



Welcome to the December 2025 Community Resilience Program Newsletter

(Celebrating Our Community, Programs, and Highlights)



THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER FEATURES A RECAP OF OUR NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES ACROSS ALL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAMS, ALONG WITH UPDATES ON WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES. . YOU'LL ALSO FIND DETAILS ON UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS, PROGRAM SCHEDULES, IMPORTANT DATES, AND OUR WINTER HOLIDAY CLOSURE. WE'VE ALSO INCLUDED PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTH.

NOVEMBER RECAP



Newcomer Women's Project

- We welcomed our new NWP Program Facilitator, Sarbjot Bhandar, to the team.
- In partnership with SNIWWOC, we delivered two Domestic Violence Tool workshops on November 5th and 25th.
- We hosted a Mental Healing & Wellness session on November 20th facilitated by Shennan Li.
- Another successful clothing giveaway took place on November 13th, supporting many newcomer women and families.
- Our ongoing Social Clinic, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, continued every Friday, offering weekly one-on-one support.

BC CIVIC CONNECT

- Our program website is now live, providing updates and resources for youth: <https://www.vircs.bc.ca/bccivicconnect>
- We held our first Youth Committee meeting on November 20th, where their great questions helped shape topics for our first three workshops and upcoming Civic Leadership Academy modules.
- We confirmed six guest speakers, including legal professionals, a former MLA, a UVic politics professor, a PhD candidate, and a local HR consultant.



Enable Program (Children, Youth & Community Support)

Homework Club:

Homework Club continued smoothly every Tuesday from 3:30–5:00 PM, except for November 11 (Remembrance Day) and November 18 (AGM). Every other week, we welcomed Science Venture from UVic, who facilitated engaging and educational STEM sessions for the children.

Youth Night:

Youth Night ran as scheduled every Thursday from 4:00–6:00 PM at the NLC Room in Victoria High School. In November, youth participated in a variety of creative and interactive workshops including origami, drumming, jewellery making, and clay making.

Newcomer Seniors Empowerment Program

Digital Literacy Workshops:

November, we delivered a series of digital literacy workshops aimed at helping participants feel more confident and safe while using technology. The sessions covered:

- Spotting Scams & Staying Safe Online
- Reading News, Health Information, and Government Websites

These workshops supported learners in building essential online navigation and critical-thinking skills, empowering them to engage more safely and independently in the digital world.

Healing Circle for Youth

We launched our Youth Healing Circle on November 24th, creating a safe and supportive space for youth to share and process experiences with racism and discrimination. The sessions are facilitated by a certified therapist and take place at the VIRCS office.



November was a busy and inspiring month across all programs under our Community Resilience umbrella. From youth workshops and women's sessions to civic engagement and community support activities, our teams delivered meaningful programming throughout the month. We also hosted our Annual General Meeting 2025 on November 18th at VIRCS, bringing together funders, community partners, staff, clients, family, and friends. The event highlighted our achievements and celebrated the strength and diversity of the VIRCS community. Enjoy these photo highlights from November.



As we look back on November, these moments reflect the connection, creativity, and resilience within our community. Whether through learning, healing, celebration, or collaboration, each program contributed to a meaningful month at VIRCS. Here are more photo highlights capturing the people and experiences that made November so special.



LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT TO EXPECT IN DECEMBER
AS WE MOVE INTO DECEMBER, OUR PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE
OFFERING ENGAGING ACTIVITIES AND MEANINGFUL SUPPORT FOR
CHILDREN, YOUTH, WOMEN, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
SEVERAL SPECIAL EVENTS ARE IN THE WORKS.



BC CIVIC CONNECT

- **First Workshop:** The Canadian Democratic Promise
Our first civic workshop on Canadian democracy will take place on December 3rd from 5:00–7:00 PM at the University of Victoria (Clearihue Building, Room A313).

This interactive session, led by Dr. Jamie Lawson (UVic Associate Professor, Institutions of Canadian Politics), will explore:

- How the Canadian government works
- How laws are created
- Citizen participation, voting, and democratic rights
- The limitations and imperfections of democratic systems

- **Second Workshop:** Government & Community Decision-Making

Our second workshop in the series will be held on December 16th, focusing on how government and communities make decisions and how youth can engage in these processes.

