



# Canada's Resettlement Programs



## **A tradition of humanitarian action**

- Our compassion and fairness are a source of great pride for Canadians. These values are at the core of our domestic refugee protection system and our Resettlement Assistance Program.
- Canada resettles refugees to save lives and to provide stability to those fleeing persecution who have no hope of relief.
- Our resettlement programs are respected internationally because they provide permanent residence as a long term solution.

# A tradition of humanitarian action

Canada is a welcoming society that continues to answer the call of helping the most vulnerable around the world. We have a history of answering that call time and time again.

- 1969: Canada signed the *United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, and its Protocol, agreeing not to return a person to their country of origin if that person had grounds to fear persecution.
- 1979 -1980: More than 60,000 Boat People found refuge in Canada after the Communist victory in the Vietnam War. It was through this outpouring of support of Canadians that the Privately Sponsored Refugee Program was created.
- 1986: The United Nations awarded Canada the Nansen Medal for its outstanding humanitarian tradition of settling refugees.
- 1992: 5,000 Bosnian Muslims were admitted to Canada to escape the ethnic cleansing in the Yugoslav Civil War.
- 1999: Canada airlifted more than 5,000 Kosovars, most of whom were Muslim, to safety.
- 2006: Canada resettled over 3,900 Karen refugees from refugee camps in Thailand.
- 2008: Canada began the process of resettling more than 5,000 Bhutanese refugees over five years.
- 2015-2016: Canada resettled over 35,000 Syrian refugees fleeing the war in Syria.

# Types of Resettlement to Canada

There are three ways that refugees are resettled to Canada:

- **Government-Assisted refugees (GARs)**
  - These are Convention refugees whose initial settlement (for up to one year) is entirely supported by the Government of Canada or by the province of Quebec.
  - They are referred to Canada for resettlement by a referral organization like the UNHCR.
- **Privately Sponsored refugees (PSRs)**
  - These are refugees who meet either the Convention refugee or the Country of Asylum definitions.
  - They are referred for resettlement by a private sponsor in Canada who agrees to provide financial and other support for the refugee for one year.
- **Blended Visa Office-Referred refugees (BVORs)**
  - These are Convention refugees referred by the UNHCR who are matched with a private sponsor in Canada.
  - The Government of Canada provides up to six months of income support through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP), while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support and up to a year of social and emotional support.

# Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs)

- Under the Government-Assisted Refugees (GAR) Program, refugees are referred to Canada for resettlement by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) or another referral organization. Individuals cannot apply directly.
- GARs receive support for up to one year from the date they arrive in Canada, or until they are able to support themselves, whichever happens first. It may include:
  - Accommodation
  - Clothing
  - Food
  - Help in finding employment and becoming self-supporting; and
  - Other resettlement assistance
- Organizations offering resettlement services to newcomers to Canada are called **Service Provider Organizations (SPOs)**. There are various service provider organizations located throughout Canada working within the **Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)**.

# Financial Assistance for GARs

## Resettlement Assistance Program

Resettlement assistance is provided by the Government of Canada to Convention Refugees Abroad and, in some instances, to members of the Country of Asylum Class who have been identified as refugees with special needs and who have been admitted to Canada as government-assisted refugees. Refugees who claimed refugee protection from inside Canada are not eligible for this program. These funds are used to help pay for:

- meeting the refugee at the airport or port of entry;
- temporary accommodation;
- help in finding permanent accommodation;
- basic household items; and
- general orientation to life in Canada.

This money is also used to give the refugee income support for up to one year or until that person becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first.

# Financial Assistance for GARs

## Immigration Loans Program

The Immigration Loans Program (ILP) helps government-assisted and privately sponsored members of the Convention Refugees Abroad and Country of Asylum. The ILP covers:

- costs of medical examinations abroad;
- travel documents; and
- transportation to Canada.

Loans are approved according to the applicant's needs and ability to repay.

Assistance loans are also available to newcomers to cover expenses such as rental housing, telephone deposits and work tools.

Interest is charged on ILP loans. The interest rate is set each January by the Department of Finance.

