



BC NEWCOMER SERVICES PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

February, 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

<p>WHO CAN REGISTER?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p><small>(*Restrictions apply)</small></p>	<p>Intermediate English Grammar & Conversation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Wednesday, starting January 22nd, 2025 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM • 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria, V9A 1K5 (City Light Church)
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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)

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES FOR CUAET HOLDERS

FREE

Starting **April 2025**, we will have **FREE** Formal English Language Training and Informal English Practice for Ukrainians with CUAET* visas. Classes will be available at different locations:

- Victoria
- Saanich
- Westshore/Langford

Register in advance to reserve your spot!

*Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET)

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

Professional English in the Workplace

If you are looking to improve your language skills in a workplace or business setting, these workshops are for you!

Every Tuesday, starting January 28, 2025

- **Class 1:** 3:30 PM - 5:00PM
 - **Class 2:** 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- @ Salish Boardroom, Coastal Offices**
(328 Wale rd., #132)

For more information, please contact
Serena: serena@vircs.bc.ca



For Upper-Intermediate / Advanced English Learners

PROFESSIONAL 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 January 28, 2025

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

@ Coastal Offices (328 Wale rd., #132)

For more information, please contact
BCNSP Team;
bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca / 250-361-9433



The Butchart Gardens Job Fair 2025

COME AND MEET US IN-PERSON!

- Competitive Wages
- Recruiting for spring and summer employment in most departments
- Department representatives available to provide information and receive resumes.

DATE: February 5, 2025

TIME: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

LOCATION: Butchart Garden (800 Benvenuto Ave, Brentwood Bay)

EXCLUSIVE GATE OPENING

Complimentary admission / no garden access

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



New to Canada Program

Are you **a newcomer business owner** looking to grow your business in Greater Victoria Region?

What we offer:

- Comprehensive support in the development of your business through the provision of two years of membership with the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce
- Community engagement opportunities



Eligibility

You **must** present a valid business license and have been in Canada for three or less years.

FEBRUARY 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:

Friday, February 7, 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
- Programs and services



- 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

To register, please contact settlement
counselor - Wing:
wing@vircs.bc.ca / 236-638-4749



Tax and Benefits Information Session

by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and
Service Canada

Join our information session to learn about the
Canada Tax systems, free tax resources, and
different benefits that you may be eligible for.

Date: Friday, February 7, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 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)

EVERYTHING ABOUT CHILD CARE

Presented by Victoria Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

This will be an informal talk with families that will
provide information as well as an opportunity to ask
questions related to child care. You can learn about:

PROGRAMS/RESOURCES
SUPPORT FAMILIES
WITH FINDING
CHILDCARE

CHILDCARE FEE
REDUCTION
INITIATIVES

AFFORDABLE
CHILDCARE BENEFITS
PROGRAM

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
1:00 - 2:30 PM
at VIRCS (1004 North Park Street)



For free registration,
please contact:
wing@vircs.bc.ca or
236-638-4749



Everything about Child Care Facilitated by CCRR

Join this information to learn about the childcare
system in BC, resources to support families with
finding childcare, and different childcare benefits
that you may be eligible for.

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 PM

Location: VIRCS (1004 North Park St)

For free registration and more information,
please contact Wing:

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

FEBRUARY 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?

VIRCS Drop-In Hours for School District 61 Families

Join our

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

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

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



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP SERIES

Wellness Journey: Taking Care of Our Mind, Body and Soul in an Unjust World

Facilitated by Mental Health Professionals from VICCIR

- **Session 1:**
Wednesday, January 29
2:00-4:00 PM
550 Obed Avenue (City Light Church)
- **Session 2:**
Wednesday, February 12th
2:00-4:00 PM
550 Obed Avenue (City Light Church)
- **Session 3:**
Wednesday, February 26th
2:00-4:00 PM
550 Obed Avenue (City Light Church)
- **Session 4:**
Wednesday, March 12th
2:00-4:00 PM
550 Obed Avenue (City Light Church)
- **Session 5:**
Wednesday, March 26th
2:00-4:00 PM
550 Obed Avenue (City Light Church)

To learn more about VICCIR and their services, please visit:
<https://www.viccir.org/>

FOR FREE REGISTRATION

email: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca

Mental Wellness Series Facilitated by VICCIR

Each session is designed to address key aspects of well-being, from developing a personalized wellness plan to healing from trauma and enhancing communication skills. Participants will gain practical tools and insights to foster healthier relationships and promote cultural understanding. Join us to connect, learn and grow together!

Date & Time: Please see the poster

Location: City Light Church
(550 Obed Ave.)

For more information, please contact BCNSP Team: bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca / 250-361-9433



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	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	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	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	Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	
10 Online Functional English for Daily Life 6:00 – 7:30 PM Zahra	Law Clinic* (M) 1:30 - 3:30 pm	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	Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca	Wellness and Mental Health workshop VICCIR 2:00-4:00pm @City Light Church	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	Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	
Family Day VIRCS Closed		18 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	19 Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca Everything about Childcare by CRRR 1:00 - 2:30pm @VIRCS To register, email: wing@vircs.bc.ca	ELT Conversation 2:00-4:00pm Colin Baur @City Light Church	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	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	26 Law Clinic* (I) 1:00-3:00pm Employment Cafe 12:00 - 2:00 pm Serena @ GVPL-Juan de Fuca	Wellness and Mental Health workshop VICCIR 2:00-4:00pm @City Light Church	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	28 Employment Cafe 12:00-2:00pm Serena Pronunciation Class** 1:00-3:00pm David @ VIRCS	
@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					<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 Contact Serena Lee, Employment Coordinator at serena@vircs.bc.ca 				
*Law Clinic (By appointment only) Contact BCNSP team to book an appointment. bcnsp@vircs.bc.ca					Program Eligibility * Restrictions apply <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. 				
**Pronunciation Class To register, please contact Jennifer, esl@vircs.bc.ca									

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



BC Newcomer Services Program (BCNSP)

February 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 Light 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>3</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>4</p> <p>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow</p>	<p>5</p> <p>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley</p>	<p>6</p> <p>ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @City Light Church Mike Carrow</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>10</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>11</p> <p>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow</p>	<p>12</p> <p>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley</p>	<p>13</p> <p>ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @ City Light Church Mike Carrow</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>Family Day VIRCS Closed</p>	<p>18</p> <p>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow</p>	<p>19</p> <p>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley</p>	<p>20</p> <p>ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @ City Light Church Mike Carrow</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>24</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>25</p> <p>ELT II 9:30AM – 12:30PM Mike Carrow</p>	<p>26</p> <p>ELT III 9:30AM – 12:30PM David Bradley</p>	<p>27</p> <p>ELT I- II 9:30PM – 11:00AM ELT III- IV 11:30PM – 1:30PM @ City Light Church Mike Carrow</p>	<p>28</p>

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



February 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.