



# Syrian Resettlement in BC

REFUGEE READINESS FUND NEWSLETTER #10

MAY 26, 2016

## Refugee Readiness Team (RRT) Trainings

Over the last five weeks, 250 stakeholders from across British Columbia have participated in five (5) Refugee Readiness Team Trainings. The 2-Day trainings – held in Prince George, Victoria, Kelowna, Surrey and Burnaby – were hosted by ISSofBC and funded by the Province of British Columbia under the Refugee Readiness Fund.

Participants included representatives from:

- \* Settlement Service Provider Organizations (SPOs)
- \* Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs)
- \* Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)
- \* Group of Five (G5)
- \* Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) Program
- \* Municipal Governments
- \* Health Authority & Healthcare
- \* Local Community Groups & Organizations
- \* Social Services (eg BC Housing)
- \* Education (Government, SWIS, ECE, etc)
- \* Employment Programs & Employers; and
- \* Refugee Readiness Teams – Regional Advisory Committee Members

### Training Content

#### ISSofBC – Settlement & Integration for Refugees

1. Refugees: global to local perspectives
2. Introduction to settlement services and interventions for refugees
3. Regional specific Syrian refugee statistics

#### Vancouver Association of the Survivors of Torture (VAST) - Mental Health Care

1. Mental health concerns for newly arrived refugees
2. Screening for vulnerability
3. Brief psychosocial interventions
4. Working in a community-based context
5. Self-awareness and self-care

#### Vancouver Coast Health (VCH) - Primary Health Care Training

1. Introduction to IME (Immigration Medical Examinations) & refugee specific medical concerns
2. Post arrival health assessment and review of screening checklist
3. Medical interpretation
4. Insurance and coverage
5. Cultural competency

### Online Videos and Handouts

All sessions were videotaped by AMSSA. Videos and any handouts provided during the trainings will be posted online in the coming weeks on the Refugee Resettlement Hub under the Refugee Readiness Training Video button (<http://refugeehub.issbc.org/>).

### Participant Feedback

*'Excellent workshop, well presented, supportive, interactive and above all non-judgmental way of addressing refugee issues'*

*'Overall a very interesting and informative day'*

*'Right amount of info and right pace/order'*

*'Appreciate regional meetings to make it possible for smaller communities and groups to have access to this information. Excellent presentations and presenters'*

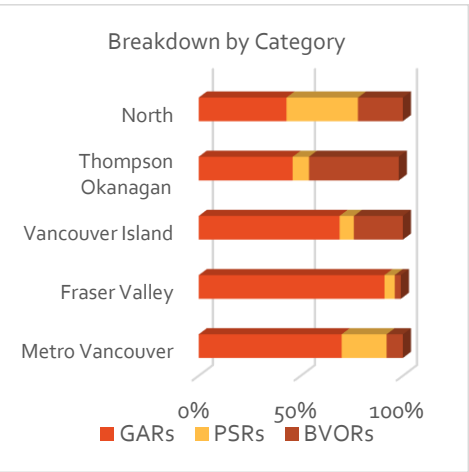
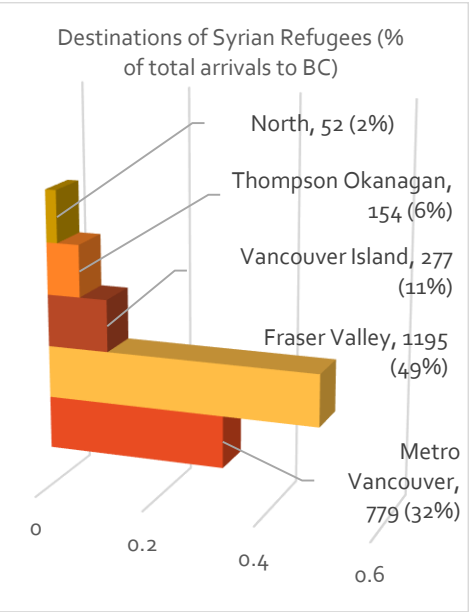
*'Great day. Stimulating – causing more reflection'*



BC Refugee Readiness Fund is part of the WelcomeBC umbrella of services, made possible through funding from the Province of British Columbia

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN BC (NOV 4/15 – MAY 24/16)

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 (IRCCC) 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>)

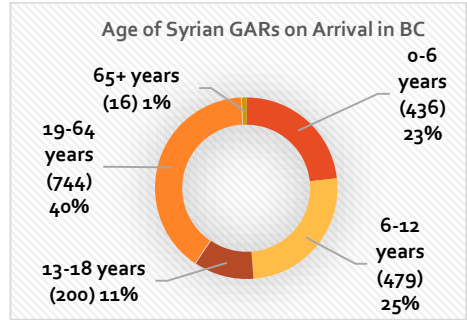
As of May 8, 2016, Canada has welcomed 27,005 Syrian refugees, including: 15,268 Government Assisted Refugees, 2,321 Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees and 9,416 Privately Sponsored Refugees.

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 May 16, 2016, BC has welcomed **1875** Syrian GAR individuals / **439** family units.

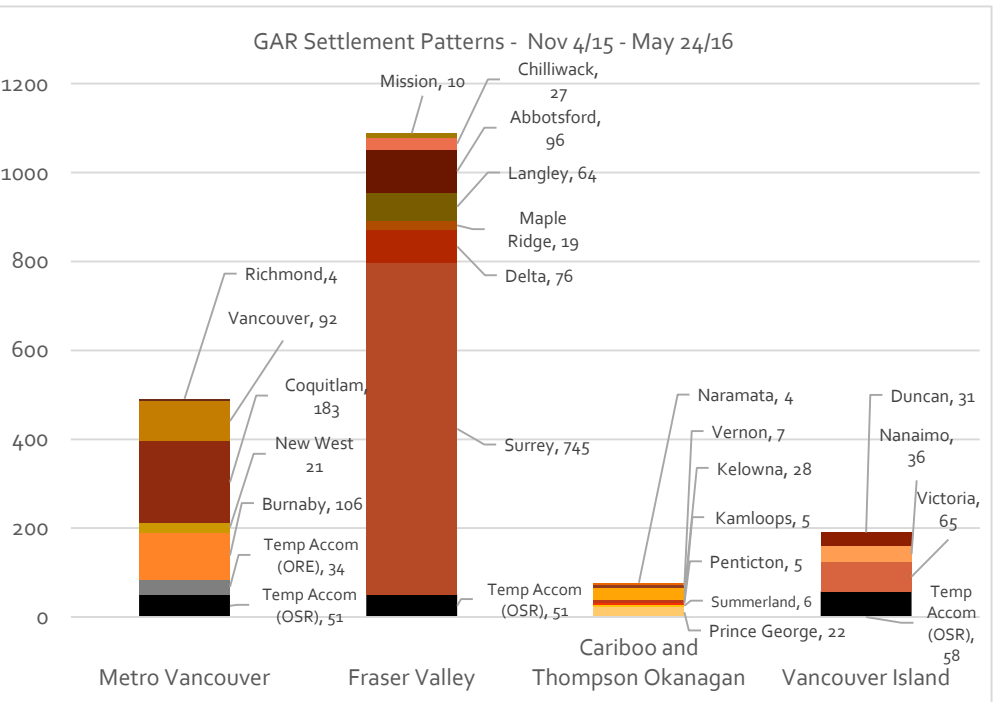


Sixty percent (60%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are age 18 and under. Thirty-five percent (37%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are of school age (6 – 18 years). Almost one in four arrivals are children under age 6.

Syrian GAR Settlement Patterns

As of May 24, 2016,

- **160** Syrian GAR individuals / **32** units remain in temporary accommodations (OSR)
- **37** Syrian GAR individuals / **10** units are in temporary accommodations (ORE)
- **1678** Syrian GAR individual / **395** units have moved into permanent housing



SYRIAN GAR ARRIVALS: NOV 4 – MAY 24

**1875**  
Syrian GAR individuals

**439**  
Syrian GAR units

BC'S RESPONSE: NOV 4 – MAY 24

**49**  
BC communities have welcomed Syrian refugees

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](http://www.refugeehub.issbc.org)). For further information please contact:

EMAIL: [refugee.crisis@issbc.org](mailto:refugee.crisis@issbc.org)