



Syrian Resettlement in BC

REFUGEE READINESS FUND NEWSLETTER #15

DECEMBER 28, 2016

Connecting Employers to BC's Refugee Talent Pool

Refugees arrive in BC from a wide variety of occupational backgrounds and a range of skills, abilities and work experiences. B.C. employers are keen to recruit and hire these newest residents but have struggled to find ways to reach this talent pool.

In recognition of the need to create a bridge between employers and refugee job seekers, the Immigrant Employment Council of BC (IEC-BC) has developed BC Refugees JobConnect.

What is BC Refugees JobConnect?

BC Refugees JobConnect is a web-based platform that presents the skills and experiences of refugee job seekers to B.C. employers looking for workers. This easy-to-use website is designed to help employers fill their workforce needs while offering refugees an effective way to showcase their talents to B.C. businesses and gain meaningful labour-market attachment.

Who are BC Refugees JobConnect users?

BC Refugees JobConnect aims to present the talent held by B.C. refugees from all different countries and occupational

backgrounds, and is open to all refugees currently residing in B.C. who:

- Have arrived in Canada in the last five years;
- Speak English at a lower, intermediate or higher level;
- Are ready and looking for work; and
- Have a résumé or CV.

All B.C. employers are welcome and encouraged to register on the site to gain ready access to the pool of refugee talent, and to search for refugee candidates to meet their hiring needs.

The Immigrant Employment Council of BC

The Immigrant Employment Council of BC is a not-for-profit organization that works with employers to help them attract, hire, and retain qualified immigrant talent to address the shortage of skilled workers in this province. We work closely with employers, labour, business and industry associations, community organizations, government and other stakeholders to develop long-term labour market strategies, so BC companies can effectively compete in both the local and global markets. In addition, we provide practical tools, resources and programs to help employers connect with qualified immigrant talent and build inclusive workplaces.

How does BC Refugees JobConnect work?

Job seekers log in and enter information about their work interests, training, skills, and experiences and a "profile" or summary of this information is created. IEC-BC is currently supporting refugee job seekers to enter their occupational histories by delivering hands-on sessions at immigrant serving, community and employment agencies that provide refugee employment services.

Employers looking for workers can search BC Refugees JobConnect using job titles or key word searches. If an employer finds someone suitable, they can browse a more detailed profile and then request IEC-BC staff to connect them with the job seeker. IEC-BC will contact the job seeker and connect him/her with the employer. No personal contact information is directly available to employers searching the database of profiles.

To get more information about the project or to set up a session, contact:

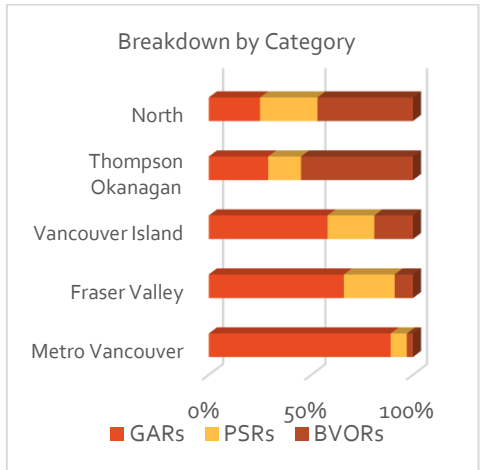
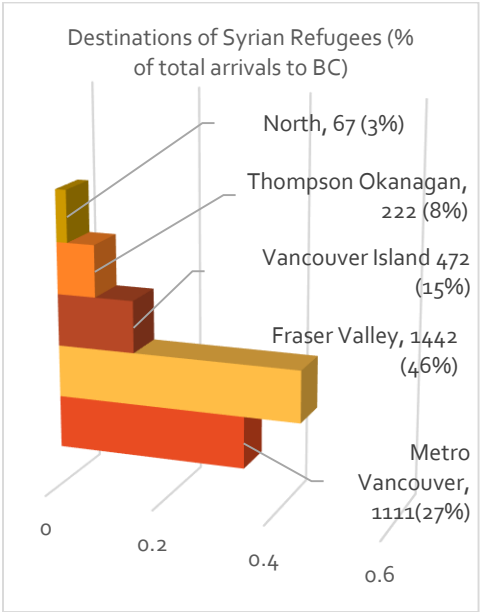
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www.bcrefugeesjobconnect.ca



BC Refugee Readiness Fund is
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SYRIAN REFUGEES IN BC (NOV 4/15 – DEC 15/16)

The following information reflects PSRs and BVORs admitted, as well as GAR settlement patterns. Geographic regions are consistent with BC Refugee Readiness Team boundaries.



OPERATION SYRIAN REFUGEE & ONGOING RESETTLEMENT

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is providing regular updates (Monday to Friday) on Milestones and Key Figures associated with Operation Syrian Refugee (OSR), as well as ongoing resettlement efforts (ORE) (see <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/milestones.asp>)

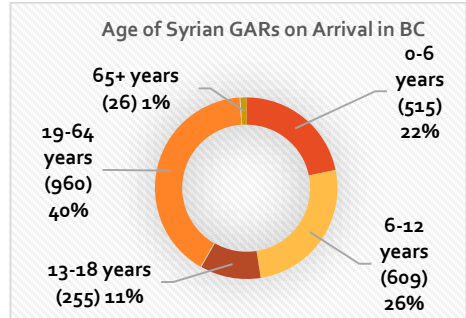
As of October 23, 2016, Canada has welcomed 33,239 Syrian refugees, including: 17,437 Government Assisted Refugees, 3,400 Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees and 12,402 Privately Sponsored Refugees.

Updates on Syrian GARs in BC

There are two phases of resettlement:

- Operation Syrian Refugee (OSR) - Nov 4/15 – Feb 29/16, and
- Ongoing resettlement efforts (ORE) – March 1/16 – Present.

Since November 4, 2015 and as of Dec 15, 2016, BC has welcomed 2365 Syrian GAR individuals / 582 family units.



Fifty-nine percent (59%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are age 18 and under. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are of school age (6 – 18 years). Almost one in four arrivals are children under age 6.

Syrian GAR Settlement Patterns

As of December 15, 2016,

- 239 Syrian GAR individuals / 69 units are in temporary accommodations (ORE)
- 2115 Syrian GAR individual / 511 units have moved into permanent housing

SYRIAN GAR ARRIVALS: NOV 4/15 – DEC 15/16



BC'S RESPONSE: NOV 4/15 – DEC 15/16



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.refugeehub.issbc.org). For further information, please contact:

EMAIL: refugee.crisis@issbc.org

