



Sharing information on VLIP as we progress through our planning stages, while promoting information on the formation of welcoming and inclusive communities.

This newsletter connects service providers and Partnership members with information on the status of the Partnership, and it aims to promote community resources, events and initiatives that support the creation of a welcoming and inclusive Vancouver.

Please circulate widely.

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VLIP UPDATE

Last week, VLIP Council met, and we were joined by members of the Immigrant Advisory Table, Vantage Point, and LevelUp.

Vantage Point, VLIP's strategic planners unveiled the finalized version of our **vision, mission, and values statements**, which is the next step needed for us to move forward in our work and determine the Strategic Working Groups. LevelUp, also gave a brief presentation on next steps now that the planning stages are wrapping up.

If you would like to join the Partnership, it's never too late! We accept membership applications on an ongoing basis. Council applications and more information found [here](#).



FEATURE ARTICLE

Recognizing the Problem: Foreign Credentialing

By: VLIP Team

Canada's **foreign credentialing system** is a **barrier to employment** for newcomers to Canada.

It's an issue that has been a consistent for foreign trained professionals in regulated professions coming into Canada for a long time, with [research](#) and [recommendations](#) emerging in the last few decades about the barriers faced by newcomers to the Canadian workforce from abroad.

According to a 2009 report by the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, "Fair recognition of education and job experience obtained in another country is important for a variety of reasons. Being unable to fully use prior learning and experience is **frustrating for newcomers** to Canada who find themselves underemployed in jobs far below their expectations. **Failure to recognize credentials costs immigrants and taxpayers; on a macro scale, the cost of untapped potential is estimated to range between \$2.4 and \$5.9 billion annually.**"

The 2009 report goes on to say, "the failure to recognize foreign credentials may become a competitive disadvantage, affecting Canada's attractiveness as a destination to highly skilled and educated workers. For all of these reasons, **ensuring credential recognition is fast, fair, effective, and accessible is of great concern to this Committee. It is a matter of national interest.**"

And yet, despite that grave warning from the committee back in 2009, things are slow to change within the actual systems themselves. No matter where you are in Canada, it's still not uncommon to hop in a taxi, Uber, or Lyft, talk to your driver, and learn they are a professionally trained healthcare provider, teacher, social worker in their home-country.

Government Investment

Throughout this year, more and more funding announcements emerged to improve foreign credential recognition programs.

In March, the federal government announced it is [investing \\$26.5 million](#) to improve 11 foreign credential recognition programs so that immigrants may be integrated faster into the Canadian economy, and in July, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser, [announced \\$1.5 million](#) in funding to help newcomers work in the Canadian health sector, and even Ontario Premier Doug Ford issued ["a directive](#) to speed up the accreditation of international nurses as a way of addressing shortages of medical staff."

How is this Possible?

How, then, is it possible that so many foreign trained professionals are still struggling with Canada's credentialing system?

Randy Boldt, an immigration consultant with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy explains why so many foreign trained professionals end up working low-paying jobs outside their expertise in this [recent article](#) on the Frontier Centre for Public Policy website.



“Unlike many other countries, where professional regulations are a federal responsibility, in Canada the provinces create the regulations. As such, Canada has over 400 Self-Regulated Professions, each with its own Provincial regulatory act.

*These regulations ... **protect their own members’ interest in ensuring that access to the profession is highly restricted.** As a consequence, it is difficult, if not nearly impossible, for most foreign-trained professionals to enter a Canadian profession.”*

Members of VLIP’s Immigrant Advisory Table (newcomers with lived experiences) have felt the paradox of Canada’s credentialing system first-hand.

Ruchi, Immigrant Advisory Table Member originally from India, explains her experience:

“Even though I was selected and accepted because of my professional qualifications, the first response I got was that I do not have sufficient experience in Canada that’s why I wouldn’t get a front-end social worker role at all...and my husband, who is also a qualified professional has also been facing similar challenges.

It is weird that our immigration applications are accepted for our qualifications to come to this new country, but then [once we are accepted], they say “you don’t have enough experience here so you won’t be getting front end-jobs.”

So, What Now?

