



# BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM

## *NEWSLETTER*

**April, 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](mailto: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](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca)) to learn about available classes and eligibility requirements.



**For Upper-Intermediate / Advanced English Learners**

**ENGLISH IN THE WORKPLACE**

Presented by Mary Rowles

Join us for this comprehensive workshop series designed for English learners who want to enhance their workplace communication, business reading and writing, and understanding of Canadian workplace culture. Whether you're seeking a job or aiming to excel in a workplace, this series will equip you with the essential skills for success!

**Every Tuesday, starting April 15, 2025**

Class 1: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM  
or  
Class 2: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**@ 588 Burnside Rd East**  
(the building is between the Jimmy Pattison car dealerships and 588 Burnside Rd East. Look for the BCCEU sign on top of the beige building)

**For more registration information, please email: [bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca)**

BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM (BCNSP)

For more registration information, please email: [bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca)

BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM (BCNSP)

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

**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](mailto: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:   

## [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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

Funded by / Financé par:   



## Randstad Employer Forum

### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY?

Join the Virtual Employer Forum with recruiters from Randstad, one of Canada's leading staffing and recruitment agencies.

Learn about current job openings, get expert job search advice, and ask questions directly to hiring professionals.

**Date:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00pm - 2:00pm

REGISTER IN ADVANCED



## 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](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca)



## Business Planning Bootcamp

Are you looking to start or grow your business? This Bootcamp is designed to help you build essential business planning skills.

Join us for this free, three-hour workshop led by Futurpreneur's entrepreneur-in-residence, where you'll gain expert insights and connect with other local entrepreneurs.

### What to expect:

- Learn business planning tips & tricks
- Get expert advice from Futurpreneur
- Connect with other local entrepreneurs
- Enjoy free snacks and refreshments!

Space is limited - RSVP today!

**Date:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025

**Time:** 9:00AM - 12:00PM

**Location:** Victoria City Hall  
(1 Centennial Square Victoria, BC)



# APRIL 2025

## SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

### FOREIGN CREDENTIAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM INFO-SESSION

Presented by Progressive Intercultural  
Community Services (PICS) Society

Are you an **internationally trained newcomer** looking  
to settle back into your own profession in Canada?

The program  
can support  
you with

- 1-to-1 Career Guidance
- Job Search Tools and Resources
- Resume Building & Review
- Labour Market Information
- Mentorship Connection
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Loan Assistance
- Financial Literacy

**THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025**  
**1 - 3 PM @VIRCS**

1004 NORTH PARK ST. VICTORIA, BC

To register,  
please contact  
BCNSP Team:  
[bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca)

Funded by / Financé par:  
 



Funded by / Financé par:  
 



### Foreign Credential Recognition Program Info-Session by Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society

If you have credentials from another country and  
want to learn about the recognition process in  
Canada, this event is perfect for you.

Our experts will guide you through the steps to get  
your foreign credentials recognized and provide  
valuable insights to help you succeed in your  
career. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn  
and grow!

**Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025**

**Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**Location: VIRCS (1004 North Park St)**

For free registration and more information, please  
contact BCNSP team:

[bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca) / 250-361-9433

BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)



### FORM FILLING SUPPORT CLINIC

**FREE**

A FREE SERVICE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND NEWCOMERS

Our BCNSP team of settlement counselors can assist you with  
filling out forms and preparing supporting documents for  
non-immigration applications including but not limited to:

- BC Services Card
- BC Housing
- Canada Child Benefit (CCB)
- Income Assistance
- Canada Dental Care Plan
- School registration
- LIFE program
- And more

#### LOCATIONS

- **GVPL - Bruce Hutchison Branch:** every Tuesday 2 - 4 PM  
(4636 Elk Lake Dr, Victoria, V8Z 7K2)
- **SD61 - Victoria High School:** every Wednesday 3 - 4 PM  
(Neighborhood Learning Centre - 1260 Grant St)
- **GVPL - Saanich Centennial Branch:** every Thursday 11 - 1 PM  
(3110 Tillicum Rd, Victoria, V9A 6T2)



All BCNSP services are free  
of charge and confidential.  
We deliver services in  
different languages and at  
accessible locations.

