

# Refugee Readiness Training and Resources

## FACT SHEET #4 – Syrian Refugee Resettlement in BC

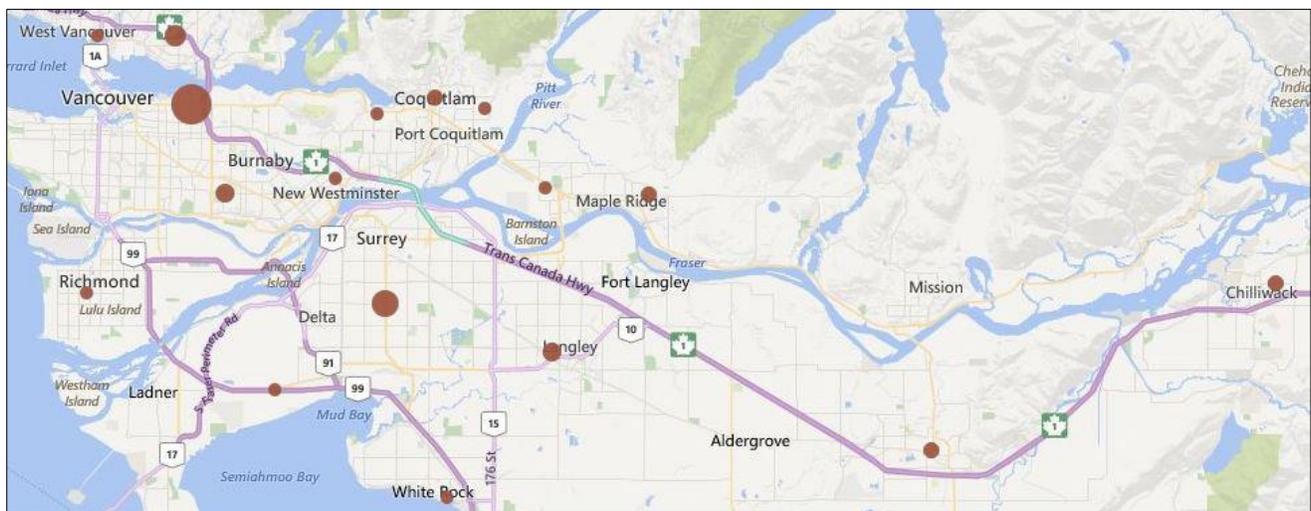
### What Could the Resettlement of 25,000 Syrian Government Assisted Refugees Mean for BC?

- Over the last decade British Columbia has settled approximately 800-900 Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) to Canada each year – or approximately 10-12% of GARS resettling in Canada;
- According to the [December 9, 2015 media release](#) from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC): “The Minister noted that many municipalities have expressed an interest in welcoming Syrians as part of the current initiative. Following arrival at ports of entry in Canada, Government-assisted refugees (GARs) will go to one of 36 cities across Canada where there are organizations with services specifically for refugees. There they will receive immediate and specialized support services. In subsequent weeks they will move into permanent accommodation including in surrounding communities, or elsewhere in the province where supports are available”
- In British Columbia all GARs are currently destined to Metro Vancouver.
- Canada Target – IRCC has indicated up to:
  - 2,000 Syrian GARs in December 2015
  - 15,000 Syrian GARs in January and February 2016
  - 8,000 Syrian GARs from March to December 2016These arrivals are on top of the current targets.
- BC Target (projected based on early indications from IRCC):
  - 240 Syrian GARs before the end of December 2015 (13 of whom have arrived to date)
  - 1,560 Syrian GARs in January and February 2016
  - 1,200 Syrian GARs from March to December 2016These arrivals are on top of existing targets
- The total number of privately sponsored Syrian refugees who will arrive in British Columbia as part of this movement is unknown as it is related to demand from Private Sponsors (including Sponsorship Agreement Holders and Groups of 5); current projections are that British Columbia will receive 209 Syrian PSRs before the end of 2015;
- Syrian GARs and PSRs will arrive in BC as permanent residents as is the current practice with all GARs resettled to Canada;
- Syrian GARs will live on federal resettlement income support for their first year in BC (based on provincial welfare rates). See BC Social Assistance Rates: <http://www.sdsi.gov.bc.ca/mhr/ia.htm>. RAP clients also receive a monthly \$100 supplement for their first year in Canada.

- Resettlement patterns of GARs in BC are dictated by the search for permanent accommodations. Over the last five years, eighty five (85%) of all government assisted refugees have settled in five (5) cities within Metro Vancouver including Surrey, Coquitlam, Burnaby, New Westminister and Vancouver.
- Future settlement patterns will be influenced by our ability to identify permanent accommodations; as such they may differ from previous patterns
- To date, ISSofBC has received 949 offers of housing from 51 communities across the Province, with the largest concentrations in Metro Vancouver (70%), Vancouver Island (11%) and the Fraser Valley (7%). Offers of housing outside Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley have been forwarded to local settlement agencies.

### **Snapshot – Offers of Housing in Metro Vancouver (as of Dec 3, 2015)**

- The response to date has been overwhelmingly positive. Individuals and companies from across Metro Vancouver, including the Fraser Valley, have reached out offering rooms in houses, basement suites, apartments, houses, and in some cases entire buildings
- It is important to note, this information is on housing leads received as of December 3, 2015, these housing leads have not been assessed for suitability, nor have those offering rooms in houses had orientation to ensure they fully understand what they are committing to. Within Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley – all individuals offering a room in a house will be invited to a group orientation session, those who are still interested will be asked to undergo a criminal record check and an ISSofBC staff will go to the house to assess suitability.
- As of December 3<sup>rd</sup> we have received 729 offers of housing from 17 communities across Metro Vancouver (667 offers, 91%) and the Fraser Valley (62 offers, 9%)
- Based on responses to the housing survey launched in early November 2015, the possible resettlement pattern in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley (based on city, not address) follows:



- ISSofBC has received additional offers of support from building managers and developers for units in buildings and/or entire; many are located in Vancouver, Surrey, Coquitlam and New Westminister.

## Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley

- Offers of accommodations within Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley have come predominantly from Vancouver (30%), Surrey (16%), and North Vancouver (9%)
- Fifty percent (50%) of housing leads to date are for a room in a house (363/729), followed by one and two bedroom units (138 units or 19% and 116 units or 16% respectively)
- In some cities, rooms in houses account for over 70% of all offers, including: Richmond (73%), Pitt Meadows (75%) and Port Moody (100%)
- There are a small number of 1 to 5+ br houses (48 total)

Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley	#	% of total
Bachelor suite	46	6%
House - 1 br	13	2%
House - 2 br	11	2%
House - 3 br	8	1%
House - 4 br	5	1%
House - 5+ br	11	2%
Room in House	362	50%
Unit - 1 br	138	19%
Unit - 2 br	116	16%
Unit - 3 br	19	3%

