

Refugees: The Facts

What is a refugee?

Refugees are people who have fled their countries because of a justifiable fear of persecution – they are unable to return home.

Most refugees in Canada gain their status by seeking protection and resettlement from outside Canada via the Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program. Some make a claim for refugee protection from within Canada via the In-Canada Asylum Program.

How is a refugee different from an immigrant?

An immigrant is a person who chooses to settle permanently in another country. Refugees are forced to flee.

What kind of assistance do refugees receive?

Refugees often do not have the resources to easily establish themselves – they need support. As Canadians, we are proud to offer them the help they need to rebuild their lives.

Are there different kinds of refugees?



Government-Assisted Refugees (GAR)

These refugees are identified outside of Canada by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). It can take up to 3 years to screen these cases to ensure there are no issues related to security, criminality or health.

Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR)

These refugees are identified by persons/groups in the community that have come together to sponsor refugee(s).

Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

These refugees are supported by the Government of Canada and private sponsors jointly.

	GARs	PSRs	BVORs
Who provides support?	Government of Canada via the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)	Private sponsors	Government of Canada via the RAP and private sponsors
How long do they receive support?	Up to 1 year	Up to 1 year; some may be eligible for up to 3 years	Up to 1 year; shared between RAP and private sponsors
Who pays for their living expenses when they arrive?	Monthly income support for shelter, food and incidentals are provided through the federal RAP	Private sponsors provide financial support for shelter, food and incidentals	Six months of RAP income, six months of financial assistance from private sponsors

Total Syrian Refugee Arrivals in Canada: 26,202

(Data collected March 8, 2016)

Syrian Refugees are being welcomed in 261 communities across Canada.

GARs 15,001

BVORs 2,225

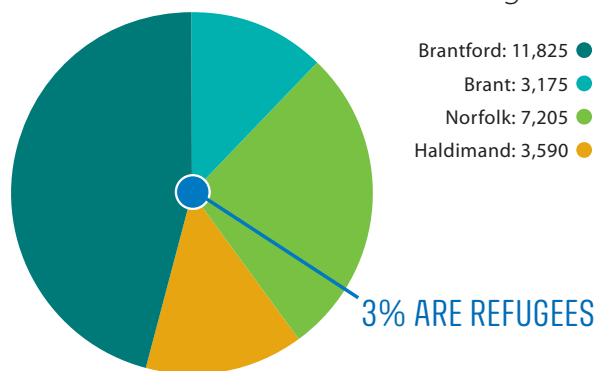
PSRs 8,976

ALL ARRIVALS IN GRAND ERIE ARE PSRS

Communities across Canada are welcoming refugees. For these new arrivals and other immigrants a sense of belonging is important to adjust to their new lives in Canada. Get involved and help welcome our new neighbours.

Grand Erie Population (2011): 232,628

2011 Grand Erie Distribution of Immigrants



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. RDM as of November 2013.

For more information:

Grand Erie District School Board www.granderie.ca

Grand River Community Health Centre www.grandriverchc.ca

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/canada.asp

Lifeline Syria www.lifelinesyria.ca

Newcomer Connections Brantford Brant www.newcomerconnections.ca

YMCA Hamilton, Burlington, Brantford www.ymcahbb

Settlement Services

IRCC funds settlement programs to help newcomers settle and adapt to life in Canada. In Grand Erie, settlement services are offered by [YMCA Hamilton, Burlington, Brantford](#). Their services include:

- Introduction to Canadian life & culture
- One-to-one advisement, support, information & referrals
- Orientation to Ontario
- International Student Connect Pilot Project
- Help with various immigration forms & documents
- Conversational Circles, Homework Help & Youth Fusion

Housing

Permanent, safe, affordable housing is a challenge in many communities. Refugees do not have priority access to housing. Most local refugees are PSRs – their housing needs are provided by their sponsors for a minimum of one year.

Health

Family doctors in Brantford, Brant, Haldimand & Norfolk are available to accept new patients including refugees. Those without a family practitioner can receive primary health care through the [Grand River Community Health Centre](#).

Interpretation services are available in a variety of languages in health care facilities throughout Grand Erie.

Language

Children and adults are encouraged to learn English or French. Free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are available through the [Grand Erie District School Board](#). Free Conversational Circles for adults are also available in Brantford, Simcoe and Dunnville.

Education/Training

Many Syrian children have been without formal education for months, some for years. School aged children and youth will be assessed and placed in the appropriate grade level.

Adults that have international credentials are encouraged to have them assessed to determine equivalency. [Employment Ontario](#) agencies are available throughout Grand Erie to help refugees with this process.

Adults can pursue high school equivalency, post-secondary education and other training opportunities via the [Grand Erie District School Board](#).

Employment

Adult refugees are encouraged to seek employment. Local supports are available via [Employment Ontario](#) agencies to assist with credential assessment and job search.

Funded by:

Financé par :



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada