



Photo courtesy of IRCC

Syrian Resettlement in BC

REFUGEE READINESS FUND NEWSLETTER #7

FEBRUARY 25, 2016

City of Victoria named as new destination community for the Resettlement Assistance Program

Two announcements were made this month that will benefit refugees settling in British Columbia.

Greater Victoria named new RAP destination community

On February 5th, 2016 the Inter-Cultural Association (ICA) of Greater Victoria was named as the first successful applicant under the recent call for proposals to identify new Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) service providers across Canada.

Approximately two hundred and ninety (290) government assisted refugees (GARs) will be destined to Greater Victoria under this agreement, with the first arrivals in late February.

ICA, in partnership with the Red Cross, will provide direct supports to GARs resettling in Greater Vancouver

For more information see:

IRCC News Release (February 5, 2016) - <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1031819>

ICA Press Release (February 18, 2016) - http://www.icavictoria.org/sites/default/fs/file/s/GAR%20press%20release_ICA%20welcome_feb18_FINAL.pdf

Restoring Fairness to the Interim Federal Health Program

On February 18, 2016, Minister John McCallum announced all refugees and refugee claimants will soon benefit from full health coverage through a restored Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP).

Effective April 1, 2016 coverage for eligible beneficiaries will include:

- basic (including hospital and physician services),

- supplemental (eg vision and urgent dental care), and
- prescription drugs (similar to that provided to individuals on provincial social assistance).

By April 1, 2017 IFHP will be expanded to cover costs associated with services provided overseas to refugees identified for resettlement overseas, including:

- immigration medical examination,
- pre-departure vaccinations, services to manage outbreaks in refugee camps, and
- medical supports during travel to Canada.

For more information see:

IRCC News Release (February 18, 2016) - <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1034619>



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

CONTEXT

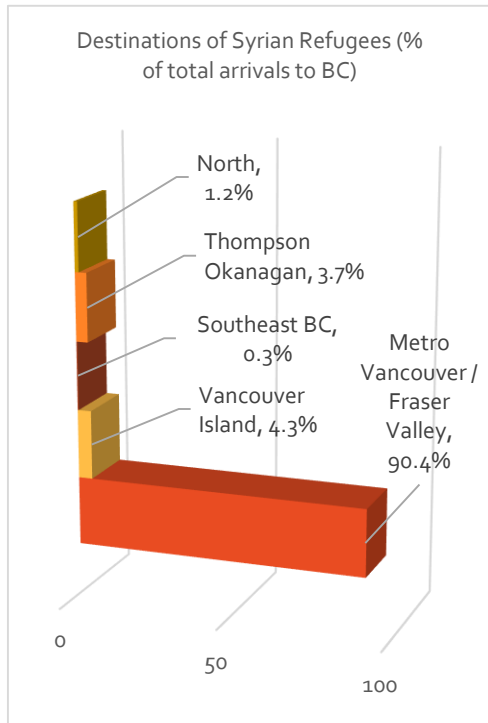
Historical Arrivals: GARs to BC

BC receives approximately **10-12%** of government assisted refugees (GARs) resettled to Canada. All GARs to BC are destined to Vancouver, and settle across Metro Vancouver.

Privately sponsored refugees settle in communities across BC, wherever their sponsors are located.

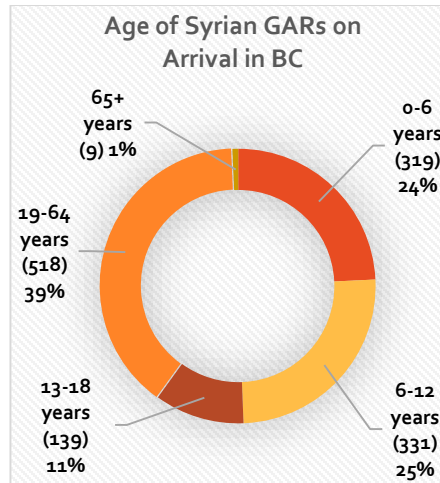
DESTINATIONS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN BC (%)

Since November 4, 2015 and as of February 24, 2016, **35** BC communities have welcomed Syrian refugees.



Updates on Syrian GAR Arrivals

Since November 4, 2015 and as of January 29, 2016, ISSofBC has welcomed **1316** Syrian GAR individuals / **305** family units.

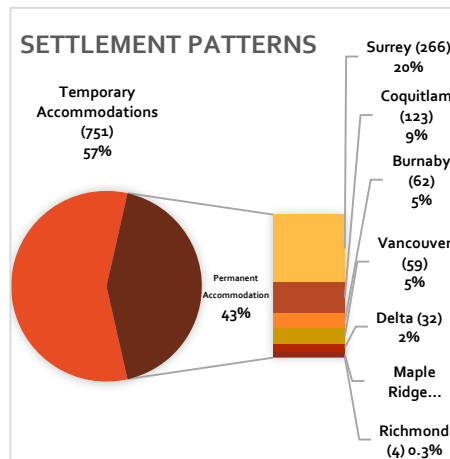


Sixty percent (60%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are age 18 and under. Thirty-six percent (36%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are of school age (6 – 18 years). Almost one in four arrivals are children under age 6.

Syrian GAR Settlement Patterns

- As of February 12, 2016,
- 751 Syrian GARs individuals /170 units remain in temporary accommodations
 - 565 Syrian GAR individuals / 135 units have moved into permanent housing

Syrian GARs have permanently settled in Surrey, Coquitlam, Burnaby, Delta, Maple Ridge, Vancouver, and Richmond.



ISSofBC's current emphasis is on identifying permanent housing across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. If you are aware of available housing – particularly for larger families – please let us know: [Offers of Accommodation](#).

BRITISH COLUMBIAN'S RESPONSE

On November 10th, 2015 ISSofBC held a Call to Action to encourage people across BC to aid in the resettlement of Syrian refugees through offers of housing, employment & volunteering. We are humbled by the response. To date,



1,265 housing leads, plus over **110** units offered by developers, property managers and owners for temporary and permanent accommodation

5,767 people have come forward to offer their time and talent.



279 job leads have been submitted to our survey

SYRIAN GAR ARRIVALS: NOV 4 – FEB 25



1316
Syrian GAR individuals

Created by Elise Christy from World Project

305
Syrian GAR units



Created by Elise Christy from World Project

OPERATION SYRIAN REFUGEES

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCCC) is providing regular updates (Monday to Friday) on Milestones and key figures associated with Operation Syrian Refugees (see <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcme/milestones.asp>)

As of February 23, 2015, Canada has welcomed 23,394 Syrian refugees, including: 13,439 Government Assisted Refugees, 2,034 Blended Visa Office-Referrred Refugees and 7,921 Privately Sponsored 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.issbc.org/refugee-readiness-hub). For further information please contact:

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