Newcomer Women's Project

- We will host another Community Cabinet event on Tuesday, December 2nd from 10:00 AM–4:00 PM at VIRCS, offering free clothing, hygiene products, menstrual supplies, and non-perishable food items to newcomer women and families.
- Our next Social Clinic will take place on Friday, December 12th from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM, continuing partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

Enable Program (Children, Youth & Community Support)

- Homework Club will continue every Tuesday as scheduled until the winter break.
- Youth Night will feature fun seasonal activities, including a movie night, music bingo, and a drawing session.
- All children and youth programs will run as usual through early December

Newcomer Seniors Empowerment Program

Beginning November 28, 2025, we launched a new workshop series on Community Building and Group Interaction through Online and Digital Platforms. This series will continue throughout December and will feature special seasonal activities in celebration of Christmas and New Year's.

Healing Circle for Youth

We will continue offering the Healing Circle throughout December, and we still have a few spots available.

For registration or questions, please contact kimia@vircs.bc.ca



Here are all the key programs, workshops, and events happening this month across our Community Resilience programs. Please note that the VIRCS office will be closed from December 19th to January 4th, and will reopen on January 5th for the New Year.

December

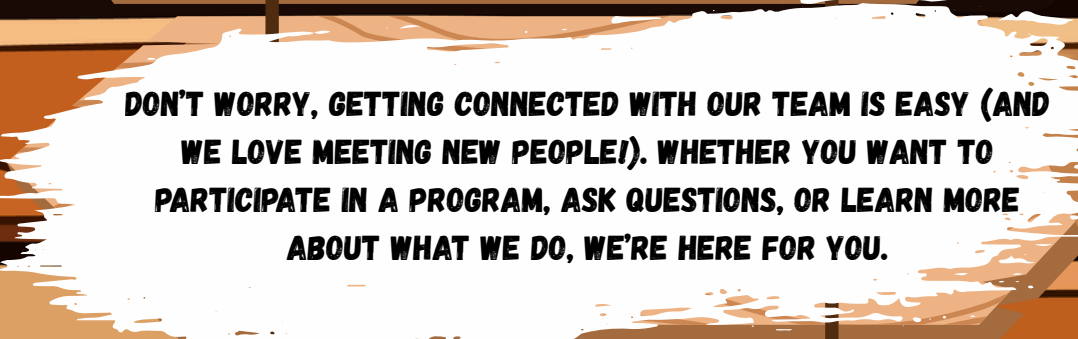
2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Newcomer Women's Project Winter Community Cabinet @ 10 - 4 pm 1	Enable's Homework Club @ 3:30- 5:00 pm 2	BC Civic Connect: The Canadian Democratic Promise @ 5:00pm-7:00pm 3	Enable's Youth Night @4:00-6:00pm 4	Senior's project Community Building and Group Interaction through Online and Digital Platforms Workshop @ 11:00 AM-1:00 PM 5	6
7	8	Enable's Homework Club @ 3:30- 5:00 pm 9	10	Enable's Youth Night @4:00-6:00pm 11	Social services clinic @ 10 - 12 pm 12	13
14	15	Enable's Homework Club @ 3:30- 5:00 pm 16 BC Civic Connect: Government and Community Decision-making @5:00-7:00 PM	17	Enable's Youth Night @4:00-6:00pm 18	VIRCS Office Closed For Winter Break Reopens January 5 19	X 20
X 21	X 22	X 23	X 24	X 25	X 26	X 27
X 28	X 29	X 30	X 31			





**SO... NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING... 👁️**



**DON'T WORRY, GETTING CONNECTED WITH OUR TEAM IS EASY (AND
WE LOVE MEETING NEW PEOPLE!). WHETHER YOU WANT TO
PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM, ASK QUESTIONS, OR LEARN MORE
ABOUT WHAT WE DO, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.**



**HERE'S THE EASIEST WAY TO CONNECT
WITH US:**



**NEWCOMER WOMEN'S
PROJECT:
CHARIS@VIRCS.BC.CA
SARBJOT@VIRCS.BC.CA**

**SENIOR'S PROJECT:
IMAN@VIRCS.BC.CA**

**ENABLE'S PROGRAM:
KIMIA@VIRCS.BC.CA
HIRO@VIRCS.BC.CA**

**YOUTH HEALING CIRCLE:
ENABLEPRACTICUM@VIRCS.BC.CA**

**COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
PROGRAM MANAGER:
AVA@VIRCS.BC.CA**

**BC CIVIC CONNECT PROJECT:
MARA@VIRCS.BC.CA
STACEY@VIRCS.BC.CA**





Thank You to Our Funders & Community Partners

As we close out another meaningful month at VIRCS, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the funders, partners, and supporters who make our Community Resilience programs possible. Your commitment allows us to continue offering impactful services, creative workshops, healing spaces, and essential resources to immigrants, refugees, newcomer families, youth, women, and seniors across Greater Victoria.

Your generosity and partnership strengthen our community every day.

Thank you for believing in our work and standing with us.



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