Welcome To PeaceGeeks
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Board Chair Message
It has been another dynamic and successful year for our organization. Our founder Renee Black decided to step down early this year and supported the recruitment of her successor. We are very pleased to have appointed Jennifer (Jen) Freeman as our new CEO in the spring of 2020.

Since joining, Jen has created a new 3-year strategic plan, which builds on our organization's foundation and guides us on a new trajectory. We have a refreshed vision and mission and remain committed to supporting those who have been displaced. We successfully concluded the Meshkat project in Jordan, and began a new series of projects in that region. And finally, we realigned the organization to reflect our new mission and strategy. All of these actions have put us in a strong position to drive more positive change and impact that facilitates greater connection, peace and safety in 2021.

Our Governance plan requires the Chair step down after two terms. I am happy to announce that Ashiq Ahamed will assume the responsibility as Chair starting at this year’s AGM.

I wish to thank all our supporters who have given so much time, energy and financial support to enable us to make a positive impact on communities in the pursuit of peace.

Simon and Ashiq
President and incoming President
From our inception as a volunteer group of developers and designers, PeaceGeeks has navigated from a successful start-up to a ground-breaking leader in technology for peace.

2020 saw humanity’s sense of “peace” shaken by the urgent implications of a global pandemic. COVID-19 impacted all of us. It also compelled us to find ways amidst a global crisis and social isolation to leverage technology to amplify connection, justice, and peace in the world.

At PeaceGeeks, we were able to offer our expertise in technology and human-centred design to support newcomers, policymakers, settlement and humanitarian organizations suddenly pivoting to online services.

In Canada, we launched the timely Settlement 2.0 report, which proposed a vision and action plan for exploring how technology and innovation can best facilitate settlement outcomes for supporting newcomers. This work resulted in Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada taking note, funding us to expand our research to more regions across the country. We were also tapped to sit on a six-member National Settlement and Technology Task Group to research and analyze the sector’s successes and challenges in integrating digital services during the pandemic.

Our team in Jordan successfully completed their groundbreaking CDN $1.13 million, 3-year Meshkat Community project. Over 30 artists from across the country produced digital and offline content to transform narratives on social division and hatred. These pieces, such as The Box series, airing on Youtube and Facebook, reached over 2 million viewers across Jordan and the region.

Less than a year after its launch, our Arrival Advisor mobile app has been accessed by over 7,000 newcomers seeking services across British Columbia. Its organic growth is credit to the ongoing investment of community and settlement partners across the province.

We developed a new strategic plan that sets ambitious goals for the next three years, focusing on building digital tools that leverage human-centered design and our strong partnerships with newcomers, funders, and the settlement community in Canada and Jordan.

Our ability to provide connection and a sense of peace for displaced communities around the world has been made more urgent and complex by COVID-19’s impact in Canada, Jordan, and globally. Looking forward to 2021, we recognize that we, and the communities we serve, are best positioned for success when we envision bold new solutions to these challenges together.

Jen Freeman, CEO
PeaceGeeks envisions a world where those who are displaced are not lost.
PeaceGeeks creates digital tools to support greater connection, peace and safety for those who have been displaced.
PeaceGeeks’ donors helped us support

- **85,000** Unique users of Services Advisor 2019 - 2020
- **21,707** Users of PeaceGeeks’ text messaging platform in Uganda, a partnership with the International Criminal Court 2019 - 2020
- **304** People served by our SNAPP mentorship pilot 2020
- **7,727** Newcomers supported by Arrival Advisor 2019 - 2020
In 2020 we

Reimagined PeaceGeeks’ Vision and Mission as well as developed and introduced our new strategic plan

Successfully launched a new digital mentoring pilot platform: SNAPP (Skilled Newcomers and Professionals Partnership)

Successfully completed PeaceGeeks Jordan’s 3-year Meshkat project

Received over $775,000 in new grants to test and expand PeaceGeeks’ Transformative Narratives methodology in Jordan
Impact Highlights 2020
Arrival Advisor
Snapp
Meshkat Community
TSN safe spaces initiative
Supporting technology and innovation in Canada’s Settlement Sector
Services Advisor - Malaysia
Arrival Advisor is a free mobile app that helps refugees and immigrants in British Columbia find information and services to plan their settlement journey. Available in English, Punjabi, Arabic, French, Mandarin, Korean and Tagalog.
In 2020:

**41.7%** increase in app downloads (since 2019)

**7,727** users registered

**6,331** user sessions

You’re doing a great job so far. I’m speaking from a newcomer’s perspective. For people who don’t speak English well, it’s intimidating or stressful to ask for help. Instead of going out and lining up for services, I can now access everything online. It’s good to have the app and check at home first before taking the risk to go out.

~ Melanie
PeaceGeeks successfully piloted Snapp (Skilled Newcomers and Professionals Partnership), a digital connection program that matches newcomers with relevant local professionals for one-on-one chats to share employment advice. The digital program aims to reduce barriers to entry for newcomers, facilitate sector collaboration on mentorship, and increase the scale and reach of mentorship opportunities.
In 2020, the platform:

Partnered with over 15 settlement organizations
Registered 304 total mentor/mentee participants
Matched 281 total mentor/mentees
Mentored 137 newcomers with at least one mentor

It was one of the most structured approaches to networking — my mentor match was excellent, reflecting all the aspects of my initial ask — a senior person from whom I learned a lot. I truly appreciate the voluntary time commitment to welcome newcomers. As the Canadian saying goes, we are better together. Again, thank you all!

~ Zuhal, newcomer to Canada
Meshkat Community
Meshkat Community is an initiative in Jordan which strengthens community cohesion and constructive dialogue in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region by building the skills, networks and knowledge of citizens. Through workshops, incubation programs, collaborative networks, and online engagement facilitated by community members including local artists, activists, digital content producers, religious scholars, innovators, women and youth, the goal is to increase creative and peaceful citizen engagement that challenges hate, violence, extremism, and polarization to reduce community vulnerability.
In 2020:
The locally produced film “Virtual Honor,” was selected by UN Women as one of the top 7 films highlighting women’s issues in the country.

“The Box,” a Meshkat-produced series reached a total of 1.99 million viewers on Facebook and Youtube.
Such discussions elevate the level of consciousness through motivating attendees to re-evaluate their social interaction and the elements that affect their self-image. As a generation who uses technology tools on daily basis, I wonder about the concept of self-worth and identity as social media has deeply affected both.

~ Farah Qonaish participant in The Social Dilemma discussion.
In 2020, Meshkat Community launched a **Safe Space project** in Zarqa, Jordan in collaboration with The Stabilisation Network. Built as an outdoor “café,” the space promotes the Meshkat Community’s reputable work challenging recruitment of youth to violent groups using innovative and positive methods.

After five months of launching the Safe Space, **388 youth** in Zarqa (53% women and 47% men) accessed the cafe, attending workshops on Fake News, COVID-19, responsible use of social media, civic engagement in the Jordanian election, and gender-based violence.

By welcoming Zarqa’s youth to engage, interact, share knowledge and participate in social activities, the Safe Space cafe **became an iconic** destination for activists in Zarqa, serving as an incubator for youth-led social initiatives.
Supporting **Technology** and **Innovation** in Canada’s Settlement Sector
In May 2020, as Canada’s settlement sector was forced to suddenly become remote due to the pandemic, PeaceGeeks launched the Settlement 2.0 report.

The report was the result of two years of research, and included a proposed vision and action plan for exploring how technology and innovation can best facilitate settlement outcomes for newcomers.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) recognized the value of the report and requested PeaceGeeks expand the research to further explore the sector’s geographic and linguistic diversity, and impacts from the pandemic.

PeaceGeeks was also tapped to sit on a six-member National Settlement and Technology Task Group to understand the sector’s successes and challenges with integrating digital services during the pandemic. IRCC and the National Settlement and Integration Committee used the findings from this group to inform federal funding that supports technology-focused service delivery improvement projects across the country.
PeaceGeeks was selected by UNHCR Malaysia to expand our Services Advisor web platform to support Persons of Concern (POC) in Malaysia.

In Malaysia, refugees and asylum-seekers, and in particular women and girls, face high risks of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), with undocumented POC particularly vulnerable to trafficking networks. With limited information and awareness of available support services, exacerbated by discrimination from the host community, PeaceGeeks was asked to create a platform to provide a comprehensive map of all existing services accessible to populations at risk of SGBV and exploitation. The platform became a common portal for POC to find services in Malaysia, as well as a platform for UNHCR and community service providers to conveniently submit or edit information on services available for POC.
What’s Ahead
PeaceGeeks’ new Strategic Plan maps an agenda to support greater connection, peace and safety for those who have been displaced. Over the next three years, we will focus on four ambitious goals: build digital tools to connect those who have been displaced with the services available to them; strengthen the capacity of partner organizations providing humanitarian support and settlement services; provide research and learning to enable the conditions necessary for digital innovation; and support the Meshkat Community in Jordan to operate with greater autonomy.
For each of our four strategic goals we have identified 6-month, 1-year and 3-year benchmarks that we expect to see as our impact grows. In 2021, we will focus on:
Growing Arrival Advisor’s reach by expanding to new provinces, and to over 14,000 users
Expanding the Settlement 2.0 project to analyze the innovations and struggles of newcomers and settlement providers across regions and languages during the COVID-19 pandemic; and how these lessons can be leveraged to support innovation and better settlement outcomes for newcomers.
Implementing phase two of Snapp, and testing its market viability with newcomers, employers and the settlement sector.
Partnering with a minimum of four humanitarian or service providing organizations that want to utilize technology to better serve people who have been displaced or who are newcomers to Canada.
Applying Meshkat’s Transformative Narratives methodology to gender narratives in Jordan
Partners and Donors
Donors

