



Syrian Resettlement in BC

REFUGEE READINESS FUND NEWSLETTER #2

DECEMBER 21, 2015

What will you find on the Refugee Readiness Hub?

British Columbians are ready to lend a helping hand in Canada's largest refugee resettlement movement of this generation.

To assist and empower individuals and refugee-serving organizations to help in the resettlement process, ISSofBC in partnership with the Province of British Columbia have created this online resource hub. New sections and information will be added on an ongoing basis.

Through the Refugee Readiness Hub users can learn about Syria, read the latest status of the arrival of refugees and find local resettlement programs and services

Newsletters

Weekly newsletters providing updated information on arrivals, fast facts and highlighting new/emerging trends.

Learning Resources

Fact sheets and training modules intended to provide key information, as well as more detailed training information (eg around settlement –related issues and needs).

Resource Centre

Links to information and resources to help you and your community welcome and support newly arrived refugees.

Existing Services

Information and links to existing refugee-focused services across British Columbia

How can I help?

ISSofBC offers a variety of ways you can contribute to helping refugees build new lives in British Columbia.

Other Navigation Options

The navigation panel on the left provides other links to other ISSofBC refugee-related information and materials.



New this week on the Hub:

- [Newsletter #1](#) – Introducing the Weekly Newsletters
- [Fact Sheet #1](#) – Understanding what ISSofBC is funded to do?
- [Fact Sheet #2](#) – Key phases for Syrian Refugee Movement to Metro Vancouver
- [Fact Sheet #3](#) – Refugee Resettlement to Canada, BC and Metro Vancouver
- [Fact Sheet #4](#) – Syrian Refugee Resettlement in BC
- [Training Module #1](#) – Privately Sponsored Syrian Refugees: Introduction and Overview
- Resources – [Information on Interim Federal Health Program for Syrian Refugees](#)

Refugeehealth.ca

Primary care and mental health practitioners will have access to updated information on Syrian refugees – including research and tools, as well as materials in Arabic for clients.



CONTEXT



Historical Arrivals: GARs to BC

BC receives approximately **10-12%** of government assisted refugees (GARs) resettled to Canada. All GARs to BC are destined to Vancouver, and settle across Metro Vancouver.

Settlement patterns are largely dictated by the ability to find affordable housing. Over the last 5 years 85% of GARs have settled in Surrey, Coquitlam, Burnaby, Vancouver & New Westminster.

Privately sponsored refugees settle in communities across BC, wherever their sponsors are located.

WHERE ARE WE AT: TARGETS* VS ARRIVALS

25%

British Columbia is anticipating the arrival of 240 Syrian GARs between November 4, and December 31, 2015; to date 59 have arrived in BC.

3%

1,800 Syrian GARs are anticipated to arrive in BC between November 4, 2015 and February 28, 2016. Arrivals to date account for 3% of the overall target for this period provided by IRCC.

OPERATION SYRIAN REFUGEES

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCCC) is providing regular updates (Monday to Friday) on Milestones and key figures associated with Operation Syrian Refugees (see <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/milestones.asp>)

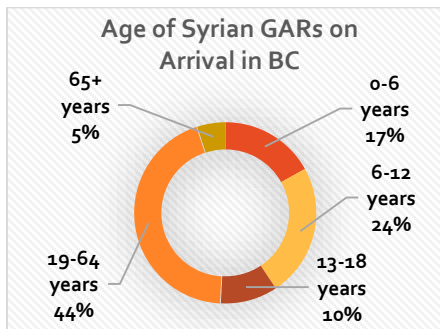
As of December 20, 2015, Canada has welcomed 1,608 Syrian refugees, including: 336 Government Assisted Refugees, 215 Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees and 1,057 Privately Sponsored Refugees.

Updates on Syrian GAR Arrivals

To date, ISSofBC has welcomed 59 Syrian GAR individuals / 19 family units since Operation Syrian Refugees began on November 4th, 2015.

On Monday, December 22, 2015 the number of arrivals tripled in one day!

Although initial arrivals were comprised largely of adults, more recent arrivals are comprised of larger family units.



To date, 34% of Syrian GAR arrivals are of school age.

Permanent accommodations have been found for 6 family units. To date, Syrian GARs have settled in Surrey and Burnaby.

The remaining Syrian GARs are still in temporary accommodations receiving Resettlement Assistance Program services.

Events in the Community

British Columbians continue to seek ways to get involved with the Syrian Refugee Resettlement. Over the last two months weeks numerous events have been held including public dialogues, Town Hall meetings, and fundraising events, as well as stakeholder meetings convened by municipal governments. Over 100 participants at a Town Hall meeting at Ladner United Church, and over 300 participants at a diversity event at Kamloops Immigrant Services!



BRITISH COLUMBIAN'S RESPONSE

On November 10th, 2015 ISSofBC held a Call to Action to encourage people across the province to aid in the resettlement of Syrian refugees through offers of housing, employment and volunteering. We are humbled by the response. To date,



1,106 housing leads, plus over **105** units offered by developers, property managers and owners for temporary and permanent accommodation

5,767 people have come forward to offer their time and talent.



190 job leads have been submitted to our survey

SYRIAN GAR ARRIVALS: NOV 4 – DEC 20



59 Syrian GAR individuals

19

Syrian GAR households



Permanent Accommodations have been found for 6 family units, in Surrey and Burnaby.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional information, resources and training materials are available on our website (<http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees>), as well as the Refugee Resettlement Hub (www.issbc.org/refugee-readiness-hub). For further information please contact:

CHRIS FRIESEN,
DIRECTOR – SETTLEMENT SERVICES
chris.friesen@issbc.org

* Please note: targets are estimates only and should not be considered factual