



BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

August 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 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!

Funded by / Financé par:

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>

Funded by / Financé par:

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

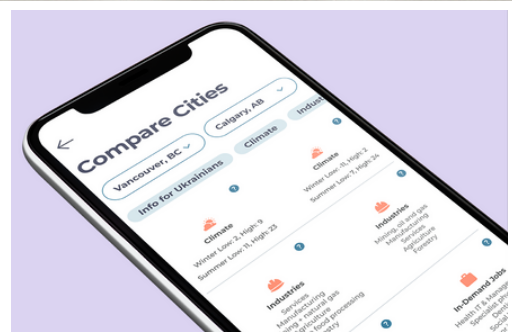
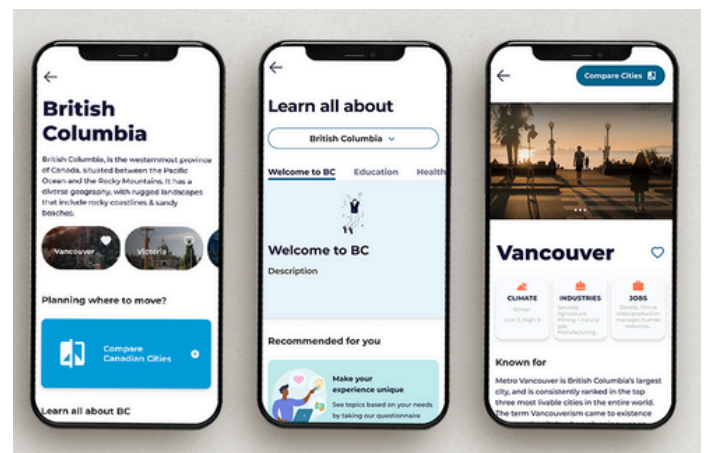
[New] Welcome to Canada Free Mobile App

This free mobile app helps refugees and immigrants to Canada:

- find resources, information and service-providing organization to plan their settlement journey.
- search for different provinces and cities and read everything you need to know to get started.
- make the best settling/relocating decision based on user's needs.

[Download Android App](#)

[Download IOS App](#)



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.

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

Our labor market support includes:

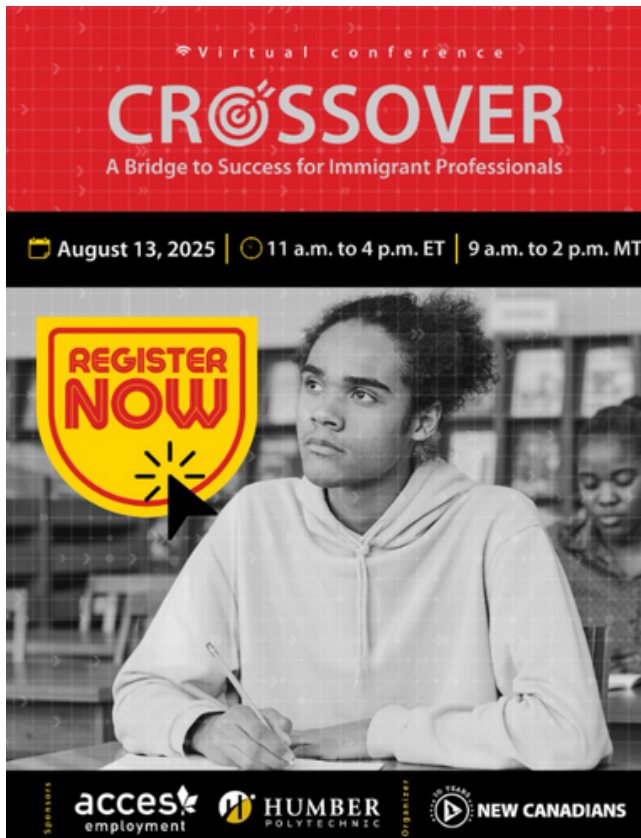
- Information, Orientation, and networking
- Information on workplace rights and responsibilities and supports
- Employment counseling
- Short-term pre-employment training
- Supported access to WorkBC and other provincial/federal employment training programs

*The employment services are open to certain eligibility.

