

FREE

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 1 SPRING 2013

# BEATS

NEWCOMER YOUTH VOICE + PERSPECTIVE







JENNIFER SARKAR

## EDITOR'S NOTE

I can still recall the day I landed in Vancouver in the year 2005. I can still reminisce the feeling of sitting inside a small red Toyata Corolla with my family, filled with luggage. To me day 1 in Canada was a continuation of a long journey but with a new beginning. I have been living in Vancouver for eight years now and I somewhat find myself integrating into the culture. Over the years I have got to know many other immigrant and refugee families who have also felt that same feeling of a new beginning or a start line of a new race in life. I have also realized that every newcomer carry within themselves stories, experiences and have voices that want to be heard. Just like myself, many immigrant and refugee youth have faced culture shock or took time to get used to with the new language, food, environment and the list goes on. Despite all the initial struggles, I was lucky enough to meet and to be mentored by an amazing group of youth who shared similar journey as mine. Over the years I had the opportunity to know and learn about other youth experiences and soon realized that we had a lot to say and very limited platforms to express our side of stories. This is what gave birth to BEATS: Newcomer Youth Voice and Perspective. When we listen to a band we hear the complete music however, the music happens after

each band member contributes their part of beats and collaborated to create one final piece. Same with voices and perspectives of immigrant and refugee youth, each of their voices form one community. Each youth voices has strong and energetic BEATS and through sharing and collaborating their voices, they can grow and empower each other. This magazine is dedicated to all the newcomer immigrant and refugee youth in the city and to those who pour their heart and soul into helping newcomers.

BEATS magazine will not have been possible without the help and support of Action Team members and Deborah L. Shackleton, Associate Professor, Faculty of Design + Dynamic Media, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Emily Carr. Action Team consists of a group of immigrant and refugee youth. This group takes initiatives to work on various immigrant and refugee issues in the city to improve youth involvement and peer support. I have been involved with Action Team for the past eight years of my life and they mentored and supported me in every direction of my life and continue to do so. Hope you enjoy the first issue of BEATS Magazine and we can continue this journey.

Love, Respect and Peace !

## BEATS RECOGNIZES THE COAST SALISH LAND AND PEOPLE

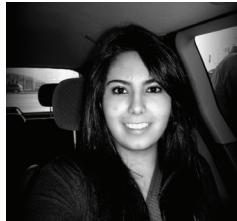
THANKS TO ALL FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY OF ART AND DESIGN  
ACTION TEAM



# BEATS

## Editorial and Creative Team

**Tania Suarez Mendoza***Editorial*

I was born in Mexico City and came to Canada almost eight years ago. My biggest fear coming to Canada was not being able to communicate with people, but I found it wasn't as daunting as I thought. The main reason is because of the people I met. I am now a student at Capilano University hoping to complete a Bachelor in Communication Studies. I look forward to working in projects similar to BEATS to help youth.

**Schroeder Hou***Editorial + Art*

I think I am a person who likes drawing and graphic design. I also like to join programs that help society and help to develop my own skills such as speaking and working in groups. One of the things that interests me is aliens.

**Lorena Del Castillo***Editorial*

I'm Lorena and I'm 19 years old. I love volunteering and I like being surrounded by people who have a positive outlook on life. I came from Mexico six years ago. I struggled a lot at the beginning trying to learn English and making friends but I worked towards overcoming that and now I'm working on a new stage in my life. I'm currently in my first year of college to become an early childhood educator.

**Melissa Leong***Editorial + Art*

My name is Melissa. I came to Vancouver 5 years ago. Now I am studying criminology at Simon Fraser University. I have extreme interests in forensic science on one hand and Art on the other hand. The opportunity to be part of the NuYu theater performance ignited my love for performing art. BEATS is another amazing production with Jennifer.

**Pablo Muñoz***Editorial + Art*

I am Pablo and I am a community organizer and a visual artist. Through my work I explore narratives and struggles of migrant and refugee communities, parting from the idea that art is not only a tool for social change but a living entity within it.

**Reinaldi Tedjasukmana***Art + Accounts*

I am Reinald and I have been a member of MY Circle Action Team since 2005 where I currently hold the position of finance. Throughout my years in the organization, I contributed to many of AT projects like the short movie called *1 + 1 = English* and recently *The ELL Project*.

**Jennifer Sarkar***Editor + Creative*

I am Jennifer and I immigrated to Vancouver in 2005 from Bangladesh. I am a Graphic Designer based in Vancouver. I love creative collaborations. I don't play any musical instruments but love music. Check out my work on [cargocollective.com/dive](http://cargocollective.com/dive).

**Fiona Lemon***Copy Editor*

I am proud to support the Action Team in their work on behalf of immigrant and refugee youth. I am currently doing graduate studies in Education at Simon Fraser University.

**Paul Rarick***Photographer*

I am Paul Rarick and I am a Communication Designer working out of Vancouver, BC. I am passionate about design, music, art, and photography. I enjoy collaborating to solve problems. Follow me on twitter @grufluv.

**Action Team***Editorial + Creative*

We are a group of immigrant and refugee youth who take on initiatives to create a more inclusive community for other immigrant and refugee youth. This group was established in 2001 and we meet every Friday to work on community development projects and have fun in the process.

## External Contributors

**Nathalie Lozano***Action Team**Editorial***Kim Yi***Routes 2 Roots**Art***Joon Haung***My Circle**Editorial***Arman Zamani***Action Team**Editorial***Maria Escolan***NuYu Popular Theatre**Editorial***Nicole Maclellan***YPC Youth Philanthropy**Council Editorial***Jorge Salazar***Fresh Voices**Editorial***Alejandra López Bravo***Fresh Voices**Editorial***Sara Mehmedi***Action Team**Editorial***Abby Zhong***Action Team**Editorial***UNYA***Urban Native Youth Association**Editorial***The Youth Advisory Team***retreat 2012**Front and back inside**cover art**Akol**Angelina Kougnon**Abdullah**Saad And many other awesome youth.***Azza Roibi***Routes 2 Roots**Editorial***Tanvie Bhatia***Fresh Voices**Editorial***Ejemen Iyayi***Action Team**Editorial***Christable Sarkar***Action Team**Editorial***Camila Fujiwara***L.O.V.E Leave Out Violence**Editorial*

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# GET INVOLVED!

## CRAZY FUN YOUTH PROJECTS



### MY CIRCLE

#### MY Circle is a FREE training for newcomer youth to become Peer Support Group Facilitators and Young Community Leaders.

The MY Circle Program is a fun and innovative leadership program that works with immigrant and refugee youth ages 14 to 24 who are facing challenges adapting into Canadian society, supporting them to break their isolation, learn practical skills, make new friends and gather information about the services and resources in their communities. Our goal is to increase the active participation and positive integration of young newcomers by providing them with a safe, supportive and comfortable place where they can gain validation and understanding around the complex issues of integration and adjustment. Free lunch, bus tickets and 80 hours of volunteer experience are provided to all youth participants.

*Multicultural Youth Circle Training  
Offered through Immigrant Services Society of BC.*

**For more information contact:**  
[mycircle@issbc.org](mailto:mycircle@issbc.org) or 604-684-7498 ext 1791



```
10 PRINT CHR$(125)
20 DIM NS$(20),LNS$(20),HNS$(20)
30 PRINT CHR$(253)
40 PRINT "NAME:":INPUT NS$
50 IF NS$="" THEN 120
60 PRINT "SCORE:":INPUT S
70 X=X+1
80 IF X=1 THEN LS$=S:LNS$=NS$:HNS$=S
90 IF S<LS THEN LS$=S:LNS$=NS$
100 IF S>HNS THEN HNS$=S:HNS$=NS$
110 GOTO 40
120 PRINT :PRINT
130 PRINT LNS$;" SCORED LOWEST
140 PRINT HNS$;" SCORED HIGHEST
150 PRINT :PRINT :PRINT :PRINT
160 PRINT "TO DO MORE, PRESS
170 INPUT K$:
180 CLR :GOTO 10
READY
```



### UNYA

Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA) helps youth between the ages of 13-30 years one-on-one seeking training and employment. At the Native Youth Learning Centre, 1618 East Hastings Street.

**For more information contact:**  
[learningcentre@unya.bc.ca](mailto:learningcentre@unya.bc.ca) or 604-254-5620

### Intro to Programming

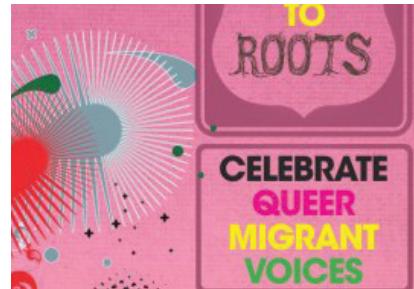
Any youth between grade 10-12 who love playing video games and want to learn about programming are welcome to join this free project and have fun learning for 10 weeks. It takes place every Friday 5-7pm at Broadway Youth Resource Center. Dinner and Bus tickets will be provided.

**For more information contact:**  
[camila.leaveoutviolencebc@gmail.com](mailto:camila.leaveoutviolencebc@gmail.com)

### Overly Creative Minds

Fun Painting and Mural Works with Overly Creative Minds. Youth between the ages of 15 – 24 ages are welcome to join. It takes place at 1618 East Hastings, buzz OCM Space. Mondays 4 - 8pm.

*This is a program of Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA). For more information contact:  
[ocmcoordinator@unya.bc.ca](mailto:ocmcoordinator@unya.bc.ca)  
or 604-254-7712*



## NuYu Popular Theater

NuYu is a youth program for immigrant and refugee youth that uses popular theatre as a tool for participants to connect with each other and explore their lives. In the program sessions we play lots of games, talk about our lives, and create theatre scenes together.

**FREE! For more information contact:**  
Maria Escolan at MOSAIC  
[mescolan@mosaicbc.com](mailto:mescolan@mosaicbc.com) or 778-552-1364

## Routes to Roots

Routes to Roots is a youth led project, operating under the QMUNITY umbrella, that will engage LGBTQ people of colour experiencing the challenges of migration, settlement and displacement in Metro Vancouver.

**For more information or to get involved contact:** [routes2roots@qmunity.ca](mailto:routes2roots@qmunity.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/Routes2Roots](http://www.facebook.com/Routes2Roots)

## Moving Ahead Program

The ISSofBC's Moving Ahead Programs (MAP) serve immigrant and refugee youth and young adults aged 16-28. MAP was launched on October 1st, 2012 and it is offered in New Westminster/Burnaby, Richmond/Vancouver and the Tri-Cities/Maple Ridge areas. MAP offers free one-to-one support, settlement and employment workshops, field trips and accompaniments to appointments.

**FREE! For more information, please contact us at** 604.522.5902 ext. 1711



## Media Arts Program (MAP-INC) L.O.V.E

**MAP is for youth who identify as being indigenous, Canadian-born and/or newcomer youth of color between the ages of 13 to 17.**

The Media Arts Program - Indigenous, Newcomer and Youth of Colour Program (MAP-INC) provides a safe space for youth with a shared understanding of similar experiences of systemic racism. The program assisted these youth in developing the tools to navigate systemic violence and to identify and create resources and tools. The program is a partnership with the Continuing Studies Department at Emily Carr University.

**For more info contact:**

**Hawa Mire** at [vancouver@leaveoutviolence.com](mailto:vancouver@leaveoutviolence.com) or 604-709-5728  
It's FREE! food, bus tickets, and a free camera provided when you finish the program.



## YPC Youth Council

**Youth making decision around who gets the grant.**

The Youth Philanthropy Council is a group of youth who research community concerns, review funding applications, and make grant \$\$ available for other youth-led groups who want to create positive change in their community. We're often on the look-out for new members (youth ages 14-21). We're looking for youth with different voices, opinions and perspectives that can help our group have good discussions that lead to good decisions.

**For more info go to:**  
[www.vancouverfoundationypc.ca](http://www.vancouverfoundationypc.ca)

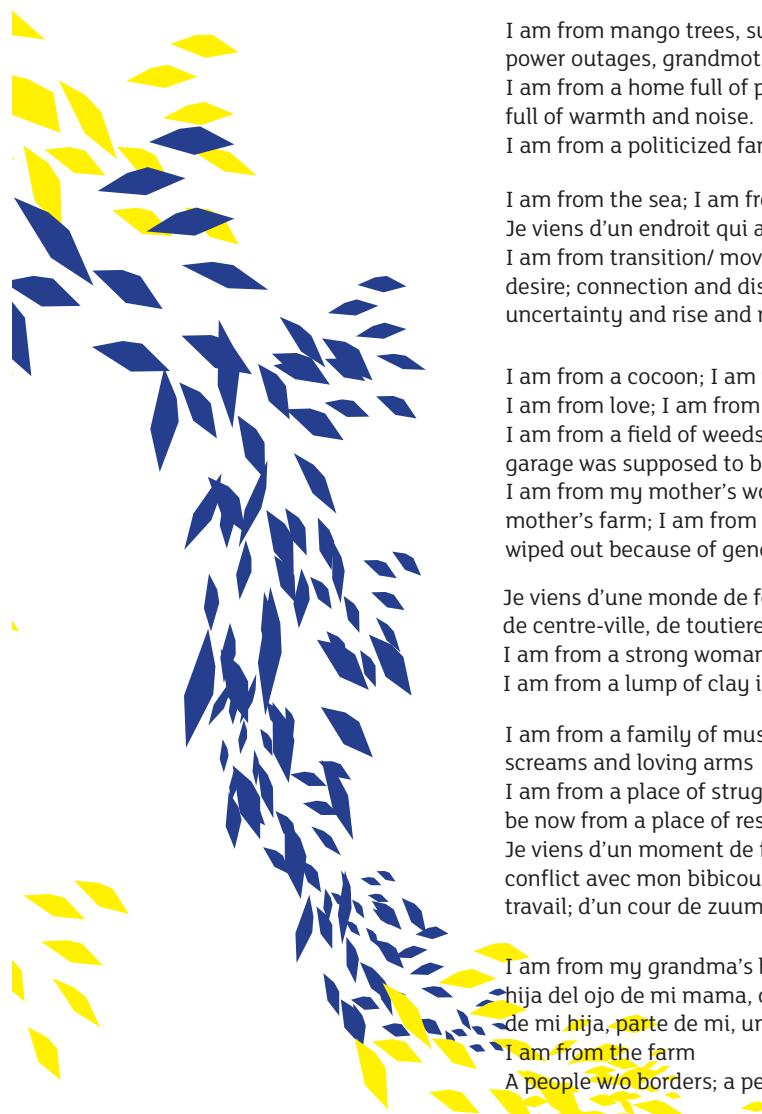
*No charge associated with joining YPC. Costs of food, training, transportation and childcare related to youth participation on the Council are covered.*



# I AM FROM

*Je viens /de- Soy de...*

*This poem was collectively written by participants  
of the Girls Action Foundation retreat 2012.*



I am from mango trees, sun & fireflies, electric power outages, grandmothers and grandfathers  
I am from a home full of people with no empty space, full of warmth and noise.  
I am from a politicized family background.

I am from the sea; I am from hard work  
Je viens d'un endroit qui a l'amour mais pas de resources suffisent  
I am from transition/ movement/ uprooting/ re-grounding; love and desire; connection and dissonance; fear and doubt and hope and uncertainty and rise and resistance.

I am from a cocoon; I am from ashes; I am from a game;  
I am from love; I am from faith  
I am from a field of weeds and a dugout hole where a garage was supposed to be built  
I am from my mother's womb; I am from my grandmother's farm; I am from Indigenous ancestry that was wiped out because of genocide.

Je viens d'une monde de femmes/ hommes, d'un mélange de foret et de centre-ville, de toutiere et de couscous  
I am from a strong woman; I am from love; I am from struggle  
I am from a lump of clay in a barn where a single light bulb shines.

I am from a family of music & mashed potatoes- violent screams and loving arms  
I am from a place of struggles and have defied them to be now from a place of resistance  
Je viens d'un moment de fous, rires, des bisous et de conflict avec mon bibicou d'amour; d'une journee de travail; d'un cour de zuumba tres energisant.

I am from my grandma's bossum, filled w/ sadness & hurt; soy la hija del ojo de mi mama, observante y ciega a lavas; soy del abrazo de mi hija, parte de mi, una de mi  
I am from the farm  
A people w/o borders; a people sin limites, a people without a line  
I am from my mother  
I am from the valley where the sugar cane fields blow with ancestral memory of pain and hope  
I am from the coast (always changing like the waves)

I am from a family with 2 sisters, a mom and a dad who kept a suitcase packed and ready to leave  
I am from the beach - sitting in the sand warm from the sun listening to the waves crashing; a beautiful flower garden.

# CULTURAL PRODUCTS

Immigrant and refugee youth share their memories about cultural products from home.

## Sugar and Coconut warp *China*

Canada is a very multicultural country where you can find almost anything from different cultures. However, some really specific products are still missing from this beautiful country. One street snack that I couldn't find here is a sugar and coconut wrap. It may sound funny, but it tastes so good. It was a traditional snack starting in the 1940's. It is made with a special sugar and sprinkled with shredded coconut, then formed into a thin wrap. Vintage and memorable. - *Melissa Leong*



## Lemon Tea *Mexico*

In Mexico, my mom used to buy a hot drink called "té de limón" during the winter. This tea could be easily found in the market. When we arrived to Canada, an even colder place, my mom wanted to keep drinking this tea but she never found it in any supermarket. Later on she found it in a store where they sold Chinese products and since then she buys it and drinks it in the winter. - *Lorena Del Castillo*



## Iron Egg (Tie Dan) *Taiwan*

Iron eggs are said to have been created by the restaurateur Huang Zhangnian while serving snacks to the dock hands in the sea-side town. One rainy day with less business than usual, she had to continually recook the eggs to keep them warm after taking them out of the soy sauce broth. The re-cooking and drying process eventually resulted in eggs that were dark, flavourful, and chewy, which was extremely popular with the locals. Huang eventually founded a new brand based on her recipe.

- *Schroeder Hou*



## Tiger balm *South-east Asia*

This is a muscle reliever. It is very popular in Asia and South East Asia. It has a very strong smell. Once applied to your skin it will slowly hit up the spot and relax your muscles. This product is also very popular among young prankstars. My friends or cousins sometimes used to come up behind me and apply it right beneath my nose, which is really painful and burned for long hours. I call them my sweet memories. - *Jennifer Sarkar*



### Dal Gutni *Bangladesh*

This product came straight from my grandmother's kitchen to my mother's kitchen. When we moved here in 2005 this is one of many kitchen utensils we brought with us. It is a product from Bangladesh. Lentils are one of the staple food. We cook different kinds of lentils. 'Dal' means lentils and 'Gutni' means steering. Dal Gutni is used to squash cooked lentils. This product is usually hand crafted with wood and is found in every Bengali household.

- Christable Sarkar

### Koeksisters *South Africa*

A sugar-coated South African guilty pleasure of mine! Koeksisters are syrup-coated doughnuts plaited in a braid shape. Not the healthiest treat at all since they are deep-fried and very drenched in the sweet stuff, but they are so darn delicious! Nothing compares to these. And you definitely won't find them at your local Tim Horton's. Which is why this is a cultural food I miss. - *Ejemen Iyayi*



### Grass Jelly (Xian cao) *Taiwan*

In Taiwan, grass jelly is known as xian cao and is used in various desserts and drinks. It can sometimes be added to boba drinks and shaved ice. It is also used in a traditional Taiwanese drink, in which the jelly is heated and melted to be consumed as a thick dessert beverage (literally Grass Jelly Tea), with numerous toppings like tangyuan, taro balls, azuki beans, and tapioca. - *Schroeder Hou*



# HOMEMADE

**1 MEXICO**  
LEMON TEA

**4 CHINA**  
SUGAR AND COCONUT WRAP

**2 SOUTH EAST ASIA**  
TIGAR BLUM

**5 SOUTH AFRICA**  
KOEKSISTERS

**3 TAIWAN**  
IRON EGG  
GRASS JELLY

**6 BANGLADESH**  
DAL GUTNI





**Sang Joon Hwang**

Seoul, Korea  
Youth worker of Moving  
Ahead Program

**Ejemen Iyayi**

*Nigeria*  
Youth Worker (Surrey), MY Circle  
Program of the Immigrant Services  
Society of BC (ISS of BC)

**Lorena Del Castillo**

*Mexico City*  
Youth Facilitator

**Arman Zamani**

*Afghanistan*

Youth Case Worker (MAP)

**Sara Mehmedi**

*Serbia*

Youth Case Worker (MAP)



# STORY OF OUR JOURNEY

EMPOWER

ENCOURAGE

SUPPORT

This is a story of five youth who came from five different corners of the world to a new land and through peer support and community involvement started new journeys in their lives.

## **"I just wasn't used to wearing casual clothes to school at all"**

### **Ejemen Iyayi**

I am originally from Nigeria. I was born there and my family immigrated to South Africa in 1994. In 2002, we moved to England and then finally immigrated to Canada in 2004. When we first arrived in Canada, we settled in Prince George (in Northern BC) where I completed my high school. In 2007 I moved to Vancouver for my undergraduate studies and have been living in the city ever since.

My current position as a youth worker is the first one I've ever had... and I'm loving it so far! My involvement with newcomer youth in Canada goes back to Grade 10 when I held a position as a "Language Facilitator" for a Prince George school district program that aimed to assist newcomer high school youth with their



language and cultural transition into Canada. When I went on to university, I was involved with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) local committee for all four years of my studies. WUSC is a non-governmental organization that relies on both a national and international network of students, community leaders and post-secondary institutions to work together to develop and deliver development projects across the world in order to foster human development and global understanding through education and training. The Student Refugee Program (SRP) of WUSC allows Canadian post-secondary establishments to privately sponsor refugee students to complete their education in Canada. Through my involvement in this program, I became very involved

in assisting newcomer youth with integration and settlement issues. Before I graduated from university, I decided to volunteer with the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) so that I could become more exposed to the stories and issues of other newcomer youth outside of the university environment and in my community at large. After taking the Multicultural Youth Circle Program (MY Circle) 80-hour training, I became connected to other youth, youth workers and community leaders with similar interests and the desire to do advocacy work for and with immigrant and refugee youth. With my continued volunteer involvement at ISS and maintaining the connections I gained through MY Circle, I soon was able to take up my current position as a youth worker.

## **"The stories shared in the group greatly inspired me and opened up my eyes to their struggles and hardships that I could have never known"**



Young Ejemen Iyayi (on the left) and Sang Joon Hwang (on the right) chilling at home.

Before I came to Canada I was only used to wearing uniforms in high school. I remember on my first day of high school here I was so worried about how I dressed. I spent so much time preparing my first day outfit. I didn't want to look like I tried too hard but, at the same time, I didn't want to look like a complete fool either. And, to top it all off, I didn't really know how youth out in Canada dressed so I was sure that no matter how hard I tried, someone would make fun of me for my fashion sense. I just wasn't used to wearing casual clothes to school at all. That was definitely a completely new experience for me.

### **Arman Zamani**

My name is Arman Zamani and I am from Afghanistan. I came to Canada in 2007 as a refugee claimant. I speak Dari. Dari is one of the main official languages of Afghanistan other than Pashto. Afghanistan is a mountainous and landlocked country with approximately 30 percent flat land. The soil is fertile and great for agriculture.

I started to connect with immigrant and refugee communities when I took the Multicultural Youth Circle (MY Circle) program at the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) back in 2008. Through MY Circle I not only made friends from different communities but I also learned a lot about facilitation and leadership

skills. Once I graduated from the program I became involved with a group called Action Team. Action Team is a group of MY Circle graduates who meet every Friday for 2 hours to discuss and advocate about issues concerning immigrant and refugee communities through different projects. Through both MY Circle and Action Team, I was, and still am, supported by great and dedicated youth workers who really inspired me to become a youth worker. After completing the program, I co-facilitated a support group at my school to share what I had learned with my peers. I was then contracted to co-facilitate another peer support group at a high school in 2010. In late 2011, I started to work as a youth worker with the Youth Connexion Program at ISSofBC, a pre-employment program for immigrant and refugee youth and young adults. Now I am working within the same organization with a program called Moving Ahead as of October 2012.

A funny experience that happened to me as a newcomer youth in Canada was in a computer class in which I was learning how to type. My teacher gave me a piece of paper with a story on it to type. So I started to type but then I got stuck because I could not find the letter Q on the keyboard. After a while of not finding the letter Q, I raised my hand and told my teacher that this keyboard does not have the letter Q. So she smiled and showed me where Q was in the keyboard.

In a sense this is funny because every keyboard is the same. But it also shows that being able to attend school and knowing how to use a computer is taken for granted by many people who are not aware it is a privilege.

## Sang Joon Hwang

My name is Sang Joon Hwang. I am from Seoul, Korea. I moved to Canada in 2000. I moved here so that I could get better education. My first language is Korean. Seoul is a fast-paced, rapidly changing city that is packed with too many people, cars, and cutting-edge high rises. Following the trends means a great deal to people in Seoul in terms of fashion, technology, food, and even education.

As a confused youth in transition, I joined the Multicultural Youth Circle Program (MY Circle) at the Immigrant Services Society of BC (IS-SofBC). I got to know about the immigrant and refugee community, connected with peers from all over the world, and learned about facilitating a peer-support group. I realized that each of us, from our unique experiences and journeys, has great things to offer in creating shared learning in our group. The stories shared in the group greatly inspired me and opened up my eyes to struggles and hardships that I could have never known. I came to grasp how much more privileges I have. The MY Circle youth workers gave me opportunities to facilitate the trainings and connected me to other amazing people in the community such as Romi and Iris from Peer-NetBC. They offered me further opportunities to get trained and facilitate workshops in the community. Without their support in countless ways, I would not be here. With more support from the MY Circle peers, I was able to work as a youth worker for the MY Circle program. Fiona Lemon, Nathalie Lozano, and Jorge Salazar have supported me tremendously time and time again all throughout my journey. Through Jorge and Nathalie, I was given a chance to be involved in the Youth Advisory Team (Supported by the Vancouver Foundation and the BC Representative for Children and Youth) and to witness a group of dedicated newcomer youth work hard to represent the voices of newcomer youth in BC. I am thankful to know all of the amazingly strong, intelligent, and driven immigrant and refugee young people and be accepted into the community to do good work through inclusive processes. Now I am working for the Moving Ahead program in the Tri-cities. I am working with a couple of colleagues who also took MY Circle. MY Circle has positively affected so many newcomer youth like a ripple effect. I feel very grateful.

## Sara Mehmedi

My name is Sara Mehmedi and I am from Serbia. I came to Canada 12 years ago with my parents, my brother, my grandparents, my aunt, my uncle and his wife and my two cousins in tow. This was thanks to my father who would not give up on bringing the entire family here all at once. I am outgoing, enthusiastic and passionate and I love to meet new people and learn about new cultures.

My interest in community involvement began in 2005, when my aunt Ajlin told me about a program for immigrant and refugee youth called the Multicultural Youth Circle (MY Circle). This program instilled in me the confidence and love I have for what I do today. It provided a safe space for me to meet other immigrant and refugee youth and share my experiences, while also embedding in me a very strong anti-oppression framework that is reflected in my work



*Sara Mehmedi (on the left) and Lorena Del Castillo (on the right) just being Sara and Lorena.*

today. I am an immigrant and refugee youth worker and the best part of my job is being able to provide the type of understanding and acceptance that was shown to me by my peers in MY Circle. I wish to empower immigrant and refugee youth by acknowledging their unique experiences and providing them the opportunity to grow, prosper and share their stories to inspire change.

I arrived in Canada at the age of 11, a fairly young age. However, culture shock did not evade me. During our first night in Canada, a night which seemed to stretch on forever for an 11-year-old, my brother and I were extremely hungry. After sitting through a long orientation for newcomers, my father took us out to eat. It must have been late because the only place that was open was a McDonald's three blocks down from where we were staying. So we decided to go for it. There were no McDonald's restaurants in Serbia at the time so we had no idea what we were getting into. We got back home (probably ran, due to impending starvation) and started eating. I will never forget the disappointment I felt as I bit into my burger, or the words I was able to utter despite complete shock: "We are going to starve here. This isn't food."

## Lorena Del Castillo

My name is Lorena Del Castillo. I'm 18 years old. I speak Spanish. I'm currently studying early education and hope one day to get my Bachelor of Education in kindergarten teaching. I like volunteering, doing arts and crafts and anything that allows me to be creative. I'm

from Mexico. I moved to Canada at the end of 2006 due to many reasons. Mexico is a place where kidnapping, robbery, and other violations to human rights are happening, many of which my dad was a victim. My family felt it was not longer safe to live there so we moved to Canada. However we miss the food, the culture and the warmth of the people. Mexico is a beautiful country with a rich culture and history. There are many different foods and traditions



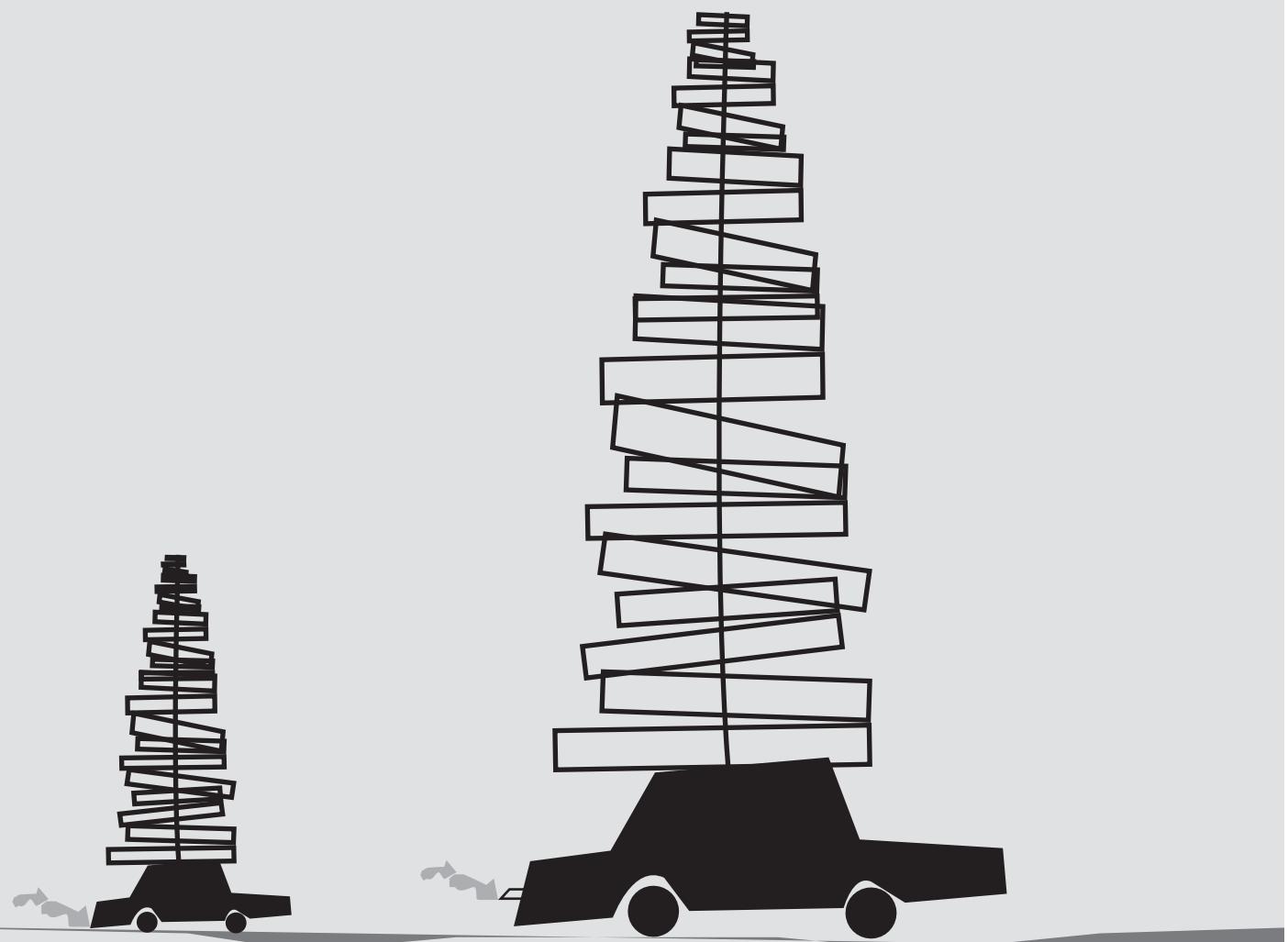
and I love so many of them. I also love the sun and good weather throughout the whole year.

As a newcomer youth I have many embarrassing and frustrating experiences but I don't let any of them to hold me back. I learn from them and try to offer the same help and more empathy toward people who are in the same circumstances I experienced. My journey of becoming involved with newcomer youth began when I took part in the Illustrated Journey project, and later in other projects and programs such as the NuYu Popular Theatre Project (MOSAIC) and the Multicultural Youth Circle Program (MY Circle) of the Immigrant Society of BC. Although I don't have much time these days, I still really like to volunteer and take part in those programs. I like to connect with youth who have the experience of coming to Canada, learning a whole new language and dealing with all those implications that newcomer youth have to face. This really connects me with them and I empathize with what they are going through.

**"I wish to empower immigrant and refugee youth by acknowledging their unique experiences."**

***“Cold, snowing and a lot of nature”***

-SCHROEDER HOU



# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

## THE DAY I LANDED IN VANCOUVER

### Lorena Del Castillo

Cold! Every Christmas it reminds me of when I first came to Canada. I remember that it will get dark around 4 pm and the cold and the Christmas mood in the air. Also every time I smell strawberry aromatic spray it reminds me of when I first came since that's what it smelled like in my first home in Canada.

Something that impressed me when I came is that within the first 4 hours that I arrived I had to take the bus to go to value village. The bus had heat and it was so warm compared to the outside. I thought that was pretty neat. Also my dad informed us that occasionally people in the neighborhood would randomly say hi to us.

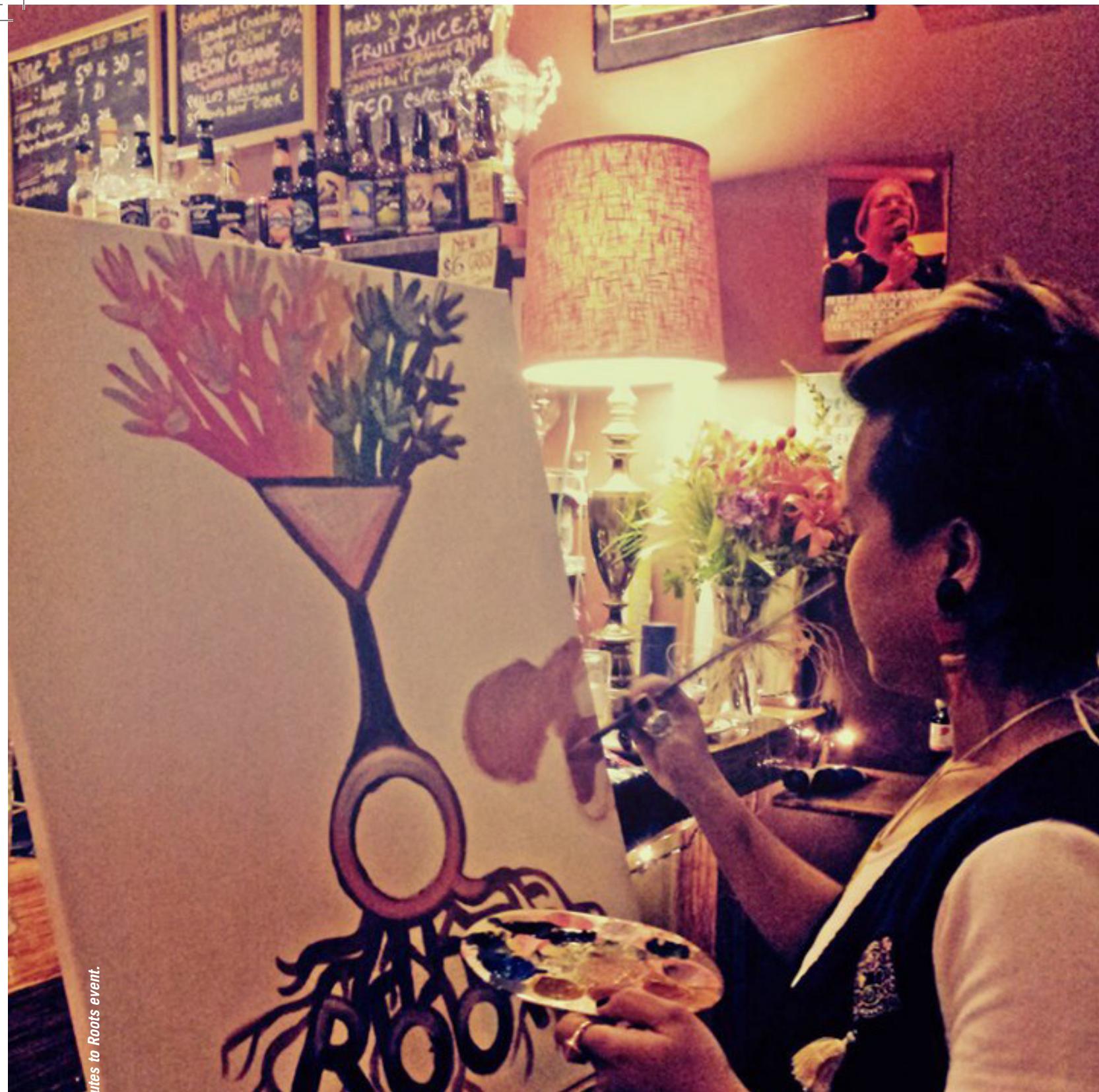
I was scared and nervous. It was gloomy, grey, and wet outside. My first day in Vancouver, and in fact my first week was all rain, no shine. Grey and dull, that would summarize my first impression of this small city in the West Coast of Canada. I guessed it matched how I was feeling at the time. After some time though, its beauty begins to appear as your feelings begin to change. It may be slow, like watching the seasons change, but it does.

### Tania Suarez Mendoza

April 17, 2005. It was a long ride from the airport to the small hotel on Robson St. where we were staying at. This would be "home" for the next month or so. I hadn't heard much about Vancouver prior my arrival, in fact, I'm pretty sure I didn't even know where it was. I had my headphones on as I stared out the window with puffy eyes from saying good-bye to my family. I wasn't excited.

Illustration by: Jennifer Sarkar





## ROUTES TO ROOTS

Routes to Roots is a youth led project, operating under the QMUNITY umbrella, that will engage LGBTQ people of colour experiencing the challenges of migration, settlement and displacement in Metro Vancouver as they navigate the complicated terrain of multiple cultures, identity formation and sense of belonging in a new country. The road toward creating a strong connection between the queer community and the immigrants and refugees communities is long and we will need many more steps to come. This project is definitely a step forward in right direction.

Kim Villagante doing live painting at a Routes to Roots event.

# QUEER MIGRANT VOICE

Article by: Azza Roibi

## “We drove by a street where I immediately noticed the waving rainbow flags”

### August 2010, Vancouver

I arrived at the Vancouver International Airport exhausted and already missing my beloved Tunisia. I can still feel the kisses and hugs of friends and family!

A friend of my father picked us up from the airport and took us for a small tour of the city and back to his place. We drove by a street where I immediately noticed the waving rainbow flags. He looked at us and said: “Watch out if you ever come down here, this is where all THE GAYS are.” Then he burst into laughter. I remember thinking to myself if he will ever understand that “THE GAYS” are certainly not defined by one street or one neighbourhood or one country, that they are the teacher at the school across the street, the woman working at the post office in Marrakech, the neighborhood doctor in Havana, the girl sitting right behind him in the car.

### ‘Belonging’ or ‘Not Belonging’

Here I was in a new country, with a new language and a new culture! I spent the first couple of days in Vancouver running around with my family- all that paper work, the search for a house, the hunt for a job, the English classes. It was exhausting! I looked around me and realised that I wasn’t the only one going through this hardship and that there were thousands of us newcomers, hoping for a better future here in Canada!

I started getting involved in the immigrants and refugees community and participated in different youth groups and networks. Throughout this work I had the chance to meet other amazing immigrants and refugees with whom

I shared stories, experiences and culture. I was happy to find such an active and loving community to belong to. At the same time however, there was always this feeling of fear about truly opening up and sharing who I really was. I have been hiding for so many years and I still couldn’t afford to be rejected from the only home I had.

I knew that there was a colorful and diverse queer community out there. I had heard of it, I had seen some of it and I wanted to be part of it. I told myself that maybe that’s where I belong. I decided that it was time that I make my first little steps into this new world. I spent a lot of time doing searches online for resources, events and places to go to. I got absorbed by my excitement and forgot that the reality out there is different- a reality that brought me down off my cloud and back to the starting point. There I was, left again with the sensation of not belonging anywhere.

I felt just how big the existing gap was between the community of immigrants and refugees and the queer one. This gap left me and all the other queer newcomers feeling frustrated and alone.

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”  
Mahatma Gandhi

There was an obvious need for a space where those two communities could meet and empower each other. A space that would offer voice to the voiceless. There was a need for a wind of change and for some warm sun to shine in the cold winters of Vancouver.



Azza Roibi at the launch party of Routes to Roots project at Rhizome Café.

When I heard that QMUNITY, BC’s leading queer resource centre, was taking the initiative to start building a bridge between the queer community and the immigrants and refugees community, I wanted to participate and help with everything I could. The project was turned into reality through the hard work and commitment of a group of very remarkable people. We all shared the same story and the same struggle. And by uniting, have been able to give birth to Routes to Roots, a queer migrant youth-led project.



If you are interested in getting involved

Contact: [routes2roots@qmunity.ca](mailto:routes2roots@qmunity.ca) or visit: [www.qmunity.ca](http://www.qmunity.ca)

Routes to roots Logo designed by Emilio Rojas

# REFUGEE EQUALS NOT ILLEGAL

Article and art work by Pablo Muñoz

**“Most importantly all meant to lead the mainstream population to believe that migrant people are to be afraid of, to stay away from”**

There's been a conscious effort by minister-of-deportation Jason Kenny to change the language surrounding migrant issues in a way that dehumanizes immigrants. In 2012 several actions were taken by the federal government that are harmful to migrant communities including Bill C-31. This bill was opposed by some of the biggest human rights organization like Human Right Watch, Amnesty International and the Canadian Council for Refugees, as well as by hundreds of grassroots, migrant-led organizations. However the general population stayed unengaged.

I attribute a great part of the apathy to the federal government's skilful use of oppressive monologues and misinforming catch phrases. Even though the implementation of this bill was rushed through parliament anyways, Deportation-Minister ensured that his discourse reached far and wide before the bill went through. The bill was claimed to target “bogus refugees/illegal aliens” and address “human smugglers” as well as deal with “irregular arrivals”; all very strong language, all demeaning, all mean-spirited and most importantly all meant to lead the mainstream population to believe that migrant people are to be afraid

of, to stay away from. Here's the thing, just because a person doesn't qualify for the increasingly technical definition of refugee doesn't make them illegal; failed claimants have often genuine fears of persecution but are unable to gather evidence due to systemic or logistical issues. This was precisely the case for refugee claimant Veronica Castro, who

**“Here's the thing, just because a person doesn't qualify for the increasingly technical definition of refugee doesn't make them illegal”**

after being deported was beaten to death in her home country. The term Human smuggler can be used to refer to a person profiting on the misfortune of a migrant, or according to Bill-C31 to a mother crossing a border with her child hoping for a better future. The UN acknowledges that people in cases have to flee their country by unconventional methods and often without documentation or with fake documentation. Understandable, after all if it was the state that was persecuting me, I wouldn't be knocking on their door for a passport.

People arriving in ships without documents are not “irregular arrivals” at least not any more than undocumented Europeans that arrived to colonize this land were.

In the spring of 2012 I got together with a group of community leaders to oppose Bill C-31. We were aware that the federal government was using desensitizing language as a weapon, which is when this poster was born. One of the several actions we took was to cover the riding of the only conservative MP in Vancouver with hundreds of these images to sensitize their constituents. Poster were placed at midnight; however by 3pm conservative MP Wai Young had hired a private company for their quick removal. Shortly after that Bill-C31 was approved and is in the process of being fully implemented. Regardless our message remains the same: REFUGEE ≠ ILLEGAL.

**REFUGEE ≠ CRIMINAL**

*Art work by Pablo Muñoz*



**STOP BILL C 31**

# IT AFFECTS YOU TOO!

Article by Nathalie Neira

**“ Once we create bridges between our communities, we will be able to draw parallels between our own struggles with racism, displacement and indigenous peoples in our countries of origin.”**

For many years, Canada's immigration system had an excellent reputation both domestically and internationally. For example, in 1986 Canada received the Nansen Medal awarded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Canada's image as a generous country for refugees was widely known across the globe, however, in the past few years, drastic changes to immigration law such as the implementation of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act of 2012 also known as, Bill C-31, has shifted the conditions refugees face when seeking protection in Canada. Additionally, in order to advocate and identify some of the challenges that we face as communities of migrants, we also need to understand how we have at times been used to continue the colonization and exploitation of indigenous communities in this land.

In the case of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, it gained much of its mainstream support after two boats with Tamil refugees, the Ocean Lady (2009) and the Sun Sea (2010), arrived in Canadian coasts. A country which still to date prides itself in having one of the best refugee systems in world, was using two boats full of refugees fleeing a 26 year old conflict to bring drastic changes to immigration policy in order to restrict the numbers of refugees coming to Canada. The general message in mainstream media, which was widely accepted by many immigrant and refugee communities in Canada, framed the arrival of the boats from Sri Lanka as a new phenomenon which threatened national security. However, refugee boats coming to Canada are not new, short term selective memory or intentional framing of the story by the government and mainstream media, rejected to mention the shameful history the Canadian government had when they

refused the entrance of 356 out of 376 refugees from Punjab in 1914 aboard the Komagata Maru some imprisoned or killed upon their return or the 937 Jewish refugees aboard the St Louis in 1939 who were sent back to Germany during the holocaust (Maytree 2012). Ironically enough, the Nansen Medal was awarded to the people of Canada for the first time ever to a group of people and not a single person in great part because of their efforts with Vietnamese refugees coming in boats in the 70s.

**“Though many of us in different immigrant and refugee communities know very little about colonization it is important to know, understand and be in solidarity with indigenous people, those who originally inhabited this land”**

Thought it is certain that in the past few years since the Conservatives have been in power, changes in law and restrictions imposed have had horrendous consequences for refugee communities, nevertheless, overt racist policies and attitudes towards immigrant and refugee communities existed long before the current government was elected into power. Canada's history of overtly racist immigration policies such as the Gentlemen's Agreement (1907), limiting the immigration of Japanese people to 400 per year; The Continuous Journey Act (1908), placing limitations particularly to people coming from Asia by requiring all immigrants to arrive directly from their countries of origin; and the Chinese Exclusion Act (1923), which prohibited Chinese people from migrat-

ing to Canada have been far from generous. Some of the law changes affecting refugee communities have been implemented in part because of the support that different communities including more recent (first and second generation) immigrant and refugee populations have had of laws that tighten 'Canadian borders' which did not even exist three generations ago. Though many of us in different immigrant and refugee communities know very little about colonization it is important to know, understand and be in solidarity with indigenous people, those who originally inhabited this land. The importance of immigrants and refugees creating alliances with indigenous communities is instrumental in framing our struggle beyond eliminating one-bill or having minor changes made to the current immigration act. If we are able to act in solidarity with indigenous populations, we are able to understand the history of racism and genocide indigenous populations in Turtle Island (what we know as North America) have faced. Once we create bridges between our communities, we will be able to draw parallels between our own struggles with racism, displacement and indigenous peoples in our countries of origin. Understanding the ways in which immigrant and refugee populations have been used to carry on colonial legacies and at the same time creating conversations about how some of us did not migrate here by choice, will allow us to unite to fight towards something bigger than overthrowing one Act.

# FRESH VOICES 2

Article by Tanvi Bhatia

Gather a group of people from all over the world with a shared passion for voicing their stories and fighting for a change and what do you get? The Youth Advisory Team. Composed of youth and youth workers from all corners of the world, we're the epitome of diversity and that makes us stronger, both as individuals and a team. We've all been through struggles because of who we are and where we're from. It's not as if all of us are anything other than regular people – we're just youth who had an opportunity to share our stories and took it.

Policy making isn't something that youth are generally involved in. Of course, when the policies have to do with the youth in question, why not be involved? We want change. We want our stories to be heard. We realize that our differences are what make us who we are, and we shouldn't be ashamed of them. Most of all, we don't want other people to have to go through the same struggles we have. So yes, while being interested in politics may not be the most conventional of interests, it's as important as anything else.

Like all of the other members of the team, I wasn't born in Canada. I did, however, move here when I was very young, so I was pretty sheltered from a lot of the experiences that immigrant and refugee youth face. But hearing these stories and listening to youth that are not so different from me was eye-opening. I guess you could say that it inspired me to want to make change.

So one thing led to another and somehow I became part of this wonderful group of some of the greatest people I will ever meet; people who have proven that even the smallest actions can make a difference. While it wasn't initially where I saw myself ending up in my grade ten year, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

**"Policy making isn't something that youth are generally involved in. Of course, when the policies have to do with the youth in question, why not be involved?"**

## FRESH VOICES FROM LONG JOURNEYS - INSIGHTS OF IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE YOUTH ADVISORY TEAM

Article by Alejandra López Bravo

Last Fall, the Representative for Children and Youth of BC and Vancouver Foundation hosted a Provincial Summit - Fresh Voices from Long Journeys: Insights of Immigrant and Refugee Youth. Designed entirely by an advisory group of 20 immigrant and refugee youth and youth workers, the Summit explored issues of identity, belonging and inclusion in the context of different systems – school, community, cultural – that impact their lives. Over two days, 100 young people led 60 senior policy makers, funders, service

providers through a conversation about assumptions and decisions that shape the ability of newcomer immigrants and refugees to arrive, grow and succeed.

With support from the Representative and Vancouver Foundation, the Youth Advisory Team has taken their reflections and recommendations to Victoria, and presented to Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior government staff. We continue to present to peers and community-service providers. We organized a set of youth dialogues in smaller

BC communities (Nanaimo, Prince George, Langley and Victoria), to help strengthen the case for action on investments in public policy and funding priorities.

"The Fresh Voices from Long Journeys Insights of Immigrant and Refugee youth advisory team is a yet-to-be-finished story of youth finding each other, building their voice and sharing their vision for the world they live in"

WOULD YOU  
LIKE TOLERANCE  
WITH THAT?

**BEING  
OPEN-MINDED  
IS FINANCIALLY  
MUCH CHEAPER.**



Teachers should be screened for their personalities and motivations for teaching ESL/ELL.

Some of them treat it like it's "just a job".

# THE ELL PROJECT

Article by Ejemen Iyayi

**Vancouver's Action Team takes on a research and documentation project aimed at helping ELL (English Language Learner) students with their adaptation process by learning about the realities they face in ELL classes and how these influence the rest of their academic and social lives.**

Vancouver's Action Team is a group of immigrant and refugee youth who work together to raise awareness in the community about immigrant and refugee youth issues through youth-driven projects. One of the many youth-driven projects Action Team has been taking on in the past two years is the ELL (English Language Learner) Project. Funded by the Vancouver Foundation, this is a research and documentation project aimed at helping ELL students with their adaptation process by learning about the realities they face in ELL classes and how these influence the rest of their academic and social lives. With this research, Action Team also hopes to raise awareness about the ELL system in public schools across Vancouver.

In order to gather data from Vancouver ELL youth, Action Team members facilitated a series of focus group workshops across Metro Vancouver - specifically in South Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby and Coquitlam. A total of four focus group workshops were facilitated with data coming from a total of 30 youth who participated. Together with facilitator feedback, Action Team members have been summarizing and analysing the data in order to find key trends and issues in the experiences of ELL students across

Vancouver. In addition, Action Team has been the community partner organization paired with a University of British Columbia (UBC) Student Directed Seminar (SDS) class entitled "SOCI-433A-001: Immigration and Multicultural Community Development." Students in this UBC class assisted Action Team in this project by conducting research about ELL systems and related topics. Together with the analysed data from the focus group workshop results, this research will be used to assist in

## **"I disliked the fact that I couldn't get credit for ESL classes"**

the evaluation, reporting and presentation processes of this youth-led project.

Action Team members are pleased with the progress of the ELL Project thus far. The data from the focus group workshop interactions as well as the youth-led analysis of this are very important for understanding feelings and experiences of immigrant and refugee youth in current Vancouver ELL classes as well as key areas and opportunities for improvement in the system. Action Team looks forward to



*Action Team silly time during Friday meeting.*

compiling a report and presenting the results of this research project with the public to give the community a better grasp of some of the concerning issues that many immigrant and refugee youth face today in this city.

For more information about Action Team and / or the project, please contact: [actionteambc@gmail.com](mailto:actionteambc@gmail.com)



**DOUBLE-DOUBLE**  
I am down  
Eh...KD  
**Duh!**  
California Kickball  
**HI THERE!**

**SELL NOW**  
Loonie Toonie  
Awesome!

# CANADIAN IDIOMS

Language is one of the biggest barriers for many immigrant and refugee youth. Our pocket dictionaries are almost useless for decoding cultural and locally used words. This is a collection of several newcomer youths' experiences with Canadian idioms.

## AWESOME!

Awesome! When I first came to Canada, I had my basic everyday English like "How are you?" and "Where is the bathroom?" (not even washroom as I didn't know Canadians would say washroom). I didn't yet know how to be more creative and beautify my wording. Therefore, the words "very good", "very nice" or just a smile were my ways of appreciating others. However, one word that I constantly heard, "Awesome", confused me. I knew "awe" and I knew "some", but I had never heard of awesome back in my home country. After a few attempts, I still couldn't figure out the exact meaning of it. Was it like "that's bad" or "that's ridiculous"? So I decided to ask a real Canadian. That's when I found out it means very nice. Haha.

*By: Melissa Leong*

## EH..

Adding "eh" to the end of a sentence (E.g., What are you doing eh? Nice eh?)

*By: Schroeder Hou*

## DUH!

Used to comment on an action perceived as stupid.

*By: Tania Suarez Mendoza*

## DOUBLE-DOUBLE

At "Timmy's" (Tim Horton), a coffee with double cream and double sugar.

*By: Tania Suarez Mendoza*

## HI THERE!

An expression for saying "hello".

*By: Tania Suarez Mendoza*

## I AM DOWN

When someone is inviting people for an event and people respond: "I am down". This confused me because I didn't know if they meant yes or no. I connected it with I'm UP for it, so down sounded negative and non-affirmative.

*By: Lorena Del Castillo*

## LOONIE-TOONIE

Loonie is one dollar coin and toonie is two dollar coin.

*By: Tania Suarez Mendoza*

## CALIFORNIA KICKBALL

I do not know what "California kickball" is.

*By: Schroeder Hou*

## KD

Kraft dinner. Basically, macaroni and cheese. KD is a popular brand name. It is quick to cook.

*By: Tania Suarez Mendoza*

## MOUNTIES

Member of the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mountain Police).

*By: Tania Suarez Mendoza*

# GLUTINOUS RICE BALLS

## With Peanuts & Sesame Seeds on top

Chinese recipe by Melissa Leong

### 6 servings:

100 grams Glutinous rice flour,  
100 ml lukewarm water  
a little Cold water (room temperature)  
20 grams peanuts  
10 grams sesame seeds

### Ginger syrup:

1 cup water  
2-3 piece Ginger  
1 piece sugar (Chinese "slice" ones, about 50 grams)

### Steps:

- 1) Heat frying pan and lower the number of drops of oil. In simmered, first stir-fry the peanut until slightly yellow. Then Scoop it up, let cool and put it into a plastic bag with a wooden stick pressed into coarse crushed (if you want to have a crunchy feeling).
- 2) Next, fry sesame until you smell the aroma. Scoop out and set it to the side.
- 3) With a big plate, add glutinous rice flour. Little by little, Poured lukewarm water into the dish. While adding the water, knead glutinous rice flour evenly at the same time. Then add a little cold water. Knead until dough not sticky.
- 4) On a flat surface, roll dough into a long strip. Cut the strip into 6 equal parts. On both hands, knead into circle dumpling balls.
- 5) With a pot, add 1 cup of water, bring to a boil, add ginger and sugar. Then boil again, turn to low heat and continue to cook until the sugar become thicker.
- 6) With another pot of boiling water. when water boiling really hard, roll in balls. Immediately stir the water with chopsticks or spoons, so the balls do not stick to the bottom.
- 7) The dumpling balls have been cooked when they are floating. Scoop up the dumpling balls into the syrup. Slowly Cook for 10 minutes over low heat, let the sugar cooked into the dumpling balls.
- 8) Finally, place the ball came on a plate or bowl, pour a little sugar. Sprinkle crushed peanuts and sesame seeds, and serve.





## DRIED CODFISH SOUP

Chinese recipe by Abby Zhong

### Steps:

- 1) Cut and/or strip dried pollack into thin, bite-sized pieces, approximately 1-1½ inches in length.
- 2) In a cooking pot, add sesame oil and sauté dried pollack in high heat for 2-3 minutes.
- 3) Add water, minced garlic, and dashida. Cover lid and bring to boil on high heat then reduce to simmer.
- 4) Prepare tofu by cutting it into ½ inch cubed size or any desired size. Add tofu to soup.
- 5) Add bean sprouts (optional).
- 6) Cover lid and heat for 15 minutes.
- 7) In a small bowl, whisk egg and slowly pour beaten egg into soup. Pour egg in intervals and stir in with a folk for consistency in egg.
- 8) Split green onion stalks in half and cut into 1-2 inches in length. Add to soup and simmer for 2 minutes.
- 9) Add salt to taste and serve hot. Sprinkle red pepper flakes to individual bowls (optional).