Black Family Foundation
Fund for Innovation and Transformation
Global Affairs Canada
Google
iATS Payments
Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada
McCarthy Tétrault
New Ventures BC
Traction On Demand
U.S. State Department
Unbounce
Vancouver Community Network (VCN)
Partners

International Criminal Court
UNHCR Iraq
UNHCR Jordan
UNHCR Malaysia
AMSSA (Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC)
bc211
Province of British Columbia
BC Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness
BC Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Burnaby Family Life
Burnaby Neighbourhood House
Central Okanagan Local Immigration Partnership
City of Vancouver
DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society
Immigrant Employment Council of BC (IEC-BC)
Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC)
Immigration Policy and Integration Branch
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Government of Canada
KCR Community Resources
La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique

Little Mountain Neighbourhood House
MOSAIC
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
North Shore Multicultural Society
Open Data Society of BC
Options Community Services
Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS)
South Okanagan-Similkameen Local Immigration Partnership (SOSLIP)
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Surrey Immigrant Advisory Roundtable
Surrey Local Immigration Partnership
Unbounce
United Way of the Lower Mainland
Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture (VAST)
Vancouver Economic Commission
Vancouver Immigration Partnership (VIP)
YWCA Metro Vancouver
YWCA Metro Vancouver
PeaceGeeks would like to especially **thank our partners, individuals** and **organizations** that donate their time and expertise as members of PeaceGeeks' Advisory Committees, and our global team of dedicated volunteers. The gift of your time and expertise strengthens and amplifies our impact.
Team
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Jordan Team</th>
<th>Board</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Freeman</td>
<td>Dana Salih</td>
<td>Ashiq Ahamed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renee Black</td>
<td>Alaa Albadawi</td>
<td>Simon Canning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arti Bhatka</td>
<td>Arwa Mefleh</td>
<td>Brian Polydore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherrie Lam</td>
<td>Farah Qonaish</td>
<td>Jennifer Sandoval</td>
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<td>Deniz Cetin</td>
<td>Hamza Essa</td>
<td>Kevin Nguyen</td>
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<td>Ewan Newbigging-Lister</td>
<td>Mahmoud Ratrout</td>
<td>Lewis Evans</td>
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<td>Ian Lin</td>
<td>Thair Alkiswani</td>
<td>Melika Zamani</td>
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<td>Jean Parlina</td>
<td>Yazan Istatiyeh</td>
<td>Nina Ng</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Hyde</td>
<td>Zekra Salih</td>
<td>SJ Kee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meaad Alharbi</td>
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<td>Patrick Estey</td>
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<td>Rasmus Storjohann</td>
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<td>Tomy Reyes</td>
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<td>Zehra Talib</td>
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Financials
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Total: $1,400
# PeaceGeeks Statement of Financial Position

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<th>Foundation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash + grants</td>
<td>$ 241,828</td>
<td>$ 10,090</td>
<td>$ 192,664</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid + accounts receivable</td>
<td>$ 17,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from related parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<td>$ 69,898</td>
<td>$ 192,664</td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts + taxes payable</td>
<td>$ 23,604</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacation accrual</td>
<td>$ 3,189</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
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<td>Due to related parties</td>
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<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>Deferred Contributions</td>
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<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$ (10,569)</td>
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<td>$ 177,086</td>
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### PeaceGeeks Statement of Activities

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE + SUPPORT</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted contributions</td>
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<td>Amortization of Deferred Contributions</td>
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<td>Professional Services</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income and FX loss/gain</td>
<td>$55,828</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from PeaceGeeks Society (Canada)</td>
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<td>$261,780</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>$261,780</td>
<td>$43,699</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
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<td>$151,604</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management + general</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$1,068,270</td>
<td>$208,662</td>
<td>$934</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The best solutions are built together. Become part of PeaceGeeks!
Donate: Your support helps PeaceGeeks build digital tools that support greater connection, peace and safety for people who have been displaced. Donate here

Volunteer: Did you know PeaceGeeks started as a group of volunteer developers and designers? We currently benefit from an amazing group of volunteer recruiters, fundraisers, developers, communications professionals and designers. Email info@peacegeeks.org to join us!

Partner: Interested in building digital tools to create greater connection, peace and safety for people who have been displaced and/or are newcomers? Learn more about how we work here, and get in touch: info@peacegeeks.org
PeaceGeeks
#210-128 W Hastings
Vancouver, BC
08, Abdelfattah Awdah Street,
Abdoun Al Shamalih, Amman, Jordan
Email: info@peacegeeks.org
Social: @peacegeeks
www.peacegeeks.org