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| You are invited to attend:How to Effectively Engage with Syrian RefugeesWednesday, February 10, 2016 from 1:30 PM - 4:00 PMThis Workshop will be Facilitated by the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture as well as the Arab Community Centre of Toronto. This is a training that will inform front line staff on the typical profiles and expectations of Syrian Refugees as well as how to effectively engage with refugees after arrival, by: Understanding lived experiences of refugees, including pre-migration, migration & post-migration trauma, Learning about mental health impact of torture, war and organized violence on refugees, families, and communities, and to develop holistic strategies, best practices, for engaging and supporting survivors. \*In order to maximize the number of participating agencies, we ask that no more than two representatives per organization register.  About the Facilitator: The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) is a non-profit, founded by several Toronto doctors, lawyers and social service professionals, many of whom were associated with Amnesty International.  They had begun to see survivors of torture in their practices as early as 1977. Many of the survivors were in the process of claiming refugee status in Canada. The doctors saw the need for specialized counseling for the social and legal problems faced by these clients. Lawyers, social workers and community groups saw clients who were survivors of torture, and in need of treatment by doctors and other health professionals.  The CCVT was incorporated in 1983 as the Canadian Centre for the Investigation and Prevention of Torture. The name was changed in 1988 to better reflect the Centre's mandate. The Centre was the second such facility in the world to be established. The first was in Copenhagen in 1982. In 2003, CCVT was accredited to the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). Representing CCVT will be: Sidonia Couto, is a registered social worker, holding a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Toronto. She has been working with newcomer children, youth, families, and adults, at the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture for 6 years. She has extensive experience working with diverse clients, providing both settlement and trauma related counselling to refugee and immigrant populations. She also has experience in client advocacy, facilitating group programming, conducting outreach, program development, implementation and evaluation, research, and engaging in public education. The Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT) is a non for profit organization with charitable status, and is non-political and non-sectarian. The ACCT is proud to be a focal point for all Arab and non-Arab communities in which they can find an outlet for settlement and social services inquiries. We serve newcomers of all cultures, religions and ethnicities. The Arab community centre of Toronto was established in 1972 & incorporated in August 1974… As our community grew in the greater Toronto area over the years, we grew from two staff agency working from a small office in an old house on Dundas to a 20+ staff agency operating from 4 locations across the city of Toronto. Our services include translation & interpretation as well as immediate settlement counselling & referrals.  We started with single federal funding settlement program for landed immigrants in the late 1990, with the help of the provincial government funding; we expanded our services to encompass all newcomers and naturalized Canadians. Our agency grew in size and moved to a multi-unit office in a professional building. Later in the mid 2000s & through multiple partnerships with other community agencies such as Canadian Druz Society, we expanded further to offer dedicated specialized services in multiple locations. Our services now include one on one settlement, pre employment, youth services, women, seniors, one on one counselling and more.  The diversity of our services is a reflection of the growing needs of our vibrant community. Representing ACCT will be: Mahmoud Allouch, Syria Project Coordinator, Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT) Mahmoud works in project management and currently manages the ACCT's program to resettle Syrian newcomer refugees in the Greater Toronto Area. In this role he works closely with diverse community groups to provide education, guidance, and support around resettling Syrian newcomer families.  |
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