



Syrian Refugee Resettlement Initiative

Overview and Reflections

Pathways to Prosperity

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Outline

1. Overview of Government of Canada plan for the resettlement of Syrian refugees and update on progress and achievements to date
2. Reflections on success factors and initial lessons learned from a national perspective

Government of Canada plan

#WelcomeRefugees



On November 24, 2015 the Government of Canada announced a five-phased plan to welcome 25,000 Syrian refugees in Canada as quickly as possible. This goal was achieved on February 27, 2016. ³

Government of Canada plan

PHASE 1

Identifying Syrian refugees to come to Canada



PHASE 2

Processing Syrian refugees overseas



PHASE 3

Transportation to Canada



PHASE 4

Welcoming in Canada



PHASE 5

Settlement and community integration



Large scale outreach and expedited processing

PHASE 1

Identifying Syrian refugees to come to Canada



- **Diversification of private sponsorship** – *New sponsors, new programs, new stakeholders (e.g., G5 and BVOR, Syrian Family Links Program)*
- **Technology** - *UNHCR sent over 60,000 text messages to potential applicants*

PHASE 2

Processing Syrian refugees overseas



- **Partnerships** - *Streamlined processing enabled by collaboration with international partners and OGDs*
- **Security** - *Full completion of medicals, security clearance before travel to Canada*

Arrival of 99 chartered flights in just over 80 days*; temporary lodging and onward travel for thousands of families



PHASE 3

Transportation to Canada

- **Charters** - *Transportation via privately chartered aircraft, military airlift for initial flights*
- **Communication** – *Information to Canadians about arrivals (website)*



PHASE 4

Welcoming in Canada

- **Welcome Centres** – *Immigration, customs, waiting areas, SIN cards, winter clothing*
- **Reception capacity** – *Onward destining informed by real-time information on reception capacity*

* Includes Canadian Forces Airlifts. First flight of Syrian refugees arrived December 10, 2015.



DND Combat Camera Operation Provision here:

<http://www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca/netpub/server.np?find>

YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Yw1Q9t2OW0>

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cfcombatcamera/23548284822>



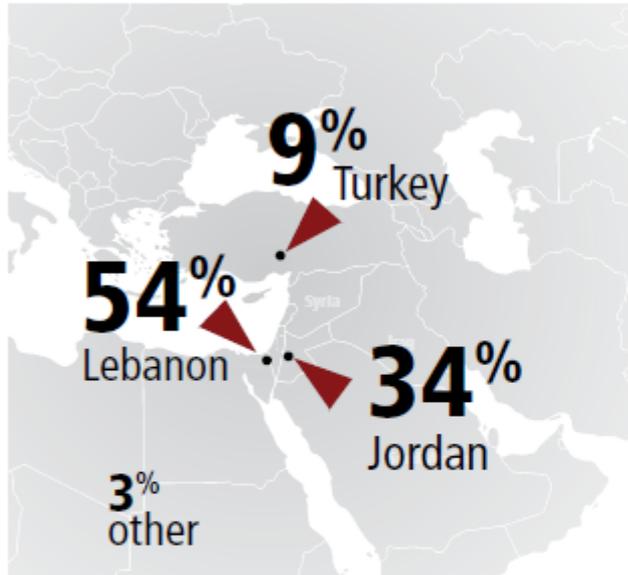
- Settlement and integration take time, and require support
 - IRCC Resettlement Assistance and Settlement programs address a continuum of needs and priorities
 - Other federal departments focus on affordable housing strategy, employment, public health, child and family benefits
 - Provinces lead on education, health, social services
 - Municipal governments deliver key services related to housing, transportation, childcare, recreation, and policing