To book an  
appointment or for  
more information,  
please contact:  
[bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca)

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

### Form Filling Support Clinic

Navigating government websites and resources  
to apply for benefits can be challenging! Our  
team of experienced settlement counselors can  
help you with filling out forms and preparing  
supporting documents for non-immigration  
applications. Meet us at different Greater  
Victoria Public Libraries (GVPLs). Details  
of the locations and time are listed in the  
poster.

For free appointment booking and more  
information, please email:

[bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca)

# APRIL 2025

## SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



DO YOU HAVE A WORK PERMIT?

**VICTORIA IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE CENTRE DROP-IN HOURS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT 61 FAMILIES**

**FREE SERVICES**

Meet BC New Comer Services (BCNSP) Staff at Victoria Highschool to receive services such as:

- Information and referrals to community resources
- Access to Immigration Consultants
- Access to Employment Counsellors
- Registration in English Classes
- General Settlement Information

To Meet With BC NSP Staff and Receive Services you must:

- Have a Work Permit
- Have a Study Permit
- Be a Naturalized Canadian Citizen \* restrictions apply
- Be a Refugee Claimant \*restrictions Apply
- Have a CUAET Visa

DO YOU HAVE A STUDY PERMIT?

**WEDNESDAYS, 3:00-4:00**  
**VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL, 1260 GRANT ST.**  
**IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD LEARNING CENTRE**

For More information call or e-mail  
E-mail: [natasha@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:natasha@vircs.bc.ca)  
Phone: 250 361 9433 extension 244

ARE YOU A NATURALIZED CANADIAN CITIZEN?

ARE YOU A REFUGEE CLAIMANT?



WelcomeBC

### VIRCS Drop-In Hours for School District 61 Families

Every Wednesday, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Location: Neighborhood Learning Centre,  
Victoria High School (1260 Grant St.)

For more information, please contact BCNSP team: [bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca) / 250-361-9433

### Immigration Law Clinic

by Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant / Lawyer

If you have immigration-related questions such as Pathways to Permanent Residency, Temporary Foreign Worker Programs, or updated information about immigration policies, we can provide for you free limited consultations with a suitable immigration consultant/lawyer.

For appointment details and bookings, please email: [bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:bcnsp@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 BCNP Entrepreneur Immigration candidates.

  
  




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

Immigration consultation  
**FREE**

Funded by / Financé par:

 

To book a free appointment, please email: [bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca)



# WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday
<b>*Law Clinic (By appointment only)</b> Contact BCNSP team to book an appointment. <a href="mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca">bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca</a>  <b>**Pronunciation Class</b> To register, please contact Jennifer, <a href="mailto:esi@vircs.bc.ca">esi@vircs.bc.ca</a>		<b>1</b> Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm  Law Clinic* (A) 3:00-4:00pm		<b>2</b> Law Clinic* (I) 1:00-3:00pm  Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2 :00 pm Renate @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca		<b>3</b> Beginner Grammar & Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices		<b>4</b> Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Renate  Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS
<b>7</b> Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>8</b> Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm		<b>9</b> Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Renate @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca	<b>ELT Conversation</b> 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	<b>10</b> Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	<b>Pronunciation Class**</b> 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS	<b>11</b> Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Renate  Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS
<b>14</b> Online Functional English for Daily Life- 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>15</b> Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm	<b>English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/advanced)</b> Mary Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm @ BCGEU	<b>16</b> Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Renate @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca	<b>ELT Conversation</b> 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	<b>17</b> Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	<b>Pronunciation Class**</b> 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS	<b>18</b>  <b>VIRCS closed Good Friday</b>
<b>21</b>  <b>VIRCS closed Easter Monday</b>	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>22</b> Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm	<b>English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/advanced)</b> Mary Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm @ BCGEU	<b>23</b> Law Clinic* (I) 1:00-3:00pm  Employment Cafe 12 :00 - 2 :00 pm Renate @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca	<b>ELT Conversation</b> 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	<b>24</b> Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	<b>Pronunciation Class**</b> 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS  <b>Foreign Credential Recognition info session</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm By PICS society @VIRCS	<b>25</b> Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Renate  Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS
<b>28</b> Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>Law Clinic* (E)</b> 10:00-12:00 pm	<b>English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/advanced)</b> Mary Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm @ BCGEU	Employment Cafe 12 :00 - 2 :00 pm Renate @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca	<b>Program Eligibility</b> • Work Permit Holders* • Study Permit Holders* • Naturalized Canadian Citizens* • Refugee Claimants* • CUAET visa holders • BC Provincial Nominees or BCPNP Entrepreneur Immigration candidates.  * Restrictions apply			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Employment services</b> (*Open to certain eligible clients only)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre-employment training</li> <li>- Resume/Cover Letter Review</li> </ul>               Contact Renate, Employment Counselor at <a href="mailto:rbothma@vircs.bc.ca">rbothma@vircs.bc.ca</a> </li> </ul>					<b>@City Light Church:</b> 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, V9A 1K5 <b>@GVPL Juan de Fuca:</b> 1759 Island Hwy, Victoria, BC. <b>@Coastal Offices:</b> 328 Wale Rd #132, Colwood, BC <b>@BCGEU:</b> 588 Burnside Road East. (If you are using 588 Burnside East, the building is between the Jimmy Pattison car dealerships and 588 Burnside East).			





# ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING (ELT) CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Program Eligibility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary Foreign Workers*</li> <li>Naturalized Citizens*</li> <li>CUAET-visa holders</li> <li>* Restrictions apply</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> <b>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> Mike Carrow	<b>2</b> <b>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> David Bradley	<b>3</b> <b>ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM</b> <b>ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM</b> @City of lights Mike Carrow	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b> <b>ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> <b>ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM</b> Mike Carrow <b>ELT I D 9:15AM-12:15PM</b> David Bradley	<b>8</b> <b>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> Mike Carrow	<b>9</b> <b>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> David Bradley	<b>10</b> <b>ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM</b> <b>ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM</b> @City of lights Mike Carrow	<b>11</b>
<b>14</b> <b>ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> <b>ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM</b> Mike Carrow <b>ELT I D 9:15AM-12:15PM</b> David Bradley	<b>15</b> <b>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> Mike Carrow	<b>16</b> <b>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> David Bradley	<b>17</b> <b>ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM</b> <b>ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM</b> @City of lights Mike Carrow	<b>18</b> <b>VIRCS closed</b> <b>Good Friday</b>
<b>21</b> <b>VIRCS closed</b> <b>Easter Monday</b>	<b>22</b> <b>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> Mike Carrow	<b>23</b> <b>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> David Bradley	<b>24</b> <b>ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM</b> <b>ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM</b> @City of lights Mike Carrow	<b>25</b>
<b>28</b> <b>ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> <b>ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM</b> Mike Carrow <b>ELT I D 9:15AM-12:15PM</b> David Bradley	<b>29</b> <b>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> Mike Carrow	<b>30</b> <b>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM</b> David Bradley	<b>Do you want to join English class?</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Email Settlement Worker at <a href="mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca">bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca</a> to register.</li> <li>2. Have a short assessment with Mike to determine a suitable class for you.</li> <li>3. Meet our ELT Instructors and enjoy the classes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GVPL Juan de Fuca Branch</b> - 1759 Island Hwy, Victoria, BC V9B 1J1</li> <li>• <b>City of lights Church</b> - 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, V9A 1K5</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	



## April 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](mailto:bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca).