

The Importance of Sector Collaboration in Addressing Refugee Housing Needs





Roundtable Outline

01.

**Introduction to Housing
and Refugees**

02.

**Pillar 1 – Sector
Collaboration**

03.

**Pillar 2 – Identifying
Housing Gaps for
Refugees**

04.

**Pillar 3 – Solutions and
Ways Forward**

Who Are We?

- MOSAIC is a settlement agency in the Greater Vancouver Area, focusing on settlement and employment services for newcomers
- MOSAIC has a longstanding tradition of providing a number of essential support services to various immigration populations, specifically refugees and asylum seekers



+24K
Clients
Served



19
Mosaic
Sites

Top 5 Countries of Origin



What's In a Name?

Refugee

A person who has been forced to flee their country because of persecution, war, or violence

| Government Assisted Refugee (GAR) | Privately Sponsored Refugee (PSR) | Asylum Seeker/ Refugee Claimant |
|--|--|--|
| Resettled refugee who receives support on their arrival from the government for 1 year | Resettled refugee who receives support on their arrival from private groups for 1 year | A person who has made a claim for protection as a refugee. They will receive a decision on whether they are refugees after their arrival to Canada |

Canadian Housing Context

Over 1 in 10 Canadians reported they had experienced some form of homelessness in their lifetime

By 2022, nearly half of Canadians expressed concerns about their ability to afford housing, and 10% reported experiencing hidden homelessness, such as couch surfing.

In 2024, the federal government launched a new housing plan to expand affordable housing, increase housing supply, enhance renter protections, and combat homelessness.

Housing Needs of Refugees in BC

78% of Vancouver emergency shelters reported an increase in refugees

Refugees in BC, particularly in Metro Vancouver, face significant challenges in securing safe and affordable housing. Their precarious immigration status, limited financial resources, and lack of local rental history often make it difficult to find stable accommodations. This is compounded by the region's high rates of homelessness and critical shortage of affordable housing options. Additionally, refugees often have multi-faceted needs such as access to employment, language services, and community support, which further complicates their housing search and long-term stability.

Discussion Pillars



Sector Collaboration



**Identifying Housing
Gaps for Refugees**



**Solutions and Ways
Forward**

Guiding Questions

- 01.** Can you share any successful examples of collaboration that have resulted in improved housing outcomes for refugee claimants?
- 02.** What potential collaborations with non-traditional stakeholders (e.g. private sector, faith groups, etc.) could enhance housing solutions for refugee claimants?

Discussion Pillars



Sector Collaboration



**Identifying Housing
Gaps for Refugees**



**Solutions and Ways
Forward**

Guiding Questions

01. What are some of the barriers impacting better collaborations between settlement organizations, housing providers, stakeholders outside of the sector (e.g. shelters, wider community groups, etc.), and government agencies?
02. What are some of the gaps in housing services for refugees?

Discussion Pillars



Sector Collaboration



**Identifying Housing
Gaps for Refugees**



**Solutions and Ways
Forward**

Guiding Questions

- 01.** Given the current housing challenges, what key actions should we prioritize over the next year to improve housing access for refugees?
- 02.** How can we ensure that future collaboration models are both sustainable and scalable in the long term?
- 03.** What role should local governments and policymakers play in facilitating these collaborations?
- 04.** How can we collectively build greater public awareness and support for housing solutions for refugees?
- 05.** What are some other creative solutions to address some of the housing needs for refugee claimants?



Thank you

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