It’s clear from the headlines that the government hears the request for support in the form of more funding, but what about change in the systems themselves? Experiences of immigrants, refugees, international students, temporary foreign workers, and newcomers alike tell us there’s a **disconnect between what’s happening on the recruitment lines, and what’s happening on the frontlines of hiring.**

It should come as no surprise, as historically, there’s always been a big disconnect between what the people need and what the government is willing to fund. How do we keep momentum while holding funders accountable? While also adjusting the systems to support our current economy?

Exacerbating Circumstances Raise the Stakes

Currently, we are at an all-time low for skilled labour across most sectors. Construction is hit particularly hard, but so are the usual childcare and healthcare sectors, with higher than usual vacancy rates compared to last year and [over 1 million job vacancies](#) recorded earlier this summer.

The labour shortage is felt everywhere; restaurants, to hospitals, to construction sites, to daycare centres – all these industries have been hit hard in the post-pandemic era and have even had to [lower their hiring expectations](#) as they struggle to recruit the right candidates.

And, according to a [recent article](#) by CIC News, “the job vacancy rate in the health care and social services sectors has risen sharply to 143,000 vacancies, or 6.1%. This is a significant increase over the vacancy rate in April, which was 5.4% and 20% higher than it was in May 2021”.

And, with the health care job vacancy rate on the rise, people are continuing to die without adequate access to care. In B.C., 2 people [died](#) in August alone in Ashcroft this summer while waiting for healthcare.



Yes, the funding is coming, but where are the changes in the system to expedite the current circumstances?

What more can we be doing to support this process, and foreign-trained professionals, in a better way?



This portion of our newsletter highlights the human perspective behind the Partnership. VLIP Community Corner is committed to supporting and amplifying the voices of our member organizations – Immigrant Advisory Table Members, Council Members, and Members-at-Large. And once they're formed, this is where you will find fresh perspectives from the strategic working groups.

FROM LOSS TO LANDING

From Loss to Landing

By Mothers Matter Centre, HIPPY Program



Refugee mothers and their families arrive in Canada after unspeakably arduous journeys replete with violence, loss, and extreme uncertainty. The process of landing and settling presents yet another new and unforeseen set of challenges.

This film from Mothers Matter Centre offers rare insight into the refugee family experience, the trials of settlement, and the accomplishment of settling in their new home. The women in the video were clients of the HIPPY Plus program at ISSofBC.

Watch the full video [here](#).



UPDATE FROM MIGRANTE DIGNIDAD SOCIETY

As Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) in Canada we are disenfranchised and unprotected from labor exploitation, human trafficking, and other types of abuse. We recently hosted Ride for Rights to spread awareness about these issues and raise funds for our organization.

For over 50 years we have **received minimum wage**, have **been isolated from our families and from Canadian communities**, have **faced discrimination and racism**, and have been **misinformed about our rights and benefits**. The disparity between what we contribute to Canadian society and the deplorable way we are treated in Canada is striking.

In 2022, from April to July, we reported **42 violations** of the law and violations of contracts at different TFWs' worksites, among them: terrible housing and living conditions and breach of contracts. We are given **rotten water**, and there are everything from **bed bugs** to **mice crawling** around **overcrowded houses** that are **falling apart**.

We also reported claims of TFWs' for being **denied medical attention**; people have **suffered work accidents** and **received no help**.

Ride for Rights, which was a huge success. But it doesn't stop on one day of fundraising.

This is why we are reaching out to YOU to help us continue to spread awareness about these issues and help us secure Temporary Foreign Workers:

- The **same rights, benefits, and dignified working and living conditions that Canadian workers have**.
- **Changes** to the **immigration policies** to guarantee Open Work Permit and attainable Permanent
- **Resident pathways for TFWs**, and a path to regularize essential undocumented migrant workers.
- Enforcement actions to **guarantee decent housing and working conditions** for TFWs in Canada.
- Enforcement actions to **stop employers from practicing Human Trafficking**.
- TFWs' **participation in the creation** of the contract.
- We demand attention to our **20 points** on the [Federal Agenda](#) and the **12 points** on the [provincial agenda](#).

Migrant workers deserve the same rights as Canadian workers!

To learn more about us and how to help visit www.dignidadmigrantesociety.org or our [FB](#) and [Instagram](#).

