



BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

January, 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 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 apply

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
- English Language Training (formal/ informal)

Let's stay connected!
You can find more information about us at:

<https://www.vircs.bc.ca/bcnsp>

BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

ell

Online & In-person

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

FREE

Free English Language Training for all BCNSP eligible clients at different locations:

- Victoria
- Saanich
- Westshore/Langford

Eligibility:

- Work Permit Holders
- Study Permit Holders*
- Naturalized Canadian Citizens
- Refugee Claimants*
- CUAET visa holder**
- BC Provincial Nominees or BCPNP Entrepreneur Immigration candidates

*Restrictions apply
**Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) visa holders

For Ukrainians with CUAET visas*, classes will be available in **April 2025**. Register in advanced to reserve your spot!

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

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

CRA Tax Support Clinic

Meet with a CRA officer to get advice and information related to tax.

Date: Wednesday, January 29th, 2025

Time: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
at VIRCS (1004 North Park St)

To book a free appointment, please contact Wing: wing@vircs.bc.ca / 236-638-4749

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.

Wednesday, January 29th, 2025

9:30 AM - 12:30 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



Greater Victoria Hiring and Post- Secondary Education Expo

COME AND MEET RECRUITERS IN-PERSON!

The event is open to anyone looking for a new career or post-secondary education options.

DATE: January 30, 2025

TIME: 11 AM - 3 PM

LOCATION: Bay Street Armoury
(715 Bay Street, Victoria, BC)

FREE ADMISSION

Get a Free Ticket & see the List of Exhibitors:



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

The ABC's of the ESA (Employment Standards Act)

Join the online information session to learn the basics of employment standards and the Employment Standards Act.

Topics include:

- Basic definitions
- Regular wages
- Hours of work
- Statutory holiday pay
- Deductions
- Annual vacation



Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025

Time: 1:30pm - 3 pm

Scan the QR code to join the Microsoft Teams meeting.



JANUARY 2025

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



 

BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY

Hosted by: Masoud Manzouri,
Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant -
Immigration Refugee Board (RCIC - IRB)

Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
At VIRCS (1004 North Park Street)

Are you interested in becoming a permanent resident in Canada? Join our information session to learn about different pathways including Express Entry (EE) and BC Provincial Nominee Program (BCPNP) as well as up-to-date policies. There will be a Question & Answer (Q&A) with the immigration consultant at the end of the session.

 **Immigration info session**
FREE



**LIMITED SPOTS
PLEASE REGISTER IN
ADVANCE!**

For free registration and more information, please contact Wing: wing@vircs.bc.ca / 236-638-4749

Pathways to Permanent Residency

by Masoud Manzouri - Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant

Join our information session to learn about different PR pathways including Express Entry (EE) and BC Provincial Nominee Program (BCPNP) as well as new policy changes.

Wednesday, January 22, 2025
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
at VIRCS (1004 North Park St)

For free registration and more information, please contact Wing: wing@vircs.bc.ca / 236-638-4749

 **LGBTQ2S+ AWARENESS FOR ESL STUDENTS WORKSHOP SERIES**



SESSION 4
FAMILY & ALLYSHIP
WEDNESDAY JAN. 29
10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

LOCATION 1004 North Park St.



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

Facilitated by:
 **Corey Keith, BSW, MED**
Educator, Consultant

Corey Keith's Website: 

Funded by / Financé par:

  

LGBTQ2S+ Awareness Workshop

Join us for a private session to explore and discuss your experiences with queer and trans individuals. We will cover topics such as effective communication strategies, allyship, and understanding cultural and belief differences.

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025
Time: 10:45 am - 12:45 pm
Location: VIRCS (1004 North Park St)

For more information, please contact:
Natasha: natasha@vircs.bc.ca



WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<p>*Law Clinic (By appointment only) Contact BCNSP team to book an appointment. bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca</p> <p>**Pronunciation Class To register, please contact Jennifer, esl@vircs.bc.ca</p>		<p>VIRCS WINTER CLOSURE December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025</p>			
<p>6 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca</p>	<p>9 Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices</p>	<p>10 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David</p>	
<p>13 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra</p>	<p>Law Clinic* (M) 1:30-3:30pm</p>	<p>14 Law Clinic* (A) 2:00-3:00pm</p>	<p>15 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca Drop in Peer Support 1:00-3:00pm @VIRCS</p>	<p>16 Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David</p>	<p>17 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David</p>
<p>20 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra</p>	<p>Law Clinic* (M) 1:30-3:30pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Law Clinic* (I) 1:00-3:00pm Pathways to PR -info session 1:30 – 3:30PM @VIRCS</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca</p> <p>Intermediate English Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Zahra @City Light Church</p>	<p>23 Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices</p>	<p>24 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David</p>
<p>27 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra</p>	<p>Law Clinic* (M) 1:30-3:30pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Law Clinic* (I) 1:00-3:00pm CRA 1:1 Clinic 9:30am – 12:30pm LGBTQ2S+ Awareness 10:45 am - 12:45 pm Corey Keith @VIRCS</p> <p>Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca</p> <p>Intermediate English Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Zahra @City Light Church</p>	<p>30 Beginner Grammar and Conversation 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Pre intermediate Grammar and Conversation 1:45pm - 3:45 pm Zahra @ Coastal Offices</p>	<p>Pronunciation Class** 9:30-11:30am David</p>
<p>@ Coastal Offices: 328 Wale Rd #132, Colwood, BC @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca: 1759 Island Hwy, Victoria, BC @ City Light Church: 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, BC</p>			<p>Program Eligibility</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. <p>* Restrictions apply</p>		
<p>• Employment services (*Open to certain eligible clients only) -Pre-employment training -Resume /Cover Letter Review Contact Serena Lee, Employment Coordinator at serena@vircs.bc.ca</p>					



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

January 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
<p>Do you want to join English class?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Email Settlement Worker at bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca to register. 2. Have a short assessment with Mike to determine a suitable class for you. 3. 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 		<p>Program Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Foreign Workers* • Naturalized Citizens* <p>* Restrictions apply</p>	<p>VIRCS WINTER CLOSURE December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow</p> <p>ELT I D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley</p>	<p>7</p> <p>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow</p>	<p>8</p> <p>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley</p>	<p>9</p> <p>ELT I-II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III-IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>13</p> <p>ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow</p> <p>ELT I D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow</p>	<p>15</p> <p>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley</p>	<p>16</p> <p>ELT I-II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III-IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>20</p> <p>ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow</p> <p>ELT I D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley</p>	<p>21</p> <p>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow</p>	<p>22</p> <p>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley</p>	<p>23</p> <p>ELT I-II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III-IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>27</p> <p>ELT I 9:30AM – 12:30PM ELT I A 1:00 PM-3:00 PM Mike Carrow</p> <p>ELT I D 9:15AM-12:15PM David Bradley</p>	<p>28</p> <p>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow</p>	<p>29</p> <p>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley</p>	<p>30</p> <p>ELT I-II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III-IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City of lights Mike Carrow</p>	<p>31</p>



January 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.