



BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM *NEWSLETTER*

September 2026

Welcome, everyone! This is the newsletter from the BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP) team. Here, you can find the latest updates, 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



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

WHO ARE WE?

BCNSP program is to provide free services to temporary residents and Naturalized Canadians living in the Greater Victoria. The program aims to help clients achieve their best possible settlement outcomes and successfully integrate into the Canadian society.

Contact information

 bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

 www.vircs.bc.ca

 250-361-9433

 1004 North Park St



WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)
at Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS)



Create, Connect, Stay Moving

A calm group session for body and mind

Free

EVERYONE IS welcome here

Fridays
September 4 & 18

Every 2 weeks
Guided by:
Brittany Dunstan

Time: 12:00 to 1:30 PM

At the VIRCS Office
1004 North Park St

For registration and more info, please contact
bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

Funded by / Financé par:



Create, Connect, and Stay Moving

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to connect, have fun, and engage with body and mind in a welcoming environment. Join us on:

Friday, September 4 & 18

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

VIRCS (1004 North Park St)

For free registration, please email

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

CEDAR WEAVING WORKSHOPS

Knowledge keepers will share cedar harvesting and weaving teachings. Each participant will learn how to cedar weave and will leave with their creation as well as learn cedar and harvesting teachings

FACILITATED BY AUNTIE COLLECTIVE-
an Indigenous Creative Practice hub that welcomes all those who wish to learn, while holding Indigenous artists and peoples at the center.

DATES:
Tuesday, September 15
Tuesday, October 6

TIME:
1:00-3:00 PM

LOCATION:
Aunty Collective
2620 Rock Bay Ave, Upper Suite

Space is limited so please register in advance by contacting:
natasha@vircs.bc.ca

BC Newcomers Services Program (BCNSP)



Funded by / Financé par:



Cedar Weaving Workshop

This is a free workshop where you will learn about cedar harvesting and weaving. Join us on:

Tuesday, September 15 and October 6

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Aunty Collective (2620 Rock Bay Ave)

Prior registration is required. Please email

natasha@vircs.bc.ca

EXPLORE *Job opportunities*

In this section, you will find information about job fairs and employment workshops taking place in the Greater Victoria area, as well as in other regions such as Vancouver.

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 the job market.

Our labor market support includes:

- Information, Orientation, and networking
- Information on workplace rights and responsibilities and supports
- Employment counseling
- Short-term pre-employment training
- 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



Black Prior CAREER & EDUCATION EXPOS

SKIP THE LINE!

REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE TICKETS!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
FREE ADMISSION

TITLE SPONSOR
BC Corrections

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**GREATER VICTORIA
HIRING AND
EDUCATION EXPO**

G. R. PEARKES RECREATION CENTRE - FIELDHOUSE
3100 Tillicum Road, Victoria, B.C.



WorkBC Centre Sooke

LANGFORD JOB FAIR

Friday, Sept 25th 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

John Horgan Campus | 798 Goldstream Avenue

PAID & VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE PACK!

workbccentre-langford.ca

Canada BRITISH COLUMBIA

WorkBC Centre Sooke (250) 642-3685

WorkBC Centre Westshore (250) 478-9525

This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



**WORKBC
JOB FAIR**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

11AM - 3PM 833 PANDORA AVE



Funded by / Financé par:



BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM (BCNSP)

Employment Clinic

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
- pre-employment training (First Aid, Food Safe, and WHMIS)
- skilled-based workshops to enhance your skills

Services are available to VIRCS clients who are

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

* Restrictions apply



Available Online or In-person

To book a free appointment, please

email: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca



Career Success in Canada

Find Work, Build Skills & Explore Business Opportunities

FREE 6-Week Program for Newcomers
Looking for work or planning your future in Canada?

Join our free 6-week program designed to help newcomers build confidence, develop job search skills, and explore new career opportunities. Join us for 1, 2, or all 3 modules!

Instructors



Olga Gould
MSc, MEng
Instructor of UVIC and
Camosun College
Founder and Chief Data
Officer of GLF Venture Inc.



Iván Rincón
P.Eng., PMP, PgMP, PMI-RMP,
CISA
Executive Director of Project
Management Connectivity at the
Ministry of Citizens' Services, BC

Light refreshments
provided!

Bus tickets
provided!

GET
Certificate of
Completion!