Enjoy with steamed white rice along with other side dishes.

## FLAN NAPOLITANO

Mexican Recipe by Lorena Del Castillo

### Ingredients

5 eggs  
1 can of evaporated milk  
1 can of condense milk  
vanilla (as much as you want)

### For the caramel:

Sugar (quantity depends on mold size)

To make the caramel, one has to put the sugar on a small pot on low fire and move it with a spoon until the sugar turns liquid and brown. Immediately after, the caramel is placed on the mold and has to be spread out. To make the flan, one has to mix the evaporated milk, the condense milk, eggs and vanilla in a blender.

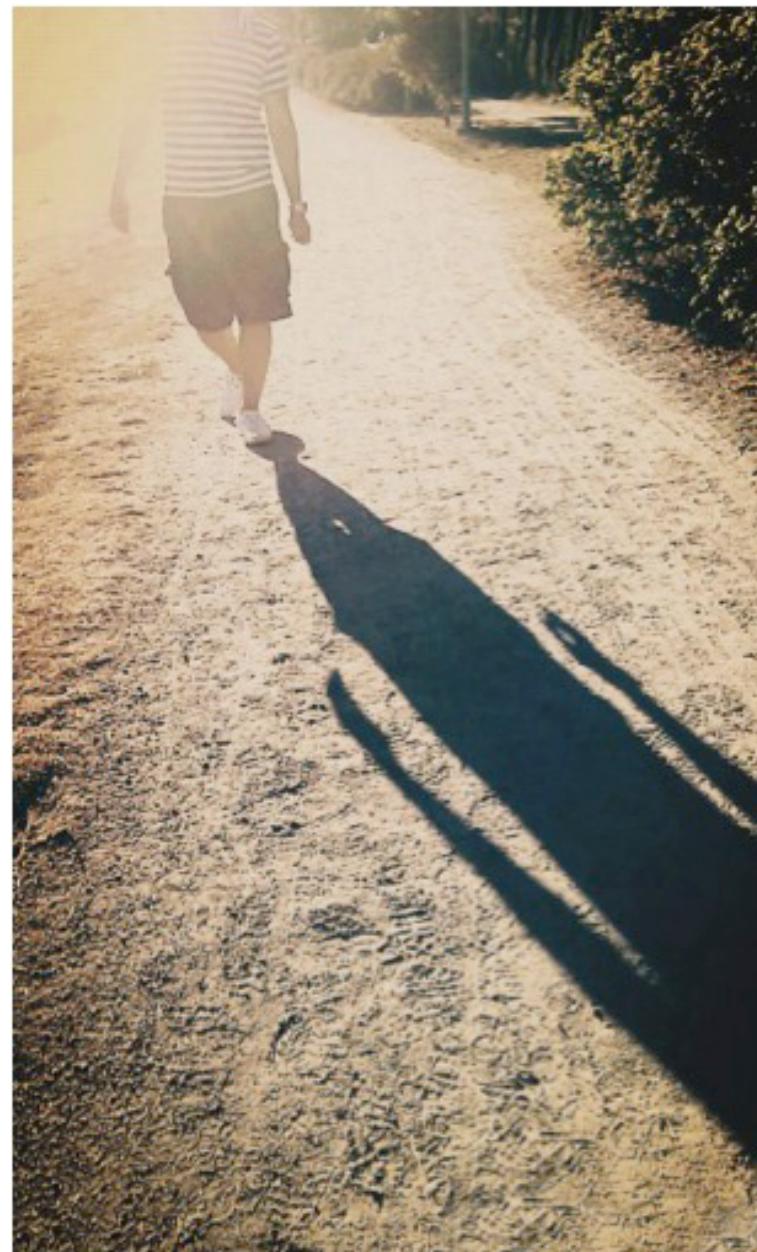
Right after this, the mix has to be pour on the mold with the caramel and cover it with a sheet of aluminium foil. Then it has to be put on the oven at 350 C for about 10-15 minutes or until the mix turns solid. (Once can know by putting a knife in the middle of the flan, and if it comes out clean then it's ready).





#### DRAWING BY: SCHROEDER HOU

"The middle are the most important part of the music, but if you keep playing with one instrument, and the same one it would be boring. But with so much choice it would be fun and more different style of song for you to choose. It is like real world if you only talk to your own race and do your own stuff it would not be fun but if you accept other race, then the world look more beautiful then what you think it is." - *Schroeder Hou*



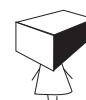
**PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MELISSA LEONG**

"Feeling confused and stumbling on this path that you are walking? The sun is shining and cheering behind you. So remember to lift your head up and look forward. Walk forward. This is what I have learned: because life is beautiful. You are not alone." - *Melissa Leong*

## Vocab Survival Guide

Words taken from the immigrant and refugee youth guide

<b>911:</b>	Emergency phone number
<b>Awesome:</b>	Great
<b>BF:</b>	Boyfriend
<b>Buck:</b>	Dollar
<b>Buddy:</b>	Friend
<b>Bus pass:</b>	A bus ticket you can use throughout the month
<b>Cell phone:</b>	Mobile
<b>College:</b>	An educational institution where you can take university level courses.
<b>Community:</b>	A simple term for groups of people or society in general.
<b>Counsellor:</b>	A person employed by the school who helps you with personal, educational and/or career problems.
<b>Dime:</b>	10 cents coin
<b>Downtown:</b>	The centre of the city.
<b>ESL:</b>	English as Second Language
<b>Fare:</b>	The amount of money you have to pay to get into the bus or Skytrain
<b>Field trip:</b>	An outing organized by school.
<b>GF:</b>	Girlfriend
<b>GO Card:</b>	A school identification card.
<b>Hang out:</b>	Spend time together
<b>High School:</b>	Secondary School
<b>ID:</b>	identification card
<b>Lonnie:</b>	A dollar coin
<b>Multicultural:</b>	Describes a mix of different cultures.
<b>Newcomer:</b>	A person who is new to a country; in this case, Canada.
<b>Nickel:</b>	5 cents coin
<b>Nuts:</b>	Crazy
<b>Post-secondary education:</b>	Education after high school. Includes universities, colleges and technical institutes.
<b>PR card:</b>	permanent resident card
<b>Quarter:</b>	25 cents coin
<b>Sea Bus:</b>	A public boat that runs back and forth between Vancouver and North Vancouver.
<b>Senior citizen:</b>	Anyone over the age of 65 years old.
<b>Settlement Worker:</b>	A person that helps new immigrants and refugees connect with local services and communities.
<b>Skytrain:</b>	Trains that run above the ground
<b>Soccer:</b>	Football
<b>Toonie:</b>	2 dollar coin
<b>Transitional classes:</b>	Level between ESL and regular classes
<b>VSB:</b>	Vancouver School Board
<b>Washroom:</b>	Bathroom, restroom
<b>What's up, hi :</b>	Hello



For more information about BEATS Magazine or to get involved please contact:

Jennifer Sarkar at [jrs3322@gmail.com](mailto:jrs3322@gmail.com) or 778-891-7255

Every Parent should have a job, because welfare IS NOT enough. we all have the right to work, and live a good life !!

**LAUGH LOVE**

I live  
In Canada  
and my new  
friend come  
from Uganda  
and Mt  
Swagg come  
from Rwanda

Your tears & pain are shared  
Voice for the voiceless

The importance of finding safe spaces where immigrant and refugee youth can come together to support one-another is often disregarded. The power of sharing stories, crying together, laughing together, dancing together makes us stronger.

Support & care from teachers  
No racism  
or discrimination in school  
Stay strong

You are not alone, we were born to be loved  
Born to be loved  
the righteousness will win

Support & care from teachers  
No racism  
or discrimination in school  
Stay strong

*Concept and copy by: Pablo Muñoz*



**TIRED OF THOSE RACISTS GETTING ALL UP IN YOUR BUSINESS?  
TRY! THE NEW RACIST OFF. JUST A QUICK SPRAY AND THE PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS OF  
POWER AND PRIVILEGE WILL DISSIPATE TO CREATE A SHINY NEW DECENT PERSON.**

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BEATS: NEWCOMER YOUTH VOICE + PERSPECTIVE

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