



Photo courtesy of cbc.ca

REFUGEE READINESS FUND NEWSLETTER #6

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

# Resources to Support Refugee Children

In January 2016 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) released the *Syrian Refugee Profile: Addendum (January 2016)* which contains information on Syrian refugees processed between November 2015 and February 2016 as part of the Government's commitment to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees by February 2016. With respect to children and youth, the information contained within the report indicates:

- **Age:** 56% of GAR applicants and 31% of PSR applicants are 14 years of age or younger (at the time of the application);
- **Language:** Between 71 and 88% of GARs under age of 14 self-report no English; and
- **Education:** While some children have continued their studies in the host countries, many are a grade or two behind their age and in most instances have only been taught in Arabic.

This large group will require language training and strong support in the education system to ensure effective integration.

The following documents provide critical information and resources for supporting this population.

## Students from Refugee Backgrounds – A Guide for Teachers and Students (2015 Revised Guide)

The Ministry of Education has produced a revised version of the 2009 *Students from Refugee Backgrounds – A Guide for Teachers and Schools*. The Guide was originally created to assist teachers and schools in planning and support of refugee students and their families.

The revised 2016 Guide provides general information about refugee experiences, offers insight into potential psychological effects for individuals who have experienced violence, and describes how escape from conflict and a subsequent refugee experience impacts their transition, from a life of instability and uncertainty to a life of new normalcy in a new country and new culture. Suggestions are made for ways in which all members of the school community can help ease this transition – creating conditions in which children and youth and their families feel welcome and safe, and in which student success enables them to see a positive future for themselves and their families.

## Syrian Resettlement in BC

### Caring for Syrian Refugee Children: A Program Guide for Welcoming Young Children and Their Families

Children coming from Syria as refugees at this time will have experienced traumatic events that will affect them in many different ways.

To help support programs in giving these children the best possible care, CMAS has brought together a team of experts in the sector to produce a comprehensive resource: *Care for Syrian Refugee Children: A Program Guide for Welcoming Young Children and Their Families* (2016).

The resource provides program staff with the knowledge and tools they'll need to better understand and respond to the unique experiences and needs of Syrian refugee children. The resource also includes tip sheets filled with practical strategies that are designed to be taken straight off the page and put into practice. These can be quickly and easily printed out to share with your team.

*B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund is part of the WelcomeBC umbrella of*



CONTEXT

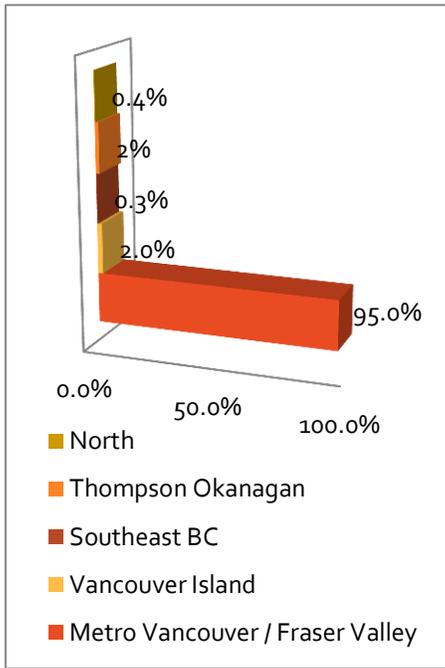
Historical Arrivals: GARs to BC

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.

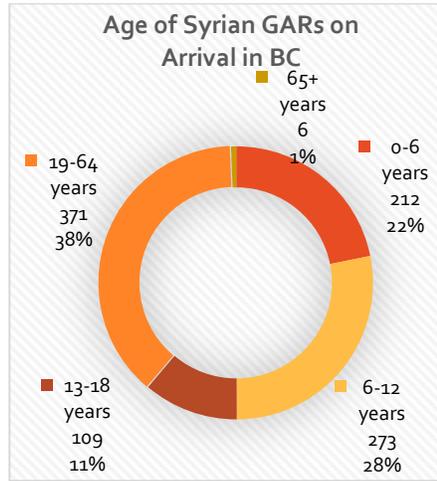
DESTINATIONS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN BC (%)

Since November 4, 2015 and as of Jan 29, 2016 – 21 BC communities have welcomed Syrian refugees.



Updates on Syrian GAR Arrivals

Since November 4, 2015 and as of January 29, 2016, ISSofBC has welcomed 971 Syrian GAR individuals / 210 family units.



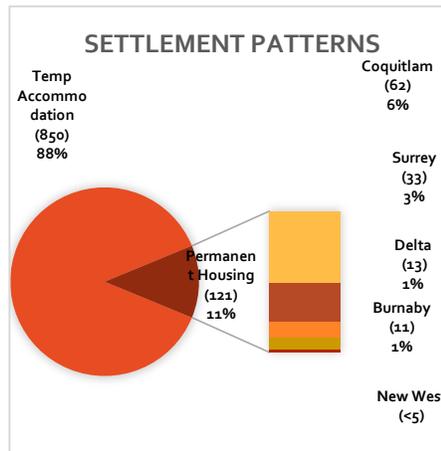
Sixty-one percent (61%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are age 18 and under. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are of school age (6 – 18 years). Over one in five arrivals are children under age 6.

Syrian GAR Settlement Patterns

As of January 29, 2016,

- 850 Syrian GARs individuals /175 units remain in temporary accommodations
- 121 Syrian GAR individuals/ 35 units have moved into permanent housing

Syrian GARs have permanently settled in Coquitlam, Surrey, Delta, Burnaby, and New Westminster.



ISSofBC's current emphasis is on identifying permanent housing across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley [Offers of Accommodation](#).

BRITISH COLUMBIAN'S RESPONSE

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 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,



accommodation

**1, 228** housing leads, plus over **110** units offered by developers, property managers and owners for temporary and permanent

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



Credited by Ryan Beck from Neat Project



**249** job leads have been submitted to our survey

**971**

Syrian GAR individuals



Credited by Ryan Beck from Neat Project

**210**

Syrian GAR units



Credited by Ryan Beck from Neat Project

SYRIAN GAR ARRIVALS: NOV 4 – JAN 29

OPERATION SYRIAN REFUGEES

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) 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/welco/me/milestones.asp>)

As of February 2, 2015, Canada has welcomed 15,685 Syrian refugees, including: 9,088 Government Assisted Refugees, 1,129 Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees and 5,468 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](http://www.issbc.org/refugee-readiness-hub)). For further information please contact:

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