Module 1: Discover

Sep 16 & 23, 2026
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

- Discover your strengths and skills
- Explore career opportunities in B.C.
- Set career goals and create an action plan
- Learn about Canadian workplaces

Module 2: Connect

Oct 21 & 28, 2026
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

- Build a Canadian resume and cover letter
- Prepare for interviews with confidence
- Grow your LinkedIn and networking skills
- Use AI tools for your job search

Module 3: Create

Nov 18 & 25, 2026
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

- Explore your business idea
- Learn marketing and budgeting basics
- Discover funding and business resources
- Create a simple business action plan

Registration contact: bcnsp.hiro@vircs.bc.ca

VIRCS ESL Room
1004 N Park St, Victoria, BC V8T 1C6



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

FREE IN-PERSON ENGLISH CLASSES



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)

English for Everyday Communication

Pre-intermediate/Intermediate Level

- Every Thursday
- 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

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

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

We also provide free

Settlement Services

- Immigration appointments through law clinic, 1-on-1 settlement services & referrals, assistance with non-immigration forms, community connections

Employment services

- Pre-employment trainings
- Information sessions, support related to workplace issues, job search resources, resume/cover letter review

English classes (online/ in-person)

- Formal English classes and Grammar & Conversation practice

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

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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)

English for Everyday Communication

Pre-intermediate/Intermediate Level

- Every Wednesday
- 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM

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

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

We also provide free

Settlement Services

- Immigration appointments through law clinic, 1-on-1 settlement services & referrals, assistance with non-immigration forms, community connections

Employment services

- Pre-employment trainings
- Information sessions, support related to workplace issues, job search resources, resume/cover letter review

English classes (online/ in-person)

- Formal English classes and Grammar & Conversation practice

Let's stay connected!
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<https://www.vircs.bc.ca/bcnsp>

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BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)



FREE ENGLISH CLASS IN VICTORIA

FREE
ENGLISH

At VIRCS (1004 North Park St, V8T 1C6)

Mondays,

- ELT 1_D, Low Beginner, 9:15 AM – 12:15 PM,
- ELT 1, Upper Beginner, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM,
- ELT 1a, Pre-intermediate, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Tuesdays

ELT 2 – Pre-intermediate/ Intermediate, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Wednesdays

ELT 3 – Upper Intermediate, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

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

WHO CAN REGISTER?

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

Follow us on social medias for the latest updates



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BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)



FREE ENGLISH CONVERSATION PRACTICE IN WESTSHORE

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)

English Grammar & Conversation

Every Thursday

- 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM: Beginner/Elementary*
- 1:45 PM – 3:45 PM: Pre-Intermediate/ Intermediate**

At Hotel Inn Express (318 Wale Rd, Colwood, BC, V9B 2W3)

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

*Beginner/Elementary:

Join our friendly and supportive English class designed for beginners and elementary learners! Build your confidence in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through simple lessons, everyday vocabulary, and practical conversations. In this class, you will:

- Learn basic grammar and sentence structure
- Practice speaking with confidence
- Improve listening and pronunciation
- Build reading and writing skills
- Meet new friends in a welcoming environment

**Pre-Intermediate/Intermediate:

Take your English to the next level in our engaging and supportive class for pre-intermediate and intermediate learners! Strengthen your speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills through real-life conversations, practical grammar, and interactive activities. In this class, you will:

- Expand your vocabulary for everyday and workplace communication
- Improve grammar accuracy and sentence structure
- Build confidence in conversations and discussions
- Practice reading comprehension and writing skills
- Enhance pronunciation and listening abilities

Funded by / Financé par:



FREE ONLINE ENGLISH CLASSES



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)



FREE ONLINE ENGLISH CONVERSATION PRACTICE

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)

Online Functional English for Daily Life (Intermediate)

- Every Monday
- 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
- Through Zoom

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

About the instructor

Zahra is an experienced and well-loved English instructor who believes English learning should be practical, meaningful, and confidence-building. She helps newcomers develop the language skills they need for everyday life, work, and community connection. Through communication, collaboration, role-play, and real-world activities, she creates a warm and supportive classroom where learners feel confident using English.

What You'll Learn

- Practical language for everyday situations
- Improve your conversation & speaking skills
- Learn about Canadian culture & holidays
- Improve your reading & listening skills
- Practice through fun discussion questions

Funded by / Financé par:



Follow us on social medias for the latest updates



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)



FREE ONLINE ENGLISH CLASS

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)

Online Formal ELT Intermediate Level

Tuesdays, starting March 24, 2026

- 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
- Through Zoom

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

About the instructor

Sedi is an experienced and excellent English language instructor. She is passionate about creating engaging, meaningful learning experiences in a welcoming, student-centered classroom.

"I enjoy helping learners build confidence in their English and connect what they learn to real life. I create a space where everyone feels comfortable joining in, taking risks, and growing together."

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

Funded by / Financé par:



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)



FREE ONLINE BEGINNER ENGLISH CLASS

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)

Everyday English for Beginners – Online Course

Saturdays, starting May 9, 2026

- 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- Through Zoom

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

About the instructor

Sedi is an experienced and excellent English language instructor. She is passionate about creating engaging, meaningful learning experiences in a welcoming, student-centered classroom.

"I enjoy helping learners build confidence in their English and connect what they learn to real life. I create a space where everyone feels comfortable joining in, taking risks, and growing together."

What you can learn:

Build confidence in everyday English!
Learn basic English skills and useful daily/life conversations.

Funded by / Financé par:



Please check each poster for eligibility requirements. Email bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca for free registration and more information.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING (ELT) CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Program Eligibility Temporary Foreign Workers* CUAET-visa holders Naturalized Canadian Citizens* * Restrictions apply	1 ELT 2 9:30 AM – 12:30PM @VIRCS – Mike Online ELT 2-3 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (Sedi)	2 ELT 3 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM @VIRCS – David English for Everyday Communication 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM @ GVPL Juan de Fuca - Mike	3 English for Everyday Communication 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM @City Light Church - Mike	4	5 Online Everyday Beginner Class (ELT 1) 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (Sedi)
7 Labour Day VIRCS Closed	8 ELT 2 9:30 AM – 12:30PM @VIRCS – Mike Online ELT 2-3 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (Sedi)	9 ELT 3 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM @VIRCS – David English for Everyday Communication 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM @ GVPL Juan de Fuca - Mike	10 English for Everyday Communication 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM @City Light Church - Mike	11	12 Online Everyday Beginner Class (ELT 1) 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (Sedi)
14 ELT 1 9:30 AM – 12:30PM ELT 1a 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM @VIRCS – Mike ELT 1_D 9:15 AM – 12:15 PM @VIRCS – David	15 ELT 2 9:30 AM – 12:30PM @VIRCS – Mike Online ELT 2-3 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (Sedi)	16 ELT 3 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM @VIRCS – David English for Everyday Communication 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM @ GVPL Juan de Fuca - Mike	17 English for Everyday Communication 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM @City Light Church - Mike	18	19 Online Everyday Beginner Class (ELT 1) 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (Sedi)
21 ELT 1 9:30 AM – 12:30PM ELT 1a 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM @VIRCS – Mike ELT 1_D 9:15 AM – 12:15 PM @VIRCS – David	22 ELT 2 9:30 AM – 12:30PM @VIRCS – Mike Online ELT 2-3 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (Sedi)	23 ELT 3 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM @VIRCS – David English for Everyday Communication 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM @ GVPL Juan de Fuca - Mike	24 English for Everyday Communication 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM @City Light Church - Mike	25	26 Online Everyday Beginner Class (ELT 1) 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM (Sedi)
28 ELT 1 9:30 AM – 12:30PM ELT 1a 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM @VIRCS – Mike ELT 1_D 9:15 AM – 12:15 PM @VIRCS – David	29 ELT 2 9:30 AM – 12:30PM @VIRCS – Mike Online ELT 2-3 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (Sedi)	30 Truth & Reconciliation Day VIRCS Closed	Class Locations GVPL Juan de Fuca Branch - 1759 Island Hwy, V9B 1J1 City Light Church - 550 Obed Avenue, V9A 1K5 VIRCS - 1004 North Park St, V8T 1C6	How to register for free English class? 1. Email bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca to assess your eligibility. 2. Have a short assessment with the ELT Instructor to determine a suitable class for you.	

For free registration and more information, please email: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca



September 2026

The English Language Training (ELT) is available for **FREE** for Temporary Foreign Workers, CUAET-visa holders and Naturalized Canadian Citizens only (restrictions applied).



WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Locations VIRCS: 1004 North Park St, V8T 1C6 Hotel Inn Express: 318 Wale Rd, V9B 2W3	1 *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment	2 *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment	3 Pronunciation Class 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM David @VIRCS	4 Pronunciation Class 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM David @VIRCS Workshop with Brittany 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM @VIRCS
7 Labour Day VIRCS Closed	8 *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment	9 Income Assistance Clinic 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Heather @VIRCS *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment	10 Pronunciation Class 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM David @VIRCS	11 Pronunciation Class 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM David @VIRCS Workshop with Brittany 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM @VIRCS
14 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Zahra) *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment	15 *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment Cedar Weaving Workshop 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Email natasha@vircs.bc.ca for free registration	16 *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment Career Success in Canada (Module 1) 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM @VIRCS	17 Pronunciation Class 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM David @VIRCS	18 Pronunciation Class 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM David @VIRCS Workshop with Brittany 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM @VIRCS
21 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Zahra) *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment	22 *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment	23 Income Assistance Clinic 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Heather @VIRCS Career Success in Canada (Module 1) 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM @VIRCS	24 Pronunciation Class 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM David @VIRCS	25 Pronunciation Class 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM David @VIRCS
28 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Zahra) *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment	29 *Employment Clinic Hiro – by appointment	30 Truth & Reconciliation Day VIRCS Closed	Program Eligibility - Refugee Claimants** - CUAET visa holders - BC Provincial Nominees or BCPNP Entrepreneur - Immigration candidates. ** Restrictions apply	*Employment Clinic (online or in-person) *Open to certain eligible clients - Pre-employment training - Resume /Cover Letter Review - Employment workshops and job search navigation. Email bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca to book an appointment

For free registration and more information, please email bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

September 2026

Check out our upcoming activities. We look forward to seeing you. Send us an email at: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca