resilient Communities Fund**

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is investing in projects of non-profit organizations that have been impacted by COVID-19 to support their medium to longer-term recovery efforts and help rebuild their capacity and resiliency. Funding is available for projects that align with at least **one of the Resilient Communities Fund outcomes** to help organizations address their diverse needs and support them to rebuild and recover. Eligible organizations can apply for funding through the Resilient Communities Fund starting **November 10, 2021**.

**TERM LENGTH:** Maximum 12 months

**AMOUNT AWARDED (PER YEAR):** Minimum \$5,000 Maximum \$150,000

[Please click here for more information.](#)

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## **Important News**

### **Province expands eligibility for COVID-19 booster shots**

"Ontario's chief medical officer of health, Dr. Kieran Moore, announced in a news conference on Wednesday that the province has expanded eligibility for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and that all Ontarians over the age of 12 will be eligible for a third dose in the coming months..."Emerging evidence suggests that vaccine effectiveness against asymptomatic infection and mild illness may decrease over time, and a booster dose could help to restore and maintain protection against infection. Either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine may be used as a booster dose, regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine was used in the primary series," Moore explained." [Read more](#)

### **Canada post issues third commemorative Diwali stamp to mark the 'festival of lights'**

"The Diwali stamps express our pride in Canada being a land of diverse faiths, customs, and celebrations. It is fitting that this historic first joint issue celebrates the strong relationship between Canada and India" said Deepak Chopra, the former president and CEO of Canada Post. The

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## How a Toronto music label is bringing South Asian culture, language to world stage

"South Asian artists using their own language and the sounds they grew up with are breaking into the entertainment industry thanks to a new music label based in Toronto. The label, called Maajja, launched early this year. It's helping artists record songs in Tamil and other regional languages in a bid to break down the stigma facing music from different cultures in the mainstream recording business. They are helping artists get on traditional radio and online streaming platforms, while helping them build their music careers." To read more, click [here](#).

## Brown, Desi, South Asian: Diaspora reflects on the terms that represent, erase them

South Asian creators, like other people of colour in the film and television industries, need to have the same opportunities to succeed and fail that are afforded to white people, Niazi said. She pointed to the "glass cliff" theory, which states that during a high-stakes crisis, people of colour and women are favoured for promotions, setting them up for failure from the beginning. [Click here to read more.](#)





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