Total Refugees 26,140

November 4, 2015, to March 1, 2016



99 Flights

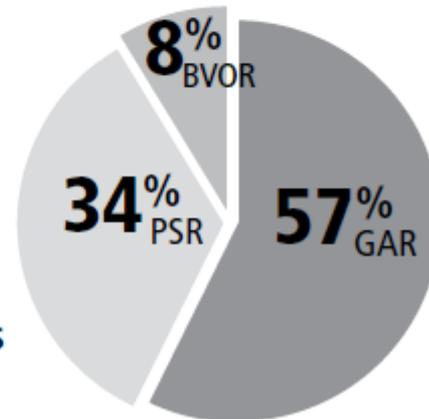


56
Toronto

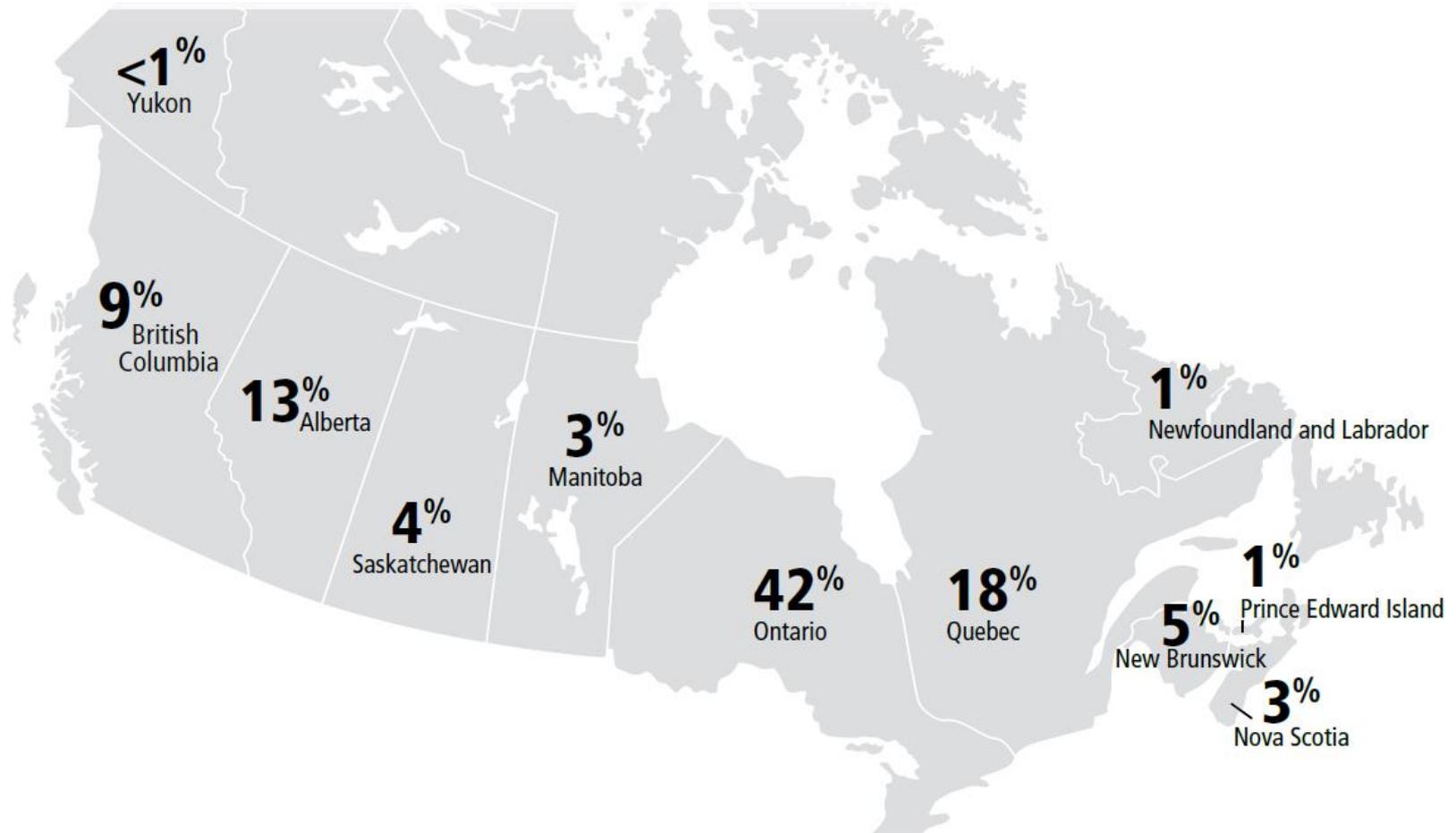
43
Montréal

Admissions by program

- Government-Assisted Refugees
- Privately Sponsored Refugees
- Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees



Destination by province or territory



Early lessons learned and reflections...

Success Factors

Ambitious timelines, targets

Public support

Partnerships

Innovation

Engagement

Key Challenges

Implications of pace, scale

Needs of the population

Maintaining support,
engagement

Long-term integration

National reflections on successes and best practices

Significance of accomplishments to date

- 34,696 Syrian Refugees arrived in Canada
- Accessing permanent housing and settlement services

Leadership, planning and cooperation

- November 28-29 meetings, Governor General event, Ministerial Summits
- Provincial engagement and leadership; Local, multi-sector planning tables

Contribution and engagement of partners

- Extraordinary efforts of partners to expand reception capacity
- Six fold increase in private sponsorship applications, >260 communities
- Mobilization of individuals and corporate Canada

Flexibility and adaptability

- Welcome Centres; case management; start up cheques; funding roll out
- Weekend arrivals; innovative models (e.g. Rexdale, serving children)

Engagement and communication

- Website, technical briefings, social media, regular calls with partners
- New information exchanges (e.g., outlooks; reception capacity)



April 18, 2016 – Minister McCallum recognizing the role of Resettlement Assistance Program service providers

Annex: Profile of Syrian Refugees

- Information gathered as of January 2016 indicate that Syrian resettled refugees who have arrived, or are expected to arrive, have **lower literacy, official language proficiency and educational attainment** than previous Syrian cohorts and other immigrants.
 - Between 63% and 88% adult Syrian GARs who are 25 years and over speak no English or French.
 - 68% of adults (15 years or older) have secondary school education or less.
 - Syrian children have some schooling, but may be a grade or two behind for their age and are taught only in Arabic.
 - Work experience of adults based on anecdotal evidence shows a largely low-skilled population, almost entirely males. Most common occupations are: drivers, construction workers, general labourers, cooks and farmers.
- Data on the demographic characteristics of this cohort of Syrian refugees suggest a **greater need for support to children/youth** and **affordable housing** that is suited to large families.
 - 53% of Syrian GARs have families of 5-8 members.
 - 56% of Syrian GARs are children aged 14 years old or younger.

Annex: Canada offers refugees a path to permanent residence, citizenship and resettlement/settlement services

Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)

Services under RAP are mainly for GARs and are in addition to services that are available to GARs under IRCC'S Settlement Program.

• **Immediate and essential services.** These include: reception at port-of-entry; transport to temporary accommodation; information and referrals to public services; assistance in finding permanent accommodation; life skills training; and financial information.

• **Income support.** This consists of: a one-time start-up allowance to cover costs for furniture, clothing, basic household supplies and staples; and monthly income support (aligned with PT social assistance rates) to cover the costs of food, shelter and other necessities for up to 12 months. In some cases, income support is provided for up to 24 months.

The delivery of supports to refugees and other immigrants involve community-based non-profit organizations, educational institutions and other actors as service providers.

Settlement Program

Settlement and integration services are available free-of-charge to those who have been accepted as permanent residents, including refugees and protected persons.

- **Information and orientation.** In-person orientation services, on-line resources and publications (i.e., Welcome to Canada).
- **Literacy and language training.** Language learning is combined with information and skills to support settlement and integration.
- **Labour market access supports.** Assistance to enable access to jobs (e.g., job search orientation, employer connections).
- **Community connections.** Initiatives that foster interaction between newcomers and Canadians, as well as creating welcoming institutions and communities.
- **Support services:** On-site child care for those who use services, crisis counselling, transportation and supports to persons with disabilities.