



BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

March, 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 *

(*restrictions applied)

Every Wednesday, starting April 2024

- 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)

To register, 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>

Funded by / Financé par:

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 *

(*restrictions applied)

Every Wednesday, starting April 2024

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

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

To register, 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)

Meet us at our info table - outreach in the library

Every Wednesday 12:00pm - 2:00pm

for more information!

Funded by / Financé par:

*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

AT CITY LIGHT CHURCH

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)

To register, please contact us by email:
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

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



Broadmead Care Society Employer Forum & Job Fair

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A REWARDING CAREER IN HEALTHCARE?

Join us on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 1pm for the Virtual Information Session and on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 11am at WorkBC Downtown Centre to meet recruiters from Broadmead Care Society.

Learn about job opportunities, workplace culture, and how you can make a difference in the lives of seniors and veterans.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING:

- Health Care Worker
- Activity Worker
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Registered Nurse (RN) or Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN)
- Food Service Worker
- Cook
- Laundry Worker

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



Vital Conversations

Join us for insightful discussions and networking, hosted by the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria (CSPC).

This event brings together employers, service providers, and job seekers to explore solutions for creating inclusive workplaces and overcoming barriers to employment.

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025

Time: 1:00PM - 4:30PM

Location: The Baumann Centre (925 Balmoral Road, Victoria, BC)

Event Highlights:

- Networking & Collaboration
- Panel Discussions
- Information Kiosks for job search, resume building and career advice



EXPLORE *Job opportunities*

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**The employment services are open to certain eligibility.*

Email us for more info:

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca



Sooke *Job Fair 2025*

**COME AND MEET
RECRUITERS
IN-PERSON!**

Meet local employers and community providers from various industries and network your way to your next job.

DATE: Thursday, March 20, 2025

TIME: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Edward Milne
Community School
(6218 Sooke Rd, Sooke)

FREE ADMISSION

Get a ticket and see the list of
employers



SIDNEY *EMPLOYMENT EXPO*

Are you looking for a new
employment opportunity?

The Sidney BIA and Beacon
Community Services are thrilled to
present the Sidney Employment Expo!

DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

TIME: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Mary Winspear Centre
(2243 Beacon Ave, Sidney, BC)

- Connect with over 30 local employers offering a wide range of positions
- Showcase your talents
- Take part in instant interviews
- Prepare in our Quiet Lounge
- Everyone welcome!

MARCH 2025

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



Painting a Tote Bag

Join us for a family-friendly workshop to explore Indigenous arts, stories, and symbols. Create your own design on a tote bag using a provided stencil and take home a unique piece of art that blends creativity and cultural heritage!

*All materials will be provided. Seats are limited.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
@ OASIS
(1814 Vancouver St, Victoria)

To register,
please contact BCNSP Team
bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca
250-361-9433

BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM (BCNSP)

Painting a Tote Bag by OASIS Society

Join us for a family-friendly workshop to explore Indigenous arts, stories, and symbols. Create your own design on a tote bag using a provided stencil and take home a unique piece of art that blends creativity and cultural heritage!

Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: OASIS (1814 Vancouver St)

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

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca / 250-361-9433

BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

BEADED LANYARD WORKSHOP

ADD SOME COLOUR TO YOUR WORK PASS OR KEYS!

Join us for a hands-on workshop where you'll explore Indigenous culture while crafting your own beautiful beaded lanyard in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Enjoy the experience with delicious bannocks, and take home your unique creation.

All materials will be provided.

SEATS ARE LIMITED

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TUESDAY, March 25, 2025
10AM - 12PM

@OASIS
1814 Vancouver St, Victoria, BC

To register, please contact BCNSP Team
bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca
250-361-9433

Beaded Lanyard Workshop By OASIS Society

Join us for a hands-on workshop where you'll explore Indigenous culture while crafting your own beautiful beaded lanyard in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Enjoy the experience with delicious bannocks, and take home your unique creation.