Email us for more info:

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

NEW @ VIRCS!



Virtual conference
CROSSOVER
A Bridge to Success for Immigrant Professionals

August 13, 2025 | 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. MT

REGISTER NOW

access employment | HUMBER POLYTECHNIC | NEW CANADIANS



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:

@ VIRCS
(1004 North Park St, Victoria, V8T 1C6)
Tuesdays,
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

FREE

Services are available to VIRCS clients who are

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

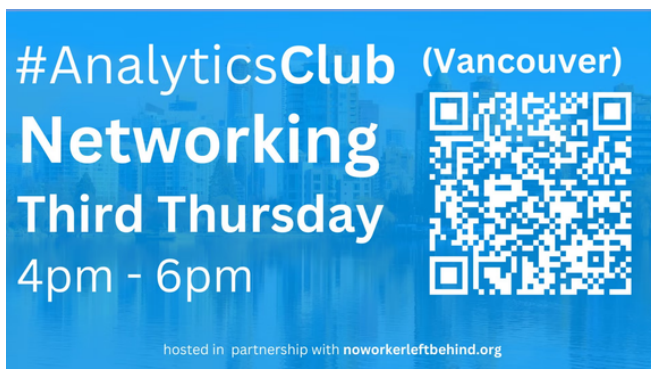
* Restrictions apply

For more information or to book an appointment, please email:

bcnsp.hiro@vircs.bc.ca

Funded by / Financé par:

BRITISH COLUMBIA | WelcomeBC



#AnalyticsClub (Vancouver)
Networking
Third Thursday
4pm - 6pm

hosted in partnership with noworkerleftbehind.org



SOCIAL ENTERPRISES
LOCAL BUSINESSES
NONPROFITS
5:30PM TO 7:30PM

Community Connect

AUG 12
3RD FLOOR OF 722 CORMORANT ST., VICTORIA

theDock
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

Rob, ERIC, LISA, COLIN, Peter, JAMES, FERNANDA, KRISTI KFM

AUGUST 2025

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

Are you newcomers to Canada?

Do you have questions about
Canada's Tax systems and benefits?

Come and join our FREE information session:

Tuesday, August 26th, 2025
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
1004 North Park Street (at VIRCS)

Facilitated by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Service Canada



- Old Age Security
- Canada Pension Plan
- Guaranteed Income Supplement
- SIN numbers info
- My Service Canada Account



- Canada Dental Care Plan
- Canada Child Benefit
- Canada Workers Benefit
- Disability Tax Credit



- Free tax clinics
- CRA tools and services (how to file tax for the first time,...)
- How to protect yourself against scams



- Canada's Tax system
- GST/HST credits
- Reasons why you must do your taxes

Seats are limited
Please register in
advanced

For free registration, please contact
Settlement Counselor - Wing at:
wing@vircs.bc.ca / 236-638-4749

Funded by / Financé par:





Funded by / Financé par:



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP SERIES

Build resilience - Improve well being - Connect with others

Facilitated by Maddie Cooper & Alyssa Cole - Cognito Health

Join us for a free 8-session online workshop series focused on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) skills. These workshops are designed to help you manage stress, build confidence, and feel more at home in Canada.

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn practical Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) strategies
- Explore topics of mental health, inclusion, anti-racism
- Connect with others in a supportive space
- Two skilled facilitators per session

Dates:

- June 2 & 16
- July 7 & 21
- August 11 & 25
- September 8 & 22

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Platform: Zoom

FOR FREE REGISTRATION

Please contact Zahra at:
zahra@vircs.bc.ca / 236-638-4750

For Newcomers aged 18+ living in BC. No prior experience needed.

Tax information session

by Canada Revenue Agency and
Service Canada

Do you have questions about Canada tax systems and benefits that you may be eligible for? In this free tax information session, the CRA and Service Canada will present tax resources and benefits, and how to protect your personal credentials against scams.

Date: Tuesday, August 26th, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: 1004 North Park St (VIRCS)

For free registration and more information,
please contact Wing:

wing@vircs.bc.ca / 236-638-4749

Mental Health Workshop Series

Join our free 8-session online workshop series
focused on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
skills.

Monday, August 11, 2025

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Platform: Zoom

For free registration and more information,
please contact Zahra:

zahra@vircs.bc.ca / 236-638-4750

AUGUST 2025

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



LGBTQ2S+ AWARENESS FOR ESL STUDENTS WORKSHOP SERIES

SESSION: ANIMAL DIVERSITY
JULY 30TH
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

SESSION: RELIGION/ FAITH & QUEERNESS
AUG. 27TH
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

Funded by / Financé par:

BRITISH COLUMBIA | WelcomeBC

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 bcnsps@vircs.bc.ca

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

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

Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society

Spectra
Wellness Coaching & Consulting

LGBTQ2S+ Awareness Workshop Series

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

Dates: August 27th

Time: 10:45 - 12:15 PM

Location: 1004 North Park St

For more information and free registration, please contact Settlement Counselor - Natasha: natasha@vircs.bc.ca



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

Are you temporary residents in Canada?
Do you have immigration questions?

Our law clinic offer free consultation for eligible clients who are:

- 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.

By Registered Canadian Immigration Consultant - Immigration Refugee Board (RCIC - IRB)

Immigration consultation
FREE

Funded by / Financé par:

BRITISH COLUMBIA | WelcomeBC

To book a free appointment, please email: bcnsps@vircs.bc.ca

Immigration Law Clinic

by a team of RCIC-IRB and immigration lawyer

We provide limited free consultation with licensed immigration consultants and lawyer for eligible clients with immigration-related inquiries. Date, time, and location depend on which immigration consultant/lawyer you are scheduled with.

To book an appointment, please email: bcnsps@vircs.bc.ca



WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday
*Law Clinic (By appointment only): Contact BCNSP team to book an appointment. bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca **Pronunciation Class: To register, please contact, esi@vircs.bc.ca Program Eligibility · Work Permit Holders · Study Permit Holders* · Naturalized Canadian Citizens · Refugee Claimants* · CUAET visa holders · BC Provincial Nominees or BCPNP Entrepreneur Immigration candidates. * Restrictions apply				• Employment services (*Open to certain eligible clients only) -Pre-employment training -Resume /Cover Letter Review Contact Hiro, Employment Counselor at bcnsp.hiro@vircs.bc.ca @Coastal Offices: 328 Wale Rd #132, Colwood, BC @Juan de Fuca: 1759 Island Hwy, Victoria. BC. @City Light Church: 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, V9A 1K5				1 Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS
4 VIRCS CLOSED BC DAY		5 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Hiro @ VIRCS	6 Law Clinic* (I) 9:00-10:00am	ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	7 Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS	Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	8 Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	
11 Online Functional English for Daily Life (Mental Health workshop series) 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) In-person 1:30-3:30pm	12 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Hiro @ VIRCS	13	ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	14 Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS	Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	15 Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	
18 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) In-person 1:30-3:30pm	19 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Hiro @ VIRCS	20	ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	21 Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS	Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	22 Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	
25 Online Functional English for Daily Life (Mental Health workshop series) 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) In-person 1:30-3:30pm	26 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Hiro @ VIRCS Tax Information Session By the CRA and Service Canada 1:00-2:30pm @VIRCS	27 Law Clinic* (I) 9:00-10:00am	ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	28 Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS Religion, Faith and Queerness 10:45am-12:15pm Cory @ City Lights Church	Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	29 Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	

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



August 2025

Check out our full workshops calendar and don't hesitate join our activities. We look forward to seeing you here. Send us an email at: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca



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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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* <p>* Restrictions apply</p>	1
4 VIRCS CLOSED BC DAY	5 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	6 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	7 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30AM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	8
11 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	12 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	13 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	14 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30AM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	15
18 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	19 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	20 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	21 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30AM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	22
25 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	26 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	27 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	28 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30AM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	29

August 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.

