



BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

May, 2025

Welcome, everyone! This is the newsletter from the BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP) team. Here, you can find the latest updates, schedule of our services, upcoming events, and community resources.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

The BCNSP offers new workshops and events at no cost! Check out our monthly scheduled agenda below.

Some workshops require registration in advance and have eligibility requirements. Connect with us for the most up-to-date news! Email us at bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca.

WHO ARE WE?

BCNSP program is to support the social and economic integration of newcomers to the BC province who are not eligible for federally funded settlement services. The program aims to help clients achieve their best possible settlement outcomes.





Need to improve your English proficiency?

We offer **FREE** English classes & practice for all levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced) that you can join to improve your language skills. These classes are available in-person or online at various locations. Please contact BCNSP team (bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca) to learn about available classes and eligibility requirements.



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)



FREE ENGLISH CLASS IN SAANICH

FREE ENGLISH

WHO CAN REGISTER?

- Temporary Foreign Workers with valid work permits *
- Naturalized Canadian Citizens *
- Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) visa holders (*restrictions applied)

Every Wednesday,

- 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM: ELT I & II
- 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM: ELT III & IV

At 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, V9A 1K5 (City Light Church)

For free registration, please email us: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

We also provide free

Immigration and Settlement Services

- immigration consultation through law clinic, information & referrals, assistance with non-immigration forms
- Labour market services
- Pre-employment training
- Networking info, support related to workplace issues, job search resources, resume/cover letter review

English Language Training (formal/ informal)

Let's stay connected!
You can find more information about us at: <https://www.vircs.bc.ca/bcnsp>






BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)



FREE ENGLISH CLASS IN WESTSHORE

FREE ENGLISH

WHO CAN REGISTER?

- Temporary Foreign Workers with valid work permits *
- Naturalized Canadian Citizens *
- Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) visa holders (*restrictions applied)

Every Wednesday

- 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM: ELT I & II
- 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM: ELT III & IV

At Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) - Juan de Fuca Branch (1759 Island Highway, Victoria, V9B 1J1)

For free registration, please email us: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

We also provide free

Immigration and Settlement Services

- immigration consultation through law clinic, information & referrals, assistance with non-immigration forms
- Labour market services
- Pre-employment training
- Networking info, support related to workplace issues, job search resources, resume/cover letter review

English Language Training (formal/ informal)

Meet us at our info table - outreach in the library

Every Wednesday
12:00pm - 2:00pm

for more information!






*Please see page 5 and 6 for full details of our English classes schedule

[New] Intermediate English Conversation Practice

If you are looking to improve your language skills, join our **free** Intermediate English conversation practice!

Every Wednesday

• 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

@ City Light Church (550 Obed Avenue)

To register, please email:

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)



FREE ENGLISH CONVERSATION PRACTICE IN SAANICH

FREE ENGLISH

WHO CAN REGISTER?

- Work Permit Holders
- Study Permit Holders*
- Naturalized Canadian Citizens
- Refugee Claimants*
- Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) visa holders
- BC Provincial Nominees or BCPNP Entrepreneur Immigration candidates (*restrictions applied)

Intermediate English Grammar & Conversation

- Every Wednesday, starting January 22nd, 2025
- 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, V9A 1K5 (City Light Church)

For free registration, please email us: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

We also provide:

Immigration and Settlement Services

- immigration consultation through law clinic, information & referrals, assistance with non-immigration forms
- Labour market services
- Pre-employment training
- Networking info, support related to workplace issues, job search resources, resume/cover letter review

English Language Training (formal/ informal)

Let's stay connected!
You can find more information about us at: <https://www.vircs.bc.ca/bcnsp>







We're celebrating all women and caregivers on May 11th!

EXPLORE Job opportunities

In this section, you will find information about job fairs and employment workshops taking place in the Greater Victoria area. We understand that immigrating and finding a new job can be challenging, and we want to support you during this journey.

