



REFUGEE READINESS FUND NEWSLETTER #14

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

Syrian Resettlement in BC

#WhoWeAre: Syrian Refugee Youth Consultation

ISSofBC in partnership with The Fresh Voices Initiative of Vancouver Foundation hosted The Syrian Refugee Youth Consultation, on September 17, 2016 at the ISSofBC Welcome Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia.

This was the first time former refugee youth were brought together in their first year in Canada and asked about their thoughts, hopes, aspirations and feedback on the programs and services they've accessed since their arrival to Canada.

Participants, youth between the ages 15-24, traveled from all over Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley to be part of this full-day consultation, including Surrey, Delta, Langley, Vancouver and Burnaby.

One out of every three GAR (Government Assisted Refugee) youth that arrived in Metro Vancouver & Fraser Valley since November 2015 was represented at this consultation.

The second part of this project brought together representatives from private and public institutions in a Community Stakeholder Forum on October 6, 2016 to

share recommendations directly from the youth. Participants at the Community Stakeholder Forum further discussed the needs, potential solutions and best practices in addressing each of the recommendations presented. This event started with a press conference, with the youth representatives speaking to media directly about the recommendations in the final summary report

Website: issbc.org/WhoWeAre

Final Report: <http://issbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/FINAL-REPORT-Syrian-Refugee-Youth-Consultation-and-Forum.pdf>.



In Fall of 2015, *Startland*, a consortium of Tech employers and trainers in Metro Vancouver, approached ISSofBC to see how we could collectively work together to help refugees

settling into Metro Vancouver by providing training and employment in the area of technology. The initiative was also driven, in part, by the need to address the labour market shortage currently impacting the tech sector.

Stakeholders developed a pilot project that was proposed to and funded by the private sector and the Province of BC through the *Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training*.

Nine refugees have taken part in job readiness training, occupation specific language training and skills training in code. Many of the participants have a background in IT and worked in their field in their home country. Over the next few months, as they complete their training, they will be supported to secure employment in their field.

This program creates opportunities for skilled newcomers to continue to work in their field by gaining Canadian education and Canadian work experience.

Contact: techstart@issbc.org

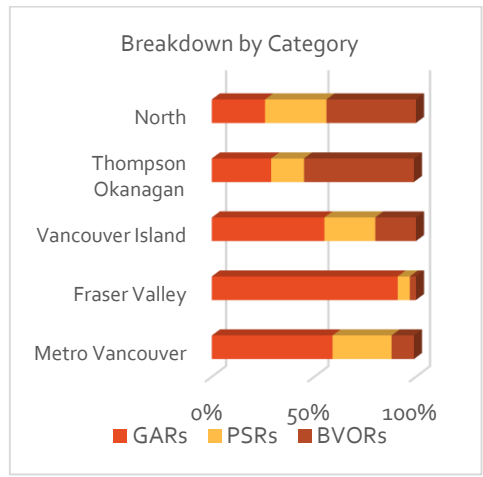
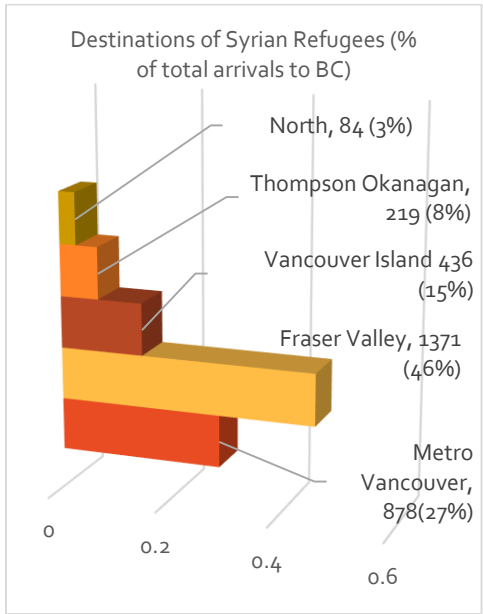
Website: <https://issbc.org/programs/career-services/techstart/>



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 – OCT 30/16)

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

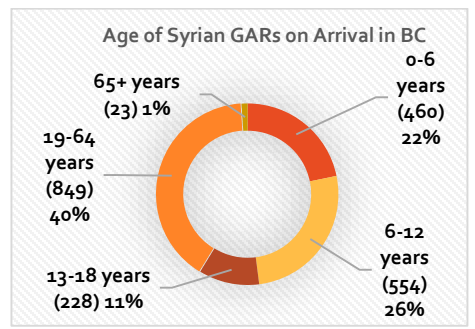
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCCC) is providing regular updates (Monday to Friday) on Milestones and Key Figures associated with Operation Syrian Refugee (OSR), as well as ongoing resettlement efforts (ORE) (see <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/milestones.asp>)

As of 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 October 7, 2016, BC has welcomed **2,073** Syrian GAR individuals / **508** 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 October 7, 2016,
- **72** Syrian GAR individuals / **25** units are in temporary accommodations (ORE)
 - **2016** Syrian GAR individual / **481** units have moved into permanent housing

SYRIAN GAR ARRIVALS: NOV 4 – OCT 30

2088
Syrian GAR individuals

508
Syrian GAR units

BC'S RESPONSE: NOV 4 – OCT 16

58
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). For further information, please contact:
EMAIL: refugee.crisis@issbc.org

