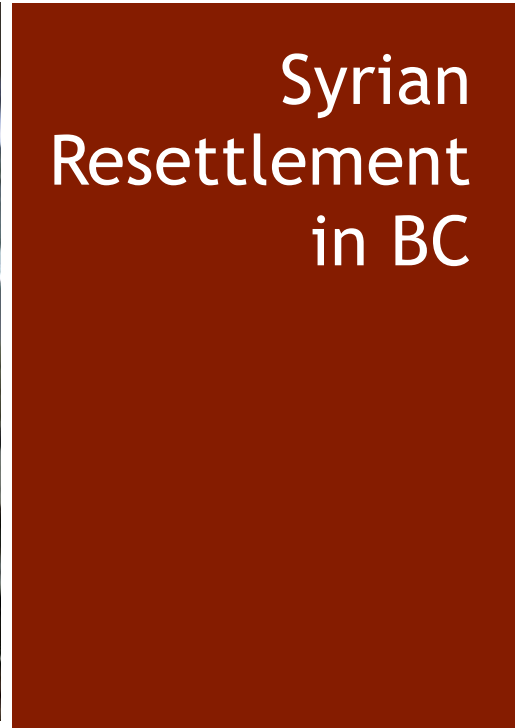




Photo courtesy of yahoo.news



REFUGEE READINESS FUND NEWSLETTER #8

MARCH 1, 2016

# Resettlement of GARs outside Metro Vancouver

ISSofBC has signed subcontracts with 6 agencies across British Columbia to resettle Government Assisted Refugees outside Metro Vancouver. Subcontracted agencies will provide RAP services, including temporary accommodations for individuals destined to these cities.

Agencies have been hard at work in their communities ensuring necessary services and supports are in place before the arrival of the GARs.

## Abbotsford

Abbotsford Community Services (ACS) welcomed 166 Syrian GAR individuals / 22 families on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

## Kamloops

Kamloops Immigrant Services (KIS) will welcome 5 families over the coming weeks.

## Kelowna

Kelowna Community Resources (KCR) will welcome 5 families over the coming weeks.

## Nanaimo

Central Vancouver Island Multi-cultural Society (CVIMS) will welcome 10 families over the coming weeks.

## Penticton

South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services (SOICS) will welcome 5 families over the coming weeks.

## Prince George

Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society (IMSS) of Prince George will welcome 10 families over the coming weeks

## Vernon

Vernon and District Immigrant Services Society (VDISS) will welcome 5 families over the coming weeks



## Canada has welcomed more than 25,000 Syrian refugees through the #WelcomeRefugees Initiative

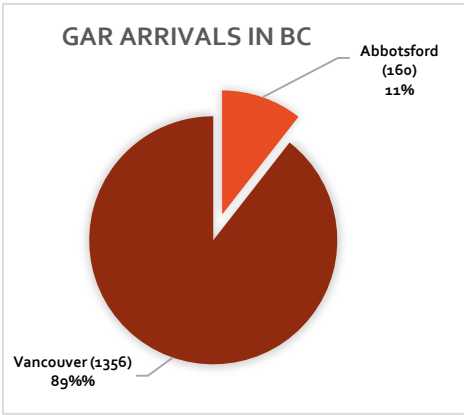
IRCC News Release:  
<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1036919>

*BC Refugee Readiness Fund is part of the WelcomeBC*



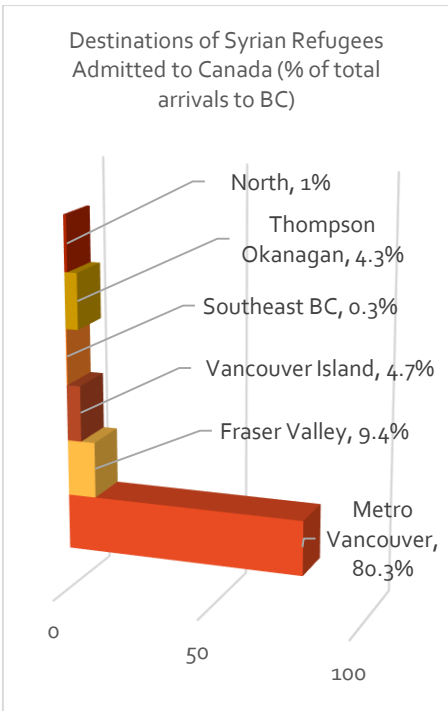
*umbrella of services, made possible through funding from the Province of British Columbia*

**GAR ARRIVALS IN BC**



**DESTINATIONS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN BC (%)**

Since November 4, 2015 and as of February 29, 2016, 35 BC communities have welcomed Syrian refugees.



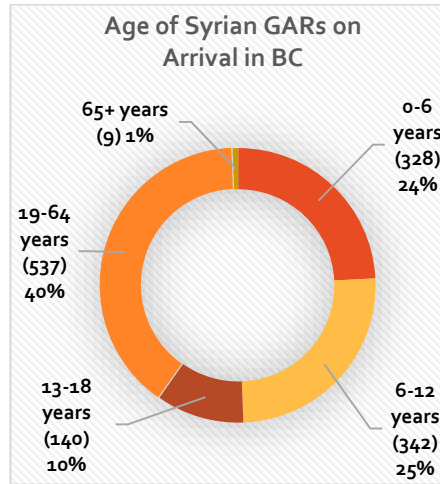
**OPERATION SYRIAN REFUGEES**

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/welcom/milestones.asp>)

As of February 23, 2015, Canada has welcomed 25,323 Syrian refugees, including: 14,418 Government Assisted Refugees, 2,179 Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees and 8,726 Privately Sponsored Refugees.

**Updates on Syrian GAR Arrivals**

Since November 4, 2015 and as of February 29, 2016, ISSofBC and their subcontractors have welcomed 1516 Syrian GAR individuals / 338 family units.

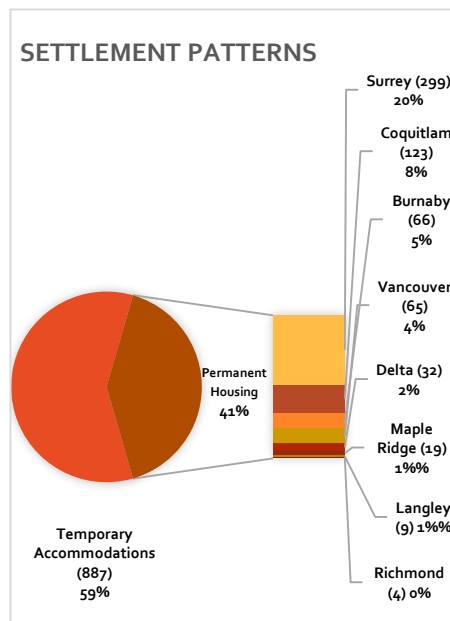


Fifty-nine (59%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are age 18 and under. Thirty-five percent (35%) of Syrian GAR arrivals are of school age (6 – 18 years). Almost one in four arrivals are children under age 6.

**Syrian GAR Settlement Patterns**

- As of February 29, 2016,
- 887 Syrian GARs individuals /191 units remain in temporary accommodations
- 617 Syrian GAR individuals / 145 units have moved into permanent housing

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



**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,



**1,268** 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.

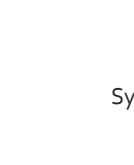


**284** job leads have been submitted to our survey

**SYRIAN GAR ARRIVALS: NOV 4 – FEB 29**



**1516**  
Syrian GAR individuals



**339**  
Syrian GAR units

**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:

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

TOLL-FREE PHONE: 1-844-447-9742