

## Refugee Health Project

The Refugee Health Program provides education and training to assist International Educated Health Professionals to access the resources and pathways to integrate themselves into the Canadian healthcare system. PEGASUS Institute's support system includes a website providing resources for suitable pathways for employment in Canada, a mentorship program, and in-person events such as the pre-conference symposium at the North American Refugee Health Conference in July 2023."

One of the main challenges faced by refugee health professionals is the lack of awareness and understanding regarding the licensing process in Canada. Many refugee healthcare professionals may come from countries with different licensing requirements and processes, which can be confusing and overwhelming when trying to navigate the Canadian system. Furthermore, the licensure process itself can be perceived as casting suspicion on their qualifications and experience, leading to feelings of professional integrity being questioned. Another challenge is the lack of recognition of credentials earned in their home countries. This lack of recognition can result in refugee healthcare professionals having to repeat parts of their training, which can be both time-consuming and demoralizing.

In 2022, the PEGASUS institute received funding from the Canadian Medical Foundation to develop resources to equip refugee healthcare professionals with the necessary information to navigate the licensing process successfully, thereby increasing their chances of employment and contribution to the healthcare workforce in Canada. The project also focuses on providing a platform for mentorship and peer support, in order to create a supportive network for refugee healthcare professionals.

The objective of the Refugee Health Project is to address the challenges faced by refugee healthcare professionals in obtaining licensure and employment in their respective healthcare fields. To achieve this objective, the project aims to:

- 1. **Improve access to information**: The project seeks to provide accurate and up-to-date information on the licensing process for refugee healthcare professionals. It also aims to simplify and streamline the information, making it easier for professionals to understand and navigate the process.
- 2. Mentorship: The project aims to provide mentorship opportunities for refugee healthcare professionals, connecting them with experienced mentors who can guide and support them throughout the licensing process. Additionally, the project aims to create a supportive network for refugees by facilitating peer support groups and networking events.





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