



Information Sheet: Syrian Refugee Resettlement in the Fraser Valley

Did You Know?

- » The Fraser Valley is the largest recipient of Syrian refugees in BC. Close to 50% of all Syrian refugees to BC have settled in the region.
- » Close to 90% of Syrian refugees in the Fraser Valley are government assisted refugees – only 12% are privately sponsored refugees or blended visa office referred refugees.
- » The majority of Syrian refugees in the Fraser Valley have complex settlement needs. Many have: large families with 5+ children, speak little to no English, eight years or less of formal education in their home country, complex health issues, and some degree of trauma and/or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They need time to address their settlement needs, such as housing, health and English language learning, before they can be ready for successful labour market attachment.



Syrian Refugee Arrivals to the Fraser Valley

	GARs	PSRs	BVORs	TOTAL
Abbotsford	154	8	17	179
Chilliwack	27	5	12	44
Delta	84	4	0	88
Langley	79	9	16	104
Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows	19	5	0	24
Mission	10	N/A	N/A	10
Surrey	905	84	10	999
TOTAL (Nov. 4, 2015 through Dec. 23, 2016) Fraser Valley	1,278	115	55	1,448
TOTAL (Nov. 4, 2015 through Dec. 15, 2016) British Columbia	2,365	N/A	N/A	3,314
TOTAL (Nov. 4, 2015 through Jan. 2, 2017) Canada	21,751	13,997	3,923	39,671

Source: ISSofBC Newsletter #15 and IRCC #WelcomeRefugees

NOTE: The above figures do not include secondary migration of Syrian refugees to the Fraser Valley.



Global and Canadian Refugee Facts

- » According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), over 65 million people are displaced around the world.
- » Canada is a global leader in refugee resettlement. It is one of the top three countries of resettlement and the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program is unique in the world.
- » Under Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA), which came into effect in 2002, Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) are selected based on vulnerability rather than settlement potential.
- » In 2017, Canada will welcome fewer refugees. The target will drop from 55,800 to 40,000.

For More Information:

- » **AMSSA – Refugee Resources**
amssa.org/resources/quicklinks-resources/refugee-resources
- » **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada – #WelcomeRefugees**
cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome
- » **ISSofBC – Refugee Readiness Hub**
refugeehub.issbc.org
- » **Refugee Sponsorship Training Program**
rstp.ca/en
- » **The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) – Asylum and Migration**
unhcr.org/asylum-and-migration.html

Definitions

Asylum / Refugee Claimant: A foreign national seeking protection at an in-land office or port of entry.

Blended Visa Office Referred Refugee (BVOR): The Blended Visa Office Referred Program matches refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with private sponsors in Canada.

Convention Refugee (CR): A person who is outside of their home country or country where they normally live and fears returning to that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

Government Assisted Refugee (GAR): A person who is outside Canada and has been determined to be a Convention Refugee and who receives financial support from the Government of Canada for up to one year after their arrival in Canada. GARs are selected from applicants referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other referral organizations.

Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS): Under the JAS program, refugees receive support from the government and a private sponsor for up to 24 months, depending on the case. In a few cases, the private sponsor may provide support for up to 36 months. These refugees get income support from the Government of Canada for food, shelter, clothing and basic household goods. They are also matched by a private sponsorship group. The sponsorship group helps refugees adjust to life in Canada by providing settlement help and emotional support.

Privately Sponsored Refugee (PSR): A person outside Canada who has been determined to be a Convention Refugee who receives financial and other support from a private sponsor for one year after arrival in Canada. Private sponsors are Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs), Groups of Five or Community Sponsors. The Private Sponsorship of Refugees program is a volunteer-based initiative and generally does not involve contribution funds or contribution agreements by the Government of Canada.

Refugee Landed in Canada (RLC): Refugee claimants who have their asylum claim approved by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB).



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