# Service Provider Organizations (SPOs) in Canada

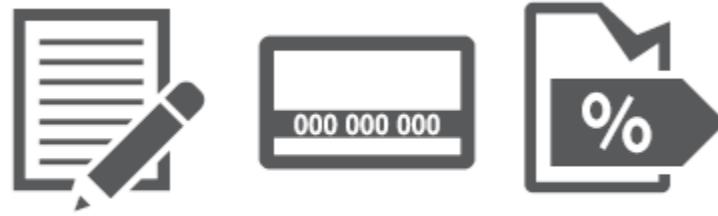


## Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs)

- Canadian citizens and permanent residents provide opportunities for some refugees to find protection and build a new life here through Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program.
- Since the late 1970s, private sponsors have brought more than 288,000 refugees to Canada, over and above those resettled with government funding.
- Private sponsorships are arranged by ordinary Canadians who are often, although not always, associated with faith-based organizations, community associations, humanitarian organizations, educational institutions and ethnic groups.
- These groups agree to provide the refugees with support for the duration of the sponsorship period and are currently located in more than 300 communities across Canada. Support is usually provided for 12 months starting from the refugee's arrival in Canada or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first. Sponsors identify who they wish to sponsor.
- Private sponsors are required to demonstrate that they have the necessary funds and volunteer base to support the refugees they are sponsoring.

# The Role of Private Sponsors

## Reception and Orientation



Help refugees complete any required initial government forms



Give refugees an orientation to Canada and the community for 1 year

# The Role of Private Sponsors

## Housing and Financial Support



Permanent housing



Initial household start-up costs



Living allowance for 1 year

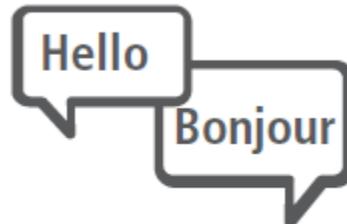
# The Role of Private Sponsors

## On-Going Social Support

Introduce refugees to community support groups and settlement services



Healthcare



Language Training



Employment



Childcare



Transportation



School

## Blended Visa Office-Referred Program

- The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program matches refugees identified for resettlement by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) with private sponsors in Canada.
- The goal is to engage in a three-way partnership among the Government of Canada, the UNHCR, and private sponsors.
  - The UNHCR will identify the refugees.
  - The Government of Canada will provide up to six months of income support through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP).
  - Private sponsors will provide another six months of financial support and up to a year of social and emotional support.

# The Settlement Journey for Refugees in Canada

## Arriving in Canada



Refugees are welcomed at the airport by their sponsors or by local Service Provider Organizations



Refugees are provided temporary housing, food, and clothing ensuring essential needs are met



Canada's recently restored Interim Federal Health Program takes care of refugees arriving with health issues until they receive provincial health coverage



Refugees sign up for orientation and learn about life in Canada

# The Settlement Journey for Refugees in Canada

## During the First Year



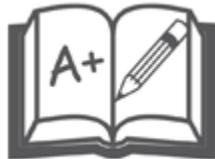
Financial assistance is offered to those refugees in need for up to one year, to help them settle in Canada by the federal government or private sponsors



A range of settlement services are available to all newcomers to help them adapt to life in Canada



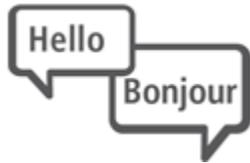
Service Provider Organizations provide English or French language classes, orientation, and help newcomers in finding work and getting their foreign credentials recognized



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada supports youth and kids in schools across Canada through the Settlement Workers in Schools initiative

# The Settlement Journey for Refugees in Canada

## Longer-Term After Arriving in Canada



Language training and other settlement services continue to be available until the refugee becomes a Canadian citizen



Not all refugees can support themselves right away. For those who need continued support, provincial/territorial social assistance programs are available



The long-term success of all refugees to Canada improves over time and is even more pronounced in the second generation

## Canada's Syrian Refugee Initiative



- In November 2015, Canada pledged to resettle 25,000 refugees from the conflict in Syria.
- The initial goal was reached by February 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 and Canada is continuing to resettle refugees from the region.
- Canadians from across the country came together to support and sponsor refugees.

# Canada's Syrian Refugee Initiative

As of January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 **40,081** Syrian refugees have been resettled to Canada

**21,876** Government Assisted Refugees

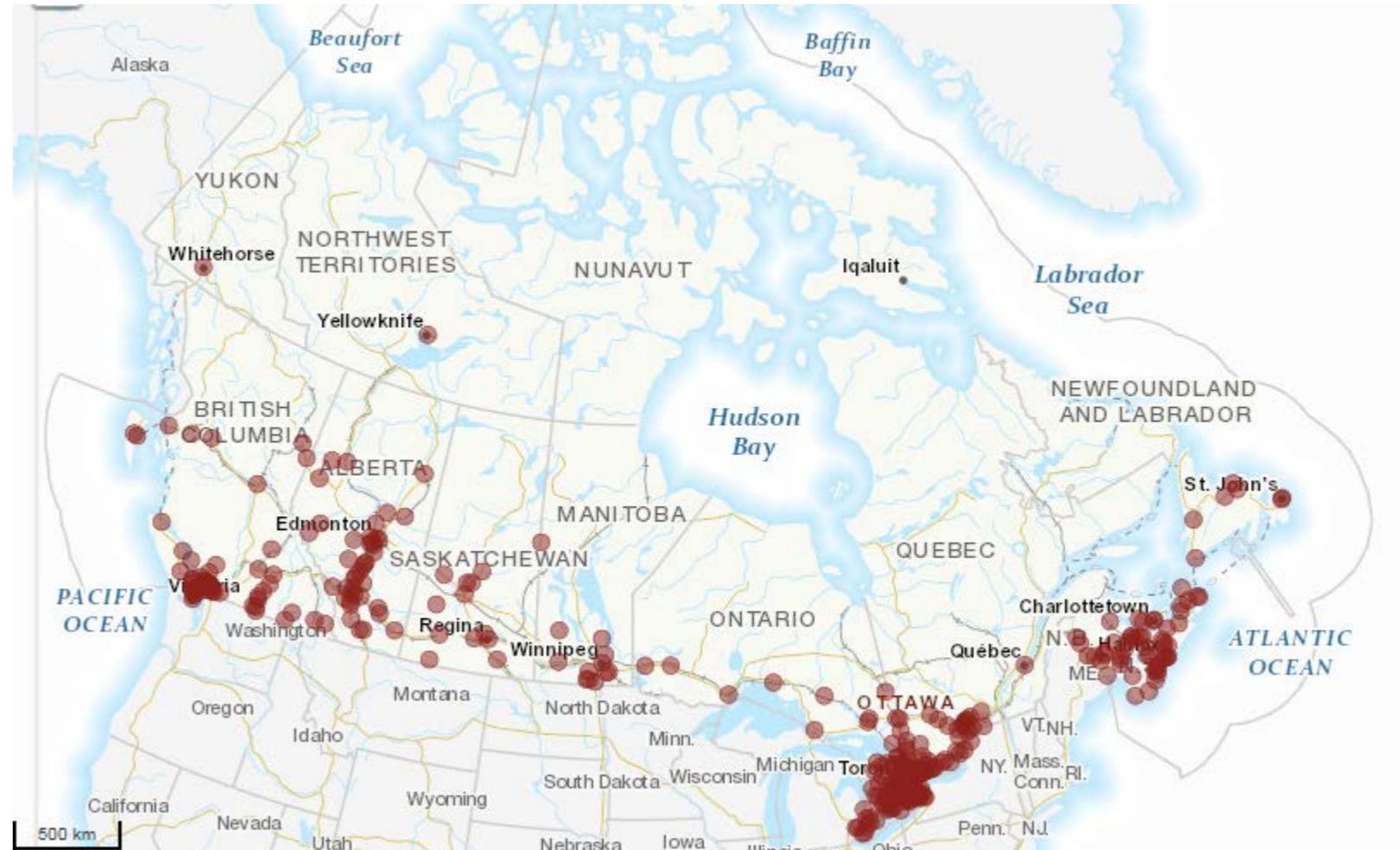
**14,274** Privately Sponsored Refugees

**3,931** Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees



**350 communities** across Canada have welcomed these refugees

# Canada's Syrian Refugee Initiative



A heat-map of where Syrian Refugees have resettled across Canada

## Global PSR Initiative

- The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative is being led by the Government of Canada, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the University of Ottawa, the Radcliffe Foundation, and the Open Society Foundations.
- The initiative is designed to provide training and advice to countries interested in replicating the Canadian model.
- The goal is to mobilize citizens and create alternative pathways for admission of refugees.
- Furthering private sponsorship can help to build social support for welcoming refugees and build more diverse and inclusive societies.