COMMUNITY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

UBC Community Engagement is accepting applications for the 2022 Partnership Recognition & Exploration (PRE) Fund!

Apply for up to **\$1,500** for community-university collaboration and relationship building.



PRE funding fills small resource gaps and empowers community partners to build reciprocal relationships with UBC students, faculty, and staff. We especially welcome applications for projects that advance:

- Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Indigenous engagement and reconciliation
- Health innovation and community wellbeing
- Sustainability and climate action
- Teaching, learning, and research excellence

Building on the success of our Partnership Recognition Fund, the Partnership Recognition *and Exploration* Fund now invites applicants from existing partnerships and applicants looking to develop new relationships.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from now until December 31, 2022, OR until available funds are exhausted. This year, Community Engagement has a total of \$69,000 to fund up to 46 community-university projects.

SHARE (targeted at UBC faculty, students, and staff)

- Tweet: #Funding opportunity for #BC-based community partners and organizations! Are you collaborating with #UBC students, faculty, or staff on any projects this year? Get up to \$1,500 for community-university collaboration and relationship building. Apply today: <https://communityengagement.ubc.ca/our-work/partnership-recognition-and-exploration-fund/>
- Webpage: <https://communityengagement.ubc.ca/our-work/partnership-recognition-and-exploration-fund/>
- URL to retweet: <https://twitter.com/UBCCommEngage/status/1551583062273806337>
- See attached for image

PROJECT CONTACTS

- Project lead: Ryan Brown, Advisor, UBC Community Engagement | partner.fund@ubc.ca
- Communications support: Oliver Mann, Communications Strategist, UBC Community Engagement | oliver.mann@ubc.ca

City of Vancouver 2023 Renter Services Grants

Applications Open: Mon. Sep. 12, 2022

Applications Close: Fri. Oct. 28, 2022, Midnight

Renter Services Grants

[Renter Services Grants \(RSG\)](#) support non-profit community-based programs that assist and empower Vancouver renters to understand their rights, pursue their rights, and/or retain their housing.



Learn more about Renter Services Grants including eligibility criteria and types of services funded, by reviewing the [Information Guide](#) prior to completing your application.

VanApply

[VanApply](#) is the City's online application system for Arts, Culture, and Community Services' grants, awards, and artist commissions. Applications will be submitted through [VanApply](#).

For more information about using VanApply, please visit the [help guide webpage](#) containing resources, such as the [Introduction to VanApply guide](#) and [video](#).

Information Sessions

The Renter Office will co-host online information sessions with the Social Policy Grants team. The sessions will provide an opportunity for you to learn more about [Core Support Grants](#) and Renter Services Grants, as well as the application process. All are welcome, new applicants are particularly encouraged to attend

Please choose one of the sessions and email renteroffice@vancouver.ca to reserve a spot. *(If you have registered with Social Policy Grants team, you do not need to register with the Renter Office again, but feel free to let us know if you would like to attend the Renter Services Grants session)*

Session 1: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 2-3:30 pm

Session 2: Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 10-11:30 am

Questions?

Feel free to contact the Renter Office's grant team at renteroffice@vancouver.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 15 | 2PM-4PM

Ukraine to Canada: Ready for a New Workplace Culture? Workshop
Online via Zoom in collaboration with **Vancouver Public Library** and **MOSAIC's Centre for Diversity**
Register at workshopforukrainians.eventbrite.ca
For more info contact: info-vancouver-commercial@workbc.ca

Sept. 17 | 11AM 'til late

Fire Dragon Festival
Mid-Autumn Celebration
Vancouver Chinatown

Sept. 25 | 5PM – 8PM

Echate un Taco (Join us for taco dinner!)
Dignidad Migrante Society
Evergreen Hall, Chilliwack



Sept. 29 | 2-5PM

In-Person Funding Roundtable Discussion (invitation only)

More details to come!

Oct. 6 | 2PM -4PM

Virtual Funding Roundtable Discussion (invitation only).



COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

VLIP Council was joined by members of the Immigrant Advisory Table, Vantage Point and LevelUp for our last meeting.

The finalized version of our vision, mission, and values statements are now formed and in the process of being evaluated.

If you are interested in learning what transpires in Council meetings, make sure you sign up to become a VLIP member! You can do that [[here](#)].