BCNSP offers various services to increase workforce readiness and knowledge of job market.

All BCNSP services are provided at no charge and delivered with cultural sensitivity and confidentiality.

Our labor market support includes:

- Information, Orientation, and networking
- Information on workplace rights and responsibilities and supports
- Employment counseling
- Short-term pre-employment training
- Supported access to WorkBC and other provincial/federal employment training programs

*The employment services are open to certain eligibility.

Email us for more info:

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

Lunch & Learn at **The Dock**

MEAGHAN
Salt Legacy

NANCY
The Nulla Project

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025
12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM

An opportunity to learn about, and connect with other woman entrepreneurs working within the circular economy!

BRING YOUR LUNCH

300-722 Cormorant St, Victoria, BC



Sales end soon

Victoria Health Project

Saturday at 1:30 PM + 6 more
Pursuit Physiotherapy

MANUFACTURING & DESIGN

AT SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

TUESDAY, MAY 6TH
6:00-8:00 PM

Calling all Women & non-career people interested in a career in Manufacturing!

Register HERE!

Women In Manufacturing FREE Community Event

Tue, May 6, 6:00 PM
Skagit Valley College

Free



2025 INDIGENOUS HIRING FAIR

Connecting Indigenous Talent with Opportunity

2025 Indigenous Hiring Fair

Wed, May 7 • 10:00 AM

231 Regina Ave

Free

WorkBC Victoria



Victoria-Colwood, BC

Resilient Women IN BUSINESS

We are more than a Networking Event, we are a community!

Join us to:

- + Network with others
- + Grow your business
- + Make Connections

Victoria Resilient Women In Business Networking Event

Tue, May 13, 6:30 PM + 6 more

Macdonald Realty Office

From \$18.18



May 7th

i care about you!

National Child & Youth Mental Health Day

MAY 7TH

National Child & Youth Mental Health Day

FamilySmart established May 7 as a day to show how small moments of care make a big difference. As part of National Child & Youth Mental Health Day, this day reminds us that when young people feel seen, heard, and supported, their mental health improves.

On May 7th, Say: "I Care About You"

A simple act of care can make a lasting difference.

1 in 5 Young People Struggle With Their Mental Health.

Caring conversations help kids feel seen and supported.

Take Action. Start A Conversation. Show You Care.

INDIGENOUS CAREER FAIR

at Career Zone

Friday, May 9 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (12:00 PM - 4:00 PM)

Career Zone

Going fast

Indigenous Career Fair @ Career Zone

Fri, May 9, 1:00 PM

Career Zone

Small Business Information Session

Presented by the Business Hub

The Business of Childcare: Small Business Info Session

Tue, May 27, 9:00 AM

Victoria City Hall



MAY 2025

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS




Funded by / Financé par:  **WelcomeBC**

BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

Parenting Circle FOR NEWCOMERS & IMMIGRANTS

Every Monday (starting April 28, 2025)
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
@Ruth King Elementary School

In these **in-person** information sessions, we will share useful experiences and tips to help parents and caregivers navigate:

- ✓ Parenting workshop and resources
- ✓ Benefits for families (Canada Child Benefits, Canada Dental Benefits....)
- ✓ Free resources for newcomers and immigrant families
- ✓ Non-immigration applications
- ✓ LIFE program and more

BIPOC welcome!

WHO WE SERVE?

- Work Permit Holders
- Study Permit Holders*
- Naturalized Canadian Citizens
- Refugee Claimants*
- Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) visa holders
- BC Provincial Nominees or BCPNP Entrepreneur Immigration candidates

(*restrictions applied)

For free registration, please contact Kendra Jesske – Inclusion Support Teacher:
kjesske@sd62.bc.ca

Parenting Circle for Newcomers and Immigrants

In these drop-in information sessions, a settlement counselor will help newcomer parents navigate resources and benefits that you are eligible for. In addition, we can assist you with filling out non-immigration related forms and preparing supporting documents, and answer any questions you may have.