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: OASIS (1814 Vancouver St)

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

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca / 250-361-9433

MARCH 2025

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

CRA Tax Support Clinic

By Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Benefits Outreach Officer

Free Tax Help

Services provided include:

- Personal information changes;
- add, change, or cancel direct deposit;
- print tax slips and notice of assessment;
- assist with understanding CRA correspondence;
- assist with signing up for CRA MyAccount.

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
At VIRCS (1004 North Park Street)
 30 minute each appointment

To book an appointment with the CRA officer, please contact Wing at: wing@vircs.bc.ca / 236-638-4749

Tax Support Clinic

by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

Do you have questions about your personal tax? Book a free appointment with a CRA officer to clarify any tax-related inquiries.

Date: Tuesday, March 25th, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Location: VIRCS (1004 North Park St)

For free registration and more information, please contact Wing:

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

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 (3310 Tillicum Rd, Victoria, V9A 6T2)

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

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

*Provisionally approved

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 every appointment booking and more information, please email:

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

MARCH 2025

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



DO YOU HAVE A WORK PERMIT?

DO YOU HAVE A STUDY 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

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
 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 / 250-361-9433

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

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

Funded by / Financé par:

BRITISH COLUMBIA WelcomeBC



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





WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
3 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	4 Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm Law Clinic* (A) 3:00-4:00pm	Professional English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/ advanced) Mary Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm @Coastal Offices	5 Law Clinic* (I) 1:00-3:00pm Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca	ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	6 Beginner Grammar & Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS Wellness and Mental Health workshop VICCIR 11:30-1:30pm @City Light Church	7 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena	
10 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	11 Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm	Professional English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/ advanced) Mary Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm @Coastal Offices	12 Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca	ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	13 Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS Wellness and Mental Health workshop VICCIR 11:30-1:30pm @City Light Church	14 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	
17 Online Functional English for Daily Life-Worker's right 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	18 Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm Painting a Tote bag 10:00am -12:00pm @OASIS	Professional English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/ advanced) Mary Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm @Coastal Offices	19 Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Serena GVPL-Juan de Fuca	ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	20 Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS	21 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	
24 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	25 Law Clinic* (E) 10:00-12:00 pm Beaded Lanyard 10:00am -12:00pm @OASIS CRA Tax clinic 1:30-4:00 pm	Professional English in the Workplace (Upper-intermediate/ advanced) Mary Class 1: 3:30-5:00 pm Class 2: 5:30-7:30 pm @Coastal Offices	26 Law Clinic* (I) 1:00-3:00pm Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca	ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	27 Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices	Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David @ VIRCS Wellness and Mental Health workshop VICCIR 11:30-1:30pm @City Light Church	28 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	
31 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	<p>@City Light Church: 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, V9A 1K5 @GVPL_Juan de Fuca: 1759 Island Hwy, Victoria, BC. @Coastal Offices: 328 Wale Rd #132, Colwood, BC</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment services (*Open to certain eligible clients only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pre-employment training -Resume /Cover Letter Review <p>Contact Serena Lee, Employment Coordinator at serena@vircs.bc.ca</p>				
<p>*Law Clinic (By appointment only) Contact BCNSP team to book an appointment. bcnsp@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 · BC Provincial Nominees or BCPNP Entrepreneur Immigration candidates. 					



March 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
3 ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT IA 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow ELT I_D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley	4 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	5 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	6 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	7
10 ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT IA 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow ELT I_D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley	11 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	12 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	13 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	14
17 ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT IA 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow ELT I_D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley	18 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	19 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	20 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	21
24 ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT IA 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow ELT I_D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley	25 ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow	26 ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley	27 ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow	28
31 ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT IA 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow ELT I_D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley	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* * Restrictions apply



March 2025

The English Language Training (ELT) is available for FREE for Temporary Foreign Workers and Naturalized Canadian Citizens only (restrictions applied). For registration, please send an email to:

bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca.