



CANADIAN CENTRE
FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

CCVT CONNECTIONS

MAY—JULY 2017



CCVT Staff Retreat at Regina Mundi Centre in July

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Coming up: First Light Annual Gala

The CCVT Connections Newsletter, which is published bi-monthly, is intended to inform and engage the Centre's volunteers in important events, news and meetings.

In doing so, CCVT aims to acknowledge the vital role volunteers play in fulfilling our mandate.

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



Ontario



United Way
Toronto & York Region

NEWS FROM CCVT

The spring and summer season continues to be both hectic and exciting. A major service need for us at this time are mentors for youth, especially males who can act as 'big brothers'. Because of this demand, an intense outreach for male mentors was made in the community and via social media.

From June 1-3, CCVT participated in the Canadian Council for Refugees, Spring Consultation at MacEwan University in Edmonton Treaty Six territory. The Spring 2017 Consultation provided a space for learning, experience-sharing, networking and strategizing among people involved in the immigrant and refugee serving sector, refugee protection and refugee resettlement across Canada. The theme for this consultation was **"Nurturing Diversity and Inclusion: Reflecting on the past to inspire the future"**. It was a message with strong resonance for the local organizations in

Edmonton, especially in the context of the 150th anniversary of confederation. The consultation was well attended with various workshops for participants including CCVT training session on Vicarious Trauma and Self Care. The consultation was attended by Mulugeta Abai (CCVT Executive Director), Dr. Ezat Mossallanejad (Policy Analyst) and Mbalu Lumor (Manager, Community Engagement).

On June 7, CCVT participated in a one-day Research Symposium on Refugees - **From margins to centre: Integrating victims of torture and political oppression**. This all-day symposium was organized in collaboration with Wellesley Institute, Centre for Refugee Studies - York University, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and George Brown College. The symposium took place at George Brown

College and the title of the symposium was "Impact of Education on Social Inclusion for Refugees". This research symposium brought together researchers from across education, health, human rights and other disciplines to exchange ideas, promote research, education, discussion and to facilitate collaboration in the field of refugee education and social inclusion. The research symposium objective was to:

- ◆ Share lessons from the research on integrating refugees into Post-Secondary Education
- ◆ Create a dialogue on needs and barriers facing refugees and new immigrants and include facilitators to inform policy changes.

Nurturing Diversity and Inclusion: Reflecting on the past to inspire the future

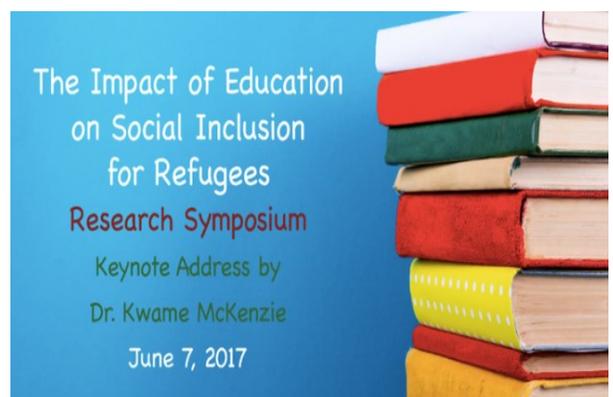


CCR Spring Consultation, Edmonton, 1-3 June

Register now!
ccrweb.ca/en/meetings



Canadian Council for Refugees
Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés



A big thank you to all volunteers and participants who attended the June 20: World Refugee Day Community Walk and the June 26: International Day in support of victims of torture. Both events were well attended with approximately 300 people.

Our Annual Picnic on July 23 was well attended with over 150 participants and the weather was beautiful! Thank you to all volunteers who attended and brought some food to share.

CCVT is proud to announce that we are an Anchor partner with United Way Toronto/York. As an anchor partner we have hosted various United Way Donor engagement “Day of Caring” events where donors painted our English Classrooms and

helped in sorting food from our Tuesday Food Donation Drive in partnership with Second Harvest. As an anchor partner, CCVT staff are also raising funds among themselves throughout the year with various activities like cooking/preparing lunch with a nominal fee for staff. The funds will be donated to United Way at the end of the year.

We are still in the process of revamping our website and hope to have it running soon. Our social media page is growing very fast and has helped a lot in our outreach, event promotion and keeping the community updated with the latest news. Thank you to staff and volunteers helping in this area!

Last but not least, this year is our 40th anniversary and we plan on celebrating this milestone at Old Mill Toronto on November 24, 2017 @6pm. Tickets will be available for purchase in September 2017. We are need of auction items for both live and silent auction if you would like to donate.

Again, thank you to all of you for your continued hard work, commitment and time.

Sincerely,

Mbalu Lumor
Manager, Community
Engagement

Editorial Committee

Donna Midanik, CCVT volunteer

Jennifer Bryant, Community
Engagement Facilitator

Mbalu Lumor, Community
Engagement Manager

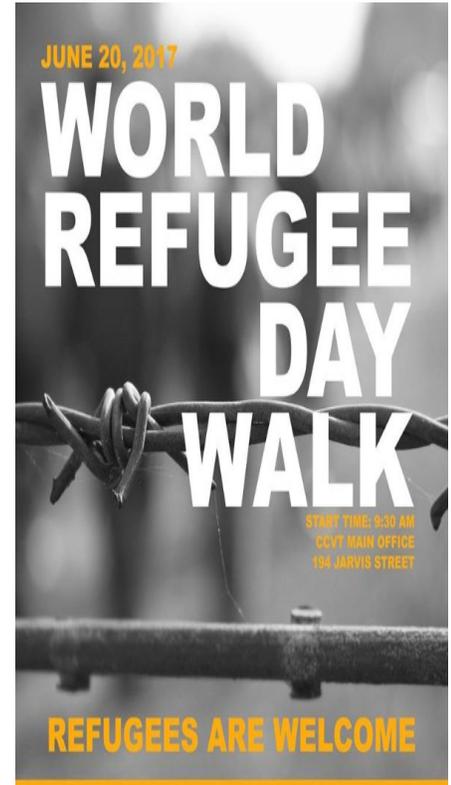
WORLD REFUGEE DAY

On June 20, CCVT partnered with various neighbourhood agencies for a community walk to honour World Refugee Day and raise awareness of refugee rights in Canada. The theme for this year's event was to highlight the needs of refugee children and the risks of immigration detention.

There was an impressive turnout for the event which included staff and clients of the centre as well as participants

from Sojourn House, Regent Park Community Health Centre, Central Neighbourhood House and the Refugee Law Office.

Toronto Police Service provided traffic support during the walk and also experienced a taste of fame with many participants requesting their picture be taken with the officers.





UN INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE



Above: Luxsiga, CCVT Counsellor, performs with Sri Lankan dance group

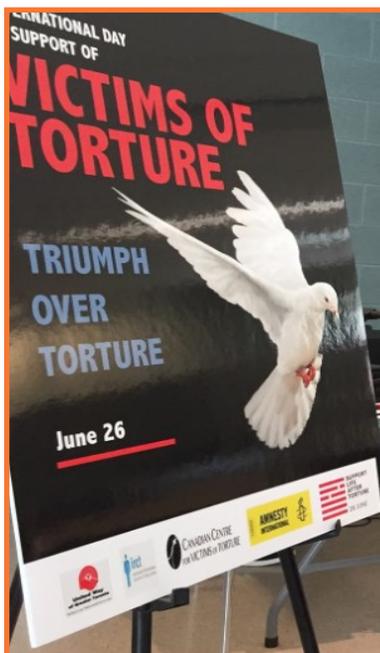


Left: Mahin Hosseini plays a Daf drum, traditional to the Middle East

June 26 marked the UN International Day for the Support of Victims of Torture and CCVT hosted an event at the Regent Park Community Centre that featured cultural performances, a lighthearted dramatic skit as well as a panel discussion.

Amnesty International also participated to highlight their campaign on immigration detention and gather signatures for a petition to repeal the Safe Third Country Agreement.

The event was well attended by both clients and community activists who enjoyed the performances as well as a delicious lunch.



CCVT Staff & Volunteers in skit "Saga of a Refugee Turned Millionaire"

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

As part of its outreach to corporate donors, the United Way of Toronto & York Region organizes volunteers from companies to visit and support funded agencies in the city.

CCVT was lucky enough to have two such visits with employees from Bank of Montreal helping to brighten up the English classrooms

with new paint on June 16 and employees from AGF Investments helping to distribute donated food items from Second Harvest to clients on June 27.

This type of partnership strengthens relationships between the United Way and its corporate donors but it also gives the funded organization

the opportunity to promote its services and programs to the public.

**THANK YOU
UNITED WAY!**



BMO Employees assisting Abby, CCVT Counsellor



AGF Employees with Jennifer, Community Engagement Facilitator

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

Published with permission of a client who recently received services from CCVT

Through CCVT Programme, I have managed to achieve the following:

- ◆ Certificate in Administrative Course
- ◆ Certificate for Higher Education Research Study by George Brown College & CCVT

Through CCVT, I have managed to go through an interview for the incoming programme from Reena (BDC) Developmental disabilities and Counselling Programme.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Graduating students from Computer Class and their instructor Elena Solokhina — June 28, 2017

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Over the course of three months, CCVT welcomed numerous new volunteers to the centre. There were two orientation sessions held at the centre and many of those in attendance are now in the screening process.

As always, CCVT is happy to welcome the new ideas and energy

that volunteers provide and would like to thank these “new recruits” for donating their free time.

Welcome to the following new volunteers!

- ◆ Sara Cation
- ◆ Briar Murawski
- ◆ Mariam Bahar Azimi
- ◆ Maureen Holland
- ◆ Ahmad Kanji
- ◆ Charlotte D’arcy
- ◆ Cristina Huré
- ◆ Nikkie Ashworth
- ◆ Gillian Gallant
- ◆ Diana Nazarov
- ◆ Cassandra Francis



Volunteer candidates work on case studies during the Orientation Session in July 2017

WELCOME TO STUDENTS & NEW STAFF

Negar Alamdar is a PhD candidate at York University and is completing a student placement at the Canadian Center for Victims of Torture. Negar is the founder and coordinator of the Immigrant women support group. She teaches at Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning for community and justice services program and also teaches at York University department of Human rights and Equity studies. In part because of her own personal experiences, she is deeply committed to empowering women from multicultural communities through support activities, advising and educational workshops.



My name is Claudia Ramirez and I'm currently finishing my practicum at the CCVT under the supervision of Dr. Ezat Mossallanejad, mostly at the Hub location. I completed my master's degree in Theology, Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy in May 2017 at Wilfrid Laurier University and will graduate in October, once my placement is completed.

I have been involved with the CCVT as a volunteer, on and off since 1992; I will always remember my first days as volunteer, when the organization was much smaller and managed from the basement of a church on Westmoreland St. Life commitments such as school and motherhood took me away from the CCVT on a number of occasions, however, I have always managed to return, this time as a student in training offering trauma counselling. It is impressive how much this organization has expanded and I am glad it has, it is the place where many come for help, support and comfort. For some, it is the only place where they find solace.



WELCOME TO STUDENTS & NEW STAFF

My name is Adeena Persaud and I am a Master of Social Work student at the University of Toronto. I am working with Domine Rutayisire in the Mental Health Program. Through my practicum at CCVT, my hope is to use my research and knowledge in childhood trauma to understand adults with mental health concerns, which many refugees and newcomers experience. I am also eager to learn more about the refugee claimant process and how social workers can support these efforts.



Hello to all! My name is Joseph Fantauzzi and this is my second summer working at CCVT. This September, I will be returning to Ryerson University for my fourth year of Computer Engineering. I have been working with Mbalu in the community engagement department and aiding at the front desk; never a dull moment at CCVT! I have always had a passion for working towards the betterment of the community. During the 2013-2014 winter holidays, I travelled with a group of other students to the Philippines to help build a housing community and to volunteer at orphanages. I am fluent in both English and French and love working with others. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone at CCVT and the CCVT Community!



My name is Areesha Zamir and I started to work at CCVT in June as a summer student. I am currently a second year student at University of Toronto majoring in sociology. I work within the community engagement program with tasks that help promote our organization and the programs we have to offer. I have also been able to help with events such as World Refugee Day Walk and International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Being able to see the work of the managers and counsellors has been very interesting for me because it is something I want to pursue as a future career. It has made me realize how much of a difference this centre makes within the community by promoting unity and diversity. I hope that one day I can be a part of it again!



Hello! My name is Jennifer Bryant and I recently joined CCVT as the Community Engagement Facilitator. I'm looking forward to working closely with the many volunteers involved with the programs at the centre as well as getting more involved in planning upcoming events like the First Light gala in November. I have worked with a variety of non-profit organizations and have found a real passion in community based outreach and support for vulnerable populations. Earlier this year I graduated from the Social Services Worker program at Seneca College with a specific focus on the settlement sector. Being new to Toronto myself, I think that CCVT provides a vital service in helping refugees' integrate into the city as well as assisting with the emotional support needed to overcome trauma and isolation.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

We are in need of youth mentors for our Youth Mentorship Program with a particular need for male volunteers. If you have 4 hours free per month, live in the GTA and are over the age of 21 please consider becoming a youth mentor.

Contact Abby Jackman for more details at ajackman@ccvt.org.

We are also in need of volunteers to assist with the After School Programs starting in September. If you are available between 3 and 5 pm during the week please consider volunteering to help children and youth

with homework and projects. Contact Abby Jackman for more details at ajackman@ccvt.org.



THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO OUR CLIENTS!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2017 - **Certificate Course in Torture, Trauma, Psychosocial Impact & Mental Health.** Courses run from September to June and early bird registration deadline is August 31. See page 14-15 for additional details.

NOVEMBER 2017 - **15th Annual First Light Gala & Awards Ceremony.** Evening will include a silent and live auction, a keynote speaker, live entertainment and a delicious dinner. Tickets are \$125 each

or \$1,000 for a table of ten with tax deductible receipt for each.

Come celebrate our 40th Anniversary! Celebrations begin at 6pm.

JOB POSTING

Youth Mentorship Facilitator (25 hrs/week)

CCVT is looking for an experienced person to fill the position of Youth Mentorship Facilitator. This position will support

high risk youth through access to consistent, caring adults who will support youth participants to pursue and achieve goals and outcomes related to employment,

education, civic engagement and leadership.

Please visit our website to view the full posting and eligibility requirements.



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 24, 2017

CCIT 40th Anniversary

First Light Gala

The Old Mill | 21 Old Mill Rd | Toronto, ON | M8X 1G5

Multiple sponsorship packages also available

Items for silent and live auction needed

Contact for more information



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

CERTIFICATE COURSE

Torture, Trauma, Psychosocial

Impact and Mental Health:

Meeting the Needs of War and Torture Survivors

Courses start September 20, 2017

Early Bird Registration deadline is August 31, 2017

Participants registered in a minimum of 6 sessions will receive a certificate upon completion.

Contact Domine Rutayisire for registration details:

drutayisire@ccvt.org



The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

Invites you to register for the Certificate Course, *Torture, Trauma, Psychosocial Impact and Mental Health: Meeting the Needs of War and Torture Survivors*. Please complete this form and submit it with payment to:

The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture
194 Jarvis Street, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario,
Canada M5B 2B7

Domine Rutayisire, Email: drutayisire@ccvt.org

Fax: 416-363-2122

View Course Syllabus at www.ccvt.org

Registration Form

*Submit your form before August 31, 2017 to take advantage of Early Bird Pricing.

Name:

Phone Number:

E-Mail:

Organization:

1) Please indicate your understanding:

- I would like to register for the **full** course. I understand that registration for the complete 9 session course costs \$400 (or **Early Bird Price** of \$350).
- I understand that certificates will be awarded **only** to those participants in attendance for a **minimum** of 6 sessions.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Broad Aspects of Torture
Dr. Wendell Block & Dr. Donald Payne | September 20, 2017
2:00 - 5:00pm |
| 2. Determinants of Refugee Mental Health
Dr. Branka Agic | October 18, 2017
3:00 - 5:00pm |
| 3. A Cultural Psychiatry Approach to Refugee Women's Mental Health
Dr. Lisa Andermann | November 15, 2017
3:00 - 5:00pm |
| 4. Mental Health Needs of LGBTQ+ Refugees
Dr. Ranjith Kulatilake | January 19, 2018
2:00 - 4:00pm |
| 5. Growing Older as a New Canadian:
Intersections of Life Events and Life-Stage Issues
Dr. Rosemary Meier | February 21, 2018
3:00 - 5:00pm |
| 6. Fostering Adaptation in Families, Children & Youth
Dr. Simone Levey, Dr. Debra Stein and Dr. Marlinda Freire | March 21, 2018
2:00 - 5:30pm |
| 7. Trauma Stress & Resilience in Refugees
Dr. Clare Pain | April 18, 2018
3:00 - 5:00pm |
| 8. Recognizing the Risks & Signs of Addiction
Polly Florius MS, RN, CCAC | May 16, 2018
3:00 - 5:00pm |
| 9. Self-Care: Vicarious Trauma and Secondary Traumatization
Dr. Teresa Dremetsikas & Mbalu Lumor BA (Hons) | June 20, 2018
3:00 - 5:00pm |

2) Please indicate your Method of Payment:

- Cash Master Card Card Number: _____
- Cheque Visa Expiry Date: _____

ANNUAL PICNIC - HIGH PARK, TORONTO - JULY 23, 2017

There was lots of food, fun and entertainment at this year's annual picnic gathering.

Clients, staff and volunteers all came together to enjoy a day in the park and spend time outside of the formal office environment. There were sausages and

hamburgers on the barbeque along with homemade meals to share. Everyone also enjoyed some delicious watermelon.

The children participated in group sports, face painting, water activities and even a trip to the petting zoo.

The whole group was entertained with music and dancing as well as a special performance by SYCA, a Syrian group that performs with CCVT staff member, Rahaf.







CANADIAN CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

INVITES YOU TO THE

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

COME JOIN THE FUN WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

ON SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

FROM 11:00AM – 4:00 PM

AT HIGH PARK PICNIC AREA 2 (SEE MAP)

You can bring your favourite music or an instrument to play. If you have a special dish you'd like to share, feel free to bring it along. But most of all, bring yourself!

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Children and Adult activities include Entertainments and Games

LE CENTRE CANADIEN POUR LES VICTIMES DE LA TORTURE

Organise un Pique-Nique Annuel

Cet ÉTÉ, le CCVT vous invite cordialement avec votre famille à participer à notre pique-nique annuel qui aura lieu au: **High Park - Zone 2** (voir la carte ci-dessus)

Le dimanche 23 Juillet 2017

De 11h00 à 16h00

Venez nombreux pour célébrer l'été Canadien avec le CCVT.

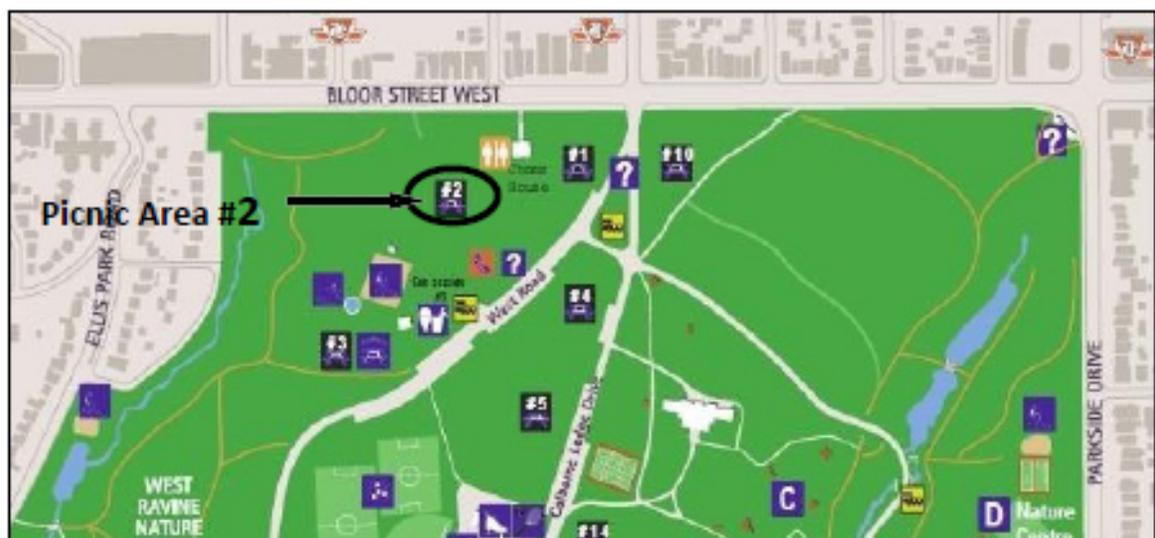
Vous pouvez apporter votre plat préféré pour le partager avec les autres.

Vous pouvez apporter la musique que vous aimez ou l'instrument que vous jouez.

Nous aurons également des jeux pour les enfants et un ballon de football pour les adultes.

Mais surtout, c'est **votre présence** qui compte!

Pour plus des renseignements, veuillez appeler le CCVT au (416) 363-1066



CCVT MANDATE

The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) aids survivors in overcoming the lasting effects of torture and war. In partnership with the community, the centre supports survivors in the process of successful integration into Canadian society, works for their protection and integrity and raises awareness of the continuing effects of torture and war on survivors and their families. The CCVT gives hope after horror.

**ON BEHALF OF
EVERYONE AT CCVT,
WE WISH YOU A
WONDERFUL
SUMMER!**

