



Vancouver Sun (August 27, 2016) 'Return to school a challenging milestone for Syrian refugees' (<http://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/return-to-school-a-challenging-milestone-for-syrian-refugees>)

REFUGEE READINESS FUND NEWSLETTER #12

Syrian Resettlement in BC

SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

Canada's commitment to resettle Syrian refugees

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada continues to provide updated information and statistics relating to Canada's commitment to resettle Syrian refugees, including key milestones (updated weekly), as well as ongoing progress.

Three main commitments are outlined:

- **Welcome 25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of February, 2016 (completed)**
Canada welcomed 26,172 Syrian refugees during this time.
- **Welcome 25,000 government supported Syrian refugees by the end of 2016 (on track)**

This includes both government assisted and blended visa office-referred Syrian refugees who were resettled in 2016. As of August 28, 2016 Canada has resettled 19,190 government supported Syrian refugees in Canada in 2016.

Please note: individuals may be counted in both the initial 25,000 target category, as well as the second category.

- **Process all privately sponsored Syrian refugee applications submitted up to March 31, 2016 by the end of 2016 or early 2017 (on track)**

Approximately 12,000 applications were received by March 31, 2016. To facilitate processing of these applications, IRCC has brought on additional staff.

As of August 28, 2016:

- 2,856 people have been interviewed (application in progress pending medical/security screening)
- 4,024 applications have been finalized (including any applications that were withdrawn, negative decisions, people awaiting flights and those arrived in Canada)
- 2,072 Syrians have arrived in Canada

For updated information see:

https://www.canada.ca/en/index.html?_ga=1.75233426.1813046282.1449679082

BC AT A GLANCE (IRCC 2016)

From November 4th, 2015 to the beginning of August 2016, British Columbia welcomed 2,646 Syrian refugees, of whom 73% were GARS, 15% were PSRs, and 12% were BVORs.

BC will welcome approximately 1,000 Syrian GARS in the last three months of 2016. Additionally, IRCC reports there are additional PSR and BVOR applications in the inventory, many of whom will arrive before the end of March 2017.

GARs will be primarily destined to Metro Vancouver and Victoria, although approximately 150 of the upcoming GAR arrivals will be resettled directly to communities outside these areas, including Nanaimo, Prince George, Vernon, Kamloops, Penticton, Kelowna and Abbotsford.

New Resources

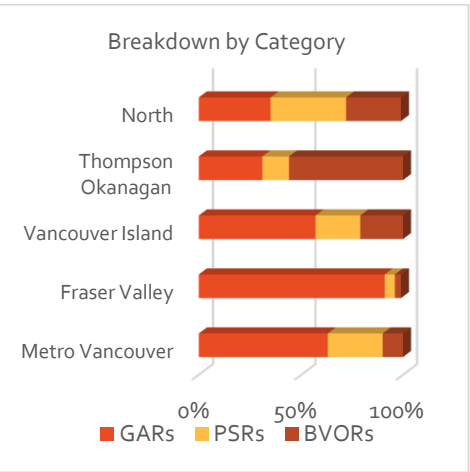
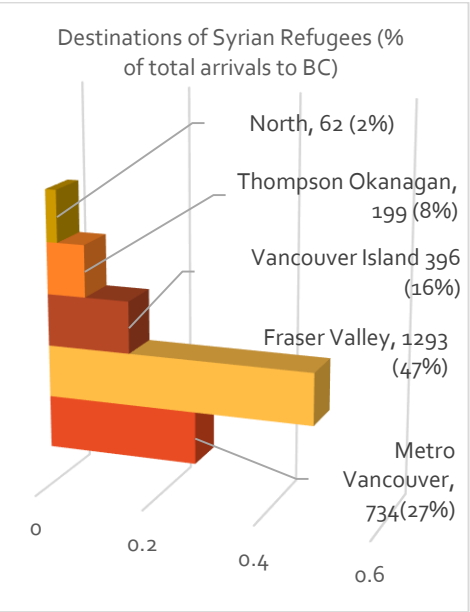
- **Caring for Children's Teeth -** http://www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/prevention/files/ECTD_CaringChildrensTeeth.PDF
- **Newcomer Housing: Barriers, needs and experiences -** <http://www.amssa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/InfoSheet31-Housing.pdf>



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 – SEPT 7/16)

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>)

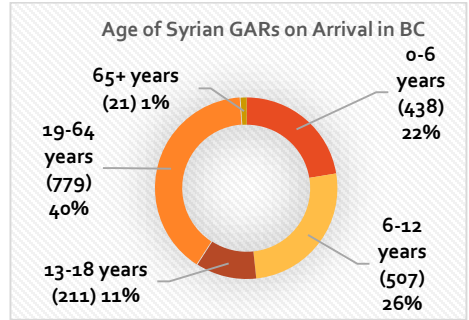
As of July 17, 2016, Canada has welcomed 30,275 Syrian refugees, including: 16,288 Government Assisted Refugees, 2,962 Blended Visa Office-Referral Refugees and 11,085 Privately Sponsored Refugees.

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 July 27, 2016, BC has welcomed **1956** Syrian GAR individuals / **457** family units.

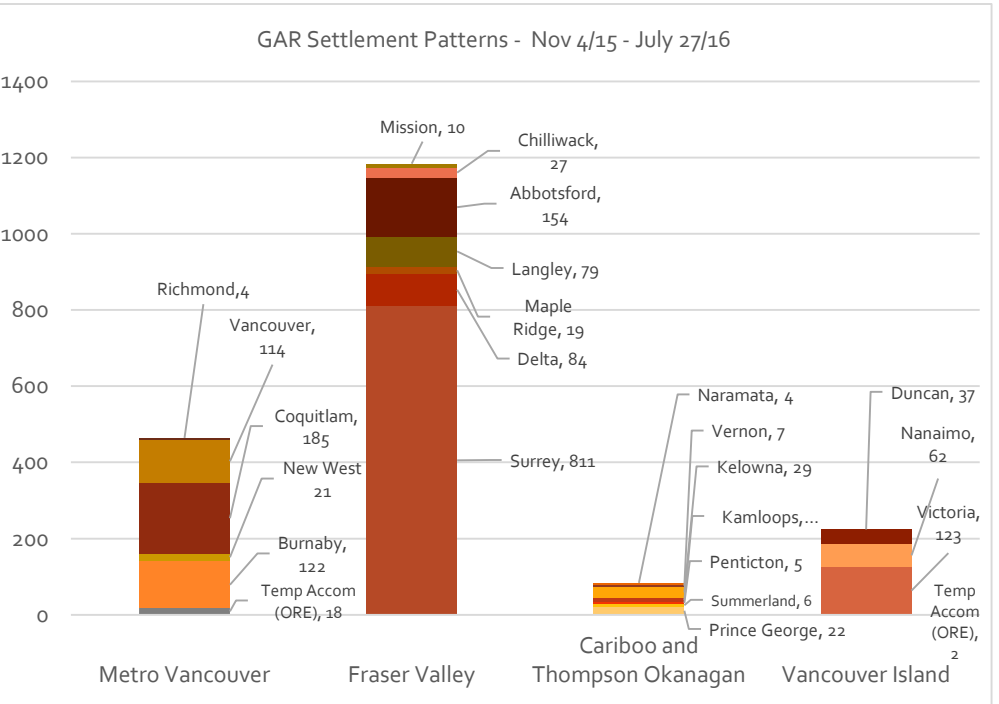


Fifty-nine percent (59%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are age 18 and under. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are of school age (6 – 18 years). Almost one in four arrivals are children under age 6.

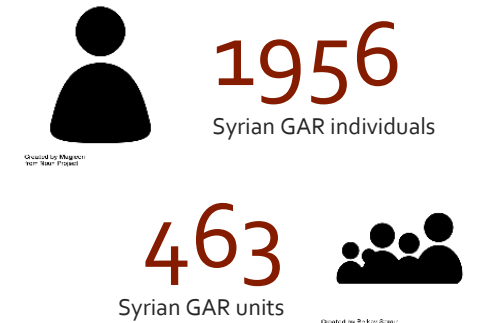
Syrian GAR Settlement Patterns

As of September 7, 2016,

- 6 Syrian GAR individuals / 1 units remain in temporary accommodations (OSR)
- 18 Syrian GAR individuals / 6 units are in temporary accommodations (ORE)
- 1936 Syrian GAR individual / 457 units have moved into permanent housing



SYRIAN GAR ARRIVALS: NOV 4 – SEPT 7



BC'S RESPONSE: NOV 4 – SEPT 7



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:

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