Date: Every Monday, starting April 28, 2025

Time: 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Ruth King Elementary School

For free registration and more information, please contact Kendra (Inclusion Support Teacher):

kjesske@sd62.bc.ca



BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM (BCNSP)

Employment Café

Are you feeling stuck in your job search? Unsure about the next steps to take? We are here to help!

Our employment coordinator can provide you with:

- resume and cover letter review
- networking and job market navigation
- information and resources tailored to enhance your job search journey
- and more.

Come and meet us at:

<p>@ GVPL-Juan de Fuca (1759 Island Hwy, Victoria, BC V9B 1J1)</p> <p>Wednesdays, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM</p>	<p>@ VIRCS (1004 North Park St, Victoria, V8T 1C6)</p> <p>Thursdays, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM</p>
---	--

FREE

Services are available to VIRCS clients who are

- Work permit holders*
- Study Permit Holders*
- Naturalized Canadian Citizens*
- Refugee Claimants*

* Restrictions apply

For more information or to book an appointment, please email:
bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

Funded by / Financé par:  **WelcomeBC**

Employment Cafe

Navigating job resources can be challenging! Our experienced Employment Counselor can help you with resume and cover letter review, job market and networking information tailored to your employment background, and more.

Details of the locations and time are listed in the poster.

For free appointment booking and more information, please email:

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

MAY 2025

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS




LGBTQ2S+ AWARENESS FOR ESL STUDENTS WORKSHOP SERIES

SESSION: QUEER BASICS
MAY 28TH
10:45 AM -12:15 PM

SESSION: COLONIZATION & QUEERNESS
JUNE 28TH
10:45 AM -12:15 PM

LOCATION: 1004 North Park St.

Note: Changes to Workshop Series

- You Do not Need to attend all Workshops, but encouraged
- If you do attend all workshops, you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**
- Future Workshops will Include:
 - Understanding Sexual And Gender Diversity in the Animal Kingdom
 - Understanding Diversity from a Faith & Religious Context
 - Family & Allyship
- We are also looking into events in Greater Victoria & Vancouver - Stay Tuned

This workshop Series will

- Provide basic understanding of Diversity & Language
- Provide in depth understanding & experiences of Queer & Trans folks
- Provide Tools to communicate and allyship
- Provide multiple learning formats, simplicity for ESL learners & understanding of cultural & belief differences

Please contact **Natasha** for more details of Workshop Series:
natasha@vircs.bc.ca or bcensp@vircs.bc.ca

Facilitated by:
Corey Keith, BSW, MED
Educator, Consultant

Corey Keith's Website:
spectraservices.wixsite.com/home

Funded by / Financé par:



LGBTQ2S+ Awareness Workshop Series

In these workshops, you can learn about allyship, experiences of Queer & Trans folks, and cultural & belief differences.

Date & time: please see the poster for more information

Location: 1004 North Park St

For more information, please contact Settlement Counselor - Natasha:

natasha@vircs.bc.ca



BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM (BCNSP)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A WORKER IN B.C.

In-Person @ VIRCS
Multi-Purpose Room
Thursday,
May 15th, 2025
1pm - 3pm
(In English & Spanish)

Online (Zoom)
Thursday,
May 15th, 2025
1pm - 3pm
(In English & Spanish)

PRESENTED BY
WORKER SOLIDARITY NETWORK

Are you a temporary foreign worker and want to learn about your rights in B.C.?

Too many workers have already experienced wage theft, unjust termination, and other violations of the Employment Standards Act. Learn about your rights, what employers and recruiters can and cannot do, how to calculate your wage, the complaint process, and find community resources for support.

FOR FREE REGISTRATION

Please contact bcensp@vircs.bc.ca

250-361-9433
bcensp@vircs.bc.ca
1004 North Park St, Victoria, BC

Funded by / Financé par:



Know Your Rights as a Worker in BC by Worker Solidarity Network

Join us to learn about worker's rights, what wage theft is, how to calculate your wages correctly, and where to find community resources for support.

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Location: hybrid (please see the poster for more information)

For free registration, please email:

bcensp@vircs.bc.ca



WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday
<p>*Law Clinic (By appointment only) Contact BCNSP team to book an appointment. bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca</p> <p>**Pronunciation Class To register, please contact: esl@vircs.bc.ca</p>		<p>Program Eligibility * Restrictions apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work Permit Holders · Study Permit Holders · Naturalized Canadian Citizens · Refugee Claimants · CUAET visa holders <p>BC Provincial Nominees or BCPNP Entrepreneur Immigration candidates.</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Beginner Grammar & Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</p> <p>Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices</p>		<p>Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Renate</p>		<p>2</p> <p>Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra</p>	<p>Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm</p> <p>Resources for newcomer parents 2:30-4:30pm @ Ruth King School</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm</p>	<p>English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/ advanced) Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm Mary @ BCGEU</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Renate @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca</p> <p>Law Clinic* (I) 1:00-3:00pm</p>	<p>ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</p> <p>Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices</p>	<p>Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Renate</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra</p>	<p>Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm</p>	<p>English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/ advanced) Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm Mary @ BCGEU</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Renate @GVPL-Juan de Fuca</p>	<p>ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</p> <p>Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices</p>	<p>Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS</p> <p>Know your rights as a worker in BC (1:00-3:00pm Hybrid)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Renate</p> <p>Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS</p>
<p>19</p> <p>VIRCS closed Victoria Day</p>		<p>20</p> <p>Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm</p>	<p>English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/ advanced) Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm Mary @ BCGEU</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Renate @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca</p>	<p>ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</p> <p>Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices</p>	<p>Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Renate</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra</p>	<p>Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm</p> <p>Resources for newcomer parents 2:30-4:30pm @ Ruth King School</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm</p>	<p>English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/ advanced) Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm Mary @ BCGEU</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Renate @GVPL-Juan de Fuca</p> <p>Law Clinic* (I) 1:00-3:00pm</p> <p>Queer Basics 10:45-12:15 pm Cory</p>	<p>ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm</p> <p>Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices</p>	<p>Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Renate</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS</p>
<p>Employment services (*Open to certain eligible clients only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pre-employment training -Resume /Cover Letter Review <p>Contact Renate, Employment Counselor at rbothma@vircs.bc.ca</p>						<p>@City Light Church: 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, V9A 1K5</p> <p>@GVPL Juan de Fuca: 1759 Island Hwy, Victoria, BC.</p> <p>@Coastal Offices: 328 Wale Rd #132, Colwood, BC</p> <p>@BCGEU: #588 Burnside Road East. (If you are using 588 Burnside East, the building is between the Jimmy Pattison car dealerships and 588 Burnside East).</p>		





ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING (ELT) CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Do you want to join English class? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Email Settlement Worker at bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca to register. Have a short assessment with Mike to determine a suitable class for you. Meet our ELT Instructors and enjoy the classes. GVPL Juan de Fuca Branch - 1759 Island Hwy, Victoria, BC V9B 1J1 City of lights Church - 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, V9A 1K5		Program Eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Foreign Workers* Naturalized Citizens CUAET-visa holders* * Restrictions apply 	1 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	2
5 ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow ELT I_D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley	6 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	7 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	8 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @GVPL-Juan de Fuca @City of lights Mike Carrow	11
12 ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow ELT I_D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley	13 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	14 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	15 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	18
19 VIRCS Closed Victoria Day	20 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	21 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	22 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	25
26 ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow ELT I_D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley	27 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	28 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	29 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	30



May 2025

The English Language Training (ELT) is available for FREE for Temporary Foreign Workers, CUAET-visa holders and Naturalized Canadian Citizens only (restrictions applied). For registration, please send an email to: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca.