



Community and Health Services Department
Office of the Commissioner

Memorandum

TO: Members of Regional Council

FROM: Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: December 17, 2015

RE: **Syrian Refugee Resettlement**

This memo provides an update on the Government of Canada's Plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees. The government's five-phase national plan includes:

- Identifying Syrian refugees to come to Canada
- Selecting and processing Syrian refugees overseas
- Transportation to Canada
- Arrival and welcoming in Canada
- Settlement and community integration

By December 31, 2015, the government will identify all 25,000 refugees. The target is for 10,000 Syrian refugees to arrive in Canada by the end of this year and the remainder to arrive by the end of February 2016.

(<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/overview.asp>)

Priority will be given to families, women at risk, members of sexual minorities, and single men only if they are identified as gay, bisexual or transgendered or are travelling as part of a family. All resettlement cases will be screened for security, criminality or health issues prior to arrival.

The federal government will invest up to \$678 million over six years towards resettlement and integration support. The Ontario government has agreed to accept 10,000 refugees and committed \$10.5 million over two years on the project. For more information on the Ontario plans, please refer to Attachment 1 which is a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

(<https://news.ontario.ca/mci/en/2015/11/ontario-preparing-to-welcome-syrian-refugees.html>)

The Refugee System

The refugees will come through two primary streams:

1. Government Assisted Refugees (GAR): Canada works with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify refugees for resettlement. Refugees arriving through this stream may access the six reception centres managed by settlement agencies in Hamilton, Kitchener, Toronto, Ottawa, Windsor, and London. The GARs are eligible for the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) from the federal government which is a one-year financial assistance program to provide for the basic needs of life, immediate essential services and temporary accommodation. (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/resettle-gov.asp>)

The federal government has not yet released any numbers related to this stream. COSTI Immigrant Services is the settlement agency that hosts the RAP program in the GTA. They also operate one of the Welcome Centre Immigrant Services Hubs in York Region. COSTI is currently able to receive and transition up to 500 refugees. Arrangements have been made with hotels in Toronto and Mississauga to meet this need and COSTI has not requested any formal housing support from York Region.

2. Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR): Private sponsors across the country also help resettle refugees to Canada. These are persons/groups/organizations in the community that have come together to sponsor a refugee(s) or refugee family. Private sponsors can identify refugees to sponsor and organize a support network and must raise adequate funds to support the refugees for approximately one year upon arrival in Canada.

The majority of those arriving in 2015 will be PSR. These refugees will be admitted into Canada, landing in either Montreal or Toronto, and will continue directly on to their destination community. (http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1024099&_ga=1.210590997.1434345706.1447881297)

Destination	Privately Sponsored Syrian Refugees (In Process)	
	Number	Share of Canadian Total
Canada	4,511	100%
Ontario	3,285	73%
GTA	2,766	61%
York Region	76	2%

Note: Numbers do not include destination communities with values less than 5.

Source: Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada. Data Retrieved from <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/map.asp> on December 1, 2015.

York Region Impact

Between 2008 and 2012, 235 Syrians arrived in York Region. According to the table above, approximately 76 refugees are being sponsored by groups of individuals or organizations in York Region communities, mostly in the southern municipalities. Information about the profile of each person or each family unit is not provided by the federal government.

Municipalities are not mandated to provide specific refugee supports yet some are taking several proactive measures to assist. This includes hosting information sessions/fairs for private sponsors to create awareness of services available to newcomers, reallocating funding/resources to support internal and community coordination efforts, and promoting positive attitude campaigns to foster a welcoming community for newcomers.

York Region will provide services to refugees that are within its mandate including Public Health programs such as parenting workshops, family visits, breastfeeding services and breakfast and healthy school programming.

York Region's well-developed Welcome Centre Service Delivery system provides services from settlement to language and employment supports across five Centres, located in Markham (two centres), Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Newmarket. The Region's dedicated immigration information portal, YorkWelcome.ca also provides information and resources on settlement for new residents. The influx of refugees in such a compressed period may put pressure on settlement agencies in York Region.

If required, York Region may consider making funds available for local agencies to enhance their capacity, such as expanding hours, providing additional staff or increasing mental health services. The Region may also explore temporary housing options for refugees, if necessary.

York Region Next Steps

Staff will collaborate with the Welcome Centres and will host an information fair targeted to current and future sponsors of Syrian refugees. The information fair will be held in early 2016 and will provide an opportunity to learn more about immigrant and refugee supports available in York Region. Representatives from some of the settlement organizations as outlined in Attachment 2, the Region and local municipalities will be invited to participate in the fair.

Details regarding the information fair will be posted on YorkWelcome.ca and shared with Regional Council. The website will be updated to include a section for refugee specific information.

This continues to be an evolving issue which will be monitored as refugees settle in York Region. Additional updates will be provided to Regional Council as more information becomes available.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

AU/sb

Attachments (2)

#6443370

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tel. 416-585-7000
Fax 416-585-6470
www.ontario.ca/MAH

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tél. 416-585-7000
Télééc. 416-585-6470
www.ontario.ca/MAH



MIN15-68224

November 27, 2015

Dear Heads of Council:

I'm aware that many municipal leaders have questions about their possible involvement in helping to resettle Syrian refugees.

While many details remain to be worked out by the federal government, the overall plan is taking shape nicely. Let me share with you a few of the things we know so far.

- We expect that the first wave of refugees coming to Canada will number about 10,000 by year end.
- Of these the majority will be privately sponsored. These refugees will be settled and cared for by their sponsors.
- A much smaller number will be government assisted. These refugees will be assisted by federally-funded Refugee Assistance Program agencies located in six urban centres: Toronto (serving the Greater Toronto Area including Peel, York and Durham Regions), Ottawa, London, Windsor, Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo. These communities account for about 90% of immigrant and refugee landings to Ontario.
- We expect the government assisted refugees will be located primarily in those urban centres, to make it as easy as possible to provide them with services.
- An additional 15,000 refugees are expected to come to Canada by the end of February 2016.
- Ontario played a leadership role early on, with an additional \$8.5-million in funding to help sponsors and settlement organizations. We continue to play a leadership role in helping to coordinate these efforts. Federal, provincial and municipal representatives are hard at work on pinning down more details and engaging directly with the municipalities likely to be most affected.

- I've spoken with a number of mayors in the last few days and been overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity. Everyone is eager to help. This is a proud moment for our province and our country.
- The federal government has established a website, Welcome Refugees [<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/index.asp>] for up-to-date information. Ontario has also established a Syrian Refugee page [www.ontario.ca/syrianrefugees] with information on how people can help.
- Our province has also established a central co-ordinating function here led by Joan Andrew, a very able former deputy minister of Citizenship and Immigration. You can reach her at 416-325 4764 or joan.andrew@ontario.ca.

I'm very proud of the way our province is stepping up to show hospitality, and I'm grateful to all of you for your many efforts. As plans continue to evolve, I'll do my best to keep you informed. And I or Joan will be happy to receive your suggestions and offers of resources as we go forward.

Kindest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted McMeekin". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and "M".

Ted McMeekin
Minister

Agencies and Support Services for Syrian Refugees to York Region		
Organization Name	Location	Website
Settlement Services		
Access Alliance	Toronto	http://accessalliance.ca/
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Toronto	http://www.ccvvt.org/
Canadian Human Rights International Organization	Toronto	www.chrio.ca
Catholic Community Services of York Region	Richmond Hill	www.ccsyr.org
Centre for Education and Training	Richmond Hill	www.tcet.com/assessments
Centre for Immigrant and Community Services of York Region	Markham	www.cicscanada.com
Christie Refugee Welcome Centre	Toronto	http://www.christiestreetrc.com/
COSTI Immigrant Services	Toronto	http://www.costi.org/
FCJ Refugee Centre	Toronto	http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/
Iranian Railroad for Queer Refugees	Toronto	www.irqr.ca
Jewish Immigrant Aid Services Toronto	Toronto	www.jiastoronto.org
Job Skills	York Region	http://www.jobskills.org/
OCASI- Settlement.Org	Toronto	www.settlement.org
Ontario Immigration	Ontario	www.ontarioimmigration.ca
Salvation Army, Immigrant and Refugee Services - North York Satellite Office	Toronto	http://torontoharbourlight.ca/irs
SEAS Centre - North York Centre	Markham	http://www.seascentre.org/services.php
Social Enterprise for Canada	Newmarket	http://www.socialenterprise.ca/
Social Services Network for the York Region	Markham	http://socialservicesnetwork.org
The Cross-Cultural Community Services Association	Markham	www.tccsa.on.ca
Welcome Centre Immigrant Services – York Region	York Region	www.welcomecentre.ca/
Welcome Ontario Syrian Refugee Assistance Information – Available in Arabic		http://welcomeontario.ca/
Affordable Housing		
Citizens for Affordable Housing - Housing Help Centre Serving York Region	Richmond Hill	www.housinghelpcentre.org
Habitat for Humanity - York Region	Newmarket	http://www.habitat.ca/
Housing Help Association of Ontario	Hamilton	www.hhao.ca
Landlord and Tenant Board		www.ltb.gov.on.ca
Ontario Energy Board - Ontario Electricity Support Program	Ottawa	http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/oeb/Consumers/Consumer%20Protection/Help%20for%20Low-Income%20Energy%20Consumers/Ontario%20Electricity%20Support%20Program%20%28OESP%29

Employment Assistance

COSTI	Toronto	http://www.costi.org/
Family Services York Region - Employee Assistance Program - Richmond Hill	Richmond Hill	www.fsyrr.ca
Job Skills Employment and Business Services	Multiple Locations	www.jobskills.org
JVS Employment Source	Markham	http://www.jvstoronto.org
Ontario March of Dimes - Newmarket - Strategic Employment Solutions	Newmarket	www.marchofdimes.ca
Richmond Hill YMCA Employment Services	Richmond Hill	https://ymcagta.org/employment-and-immigrant-services/employment-services
RNC Employment Services	Aurora	http://www.rncemploymentservices.ca/
Seneca Employment Services	Newmarket and Vaughan	www.workforceready.ca
Social Enterprise for Canada	Newmarket	www.socialenterprise.ca
TDSB- Next Steps Employment Centre	Vaughan and Markham	http://www.tdsb.on.ca/adultlearners/employmentservices/nextstepsemploymentcentres.aspx
Thornhill Employment Hub	Thornhill	http://www.thornhillhub.com/
VPI	Richmond Hill	http://www.vpi-inc.com/
Yorkworks	Stouffville and Sutton	http://www.yorkworks.ca/

Health/Mental Health Supports

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) York & South Simcoe - MOBYSS (Mobile York South Simcoe)	Newmarket	www.mobys.ca
Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) York Region Branch - Aurora - Counselling and Treatment	Aurora	www.cmha-yr.on.ca
Catholic Community Services of York Region - Counselling Services and Family Life Education Groups	Richmond Hill	www.ccsyr.org
Crossroads Medical Clinic for Newly Arrived Syrian Refugees	Toronto	http://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/programs-and-services/crossroads-clinic
Family Services York Region	York Region	www.fsyrr.ca
George Brown College - WAVE Clinic	Toronto	www.georgebrown.ca/clinic
Interim-Federal Health Program (IFHP)		http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/arriving-healthcare.asp
Krasman Centre	Richmond Hill	http://krasmancentre.com/
Mackenzie Health	Richmond Hill	www.mackenziehealth.ca
Markham Stouffville Hospital	Markham	www.msh.on.ca

Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)		http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/ohip/
The Salvation Army - Community and Family Services	York Region	http://www.salvationarmy.ca/
Southlake Regional Health Centre	Newmarket	www.southlakeregional.org
The Regional Municipality of York - Community and Health Services - Public Health - Children In Need Of Treatment (CINOT)	Newmarket	http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/en/healthy-communities/dental/default.asp
University of Toronto - Dental Clinic	Toronto	www.utoronto.ca/dentistry/patientclinic
Vaughan Community Health Centre	Vaughan	www.vaughanhealthcarehc.com
Parks and Recreation		
Aurora Parks and Recreation	Aurora	https://www.aurora.ca/Thingsto/Pages/Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-Program-Guide.aspx
East Gwillimbury Parks and Recreation	East Gwillimbury	http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/ThingsToDo/RecreationProgramsandGuide.htm
Georgina Parks and Recreation	Georgina	https://www.georgina.ca/getting-active/recreation/municipal-service-guide-and-recreation-culture-guides
King Parks and Recreation	King	http://www.king.ca/LivingInKing/ParksRecreationCulture/RecreationServices/Pages/default.aspx
Markham Parks and Recreation	Markham	https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/Markham/RecreationCulture/ProgramsActivities
Newmarket Parks and Recreation	Newmarket	http://www.newmarket.ca/ThingsToDo/Pages/Recreation%20and%20Culture/Activity-Guide.aspx
Richmond Hill Parks and Recreation	Richmond Hill	http://www.richmondhill.ca/subpage.asp?pageid=parks_leisure_guide
Vaughan Parks and Recreation	Vaughan	www.vaughan.ca/services/recreation
Whitchurch-Stouffville Parks and Recreation	Whitchurch-Stouffville	http://www.townofws.ca/en/recreation/leisure-centre.asp
Legal Resources		
Community Legal Clinic of York Region	Richmond Hill	www.clcyr.on.ca
Community Legal Education Ontario	Toronto	www.cleo.on.ca
Financial Management Supports		
Canada Revenue Agency - Community Volunteer Income Tax Program		www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/vlntr/menu-eng.html
Family and Credit Counselling Services of York	Thornhill	www.yorkcounselling.ca

Region		
Canada Child Tax Benefit		http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/menu-eng.html
Public Transportation		
GO Transit - Head Office	Toronto	www.gotransit.com
York Region Transit/Viva	Richmond Hill	www.yorkregiontransit.com
School Boards		
York Catholic District School Board	Aurora	www.ycdsb.ca
York Region District School Board	Aurora	www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
Libraries		
Aurora Public Library	Aurora	www.aurorapl.ca
East Gwillimbury Public Library	East Gwillimbury	www.egpl.ca
Georgina Public Library	Georgina	www.georginalibrary.ca
King Township Public Library	King	kinglibrary.ca
Markham Public Library	Markham	www.markhampubliclibrary.ca
Newmarket Public Library	Newmarket	www.newmarketpl.ca
Richmond Hill Public Library	Richmond Hill	http://www.rhpl.richmondhill.on.ca/RHPL/
Vaughan Public Library	Vaughan	www.vaughanpl.info
Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library	Whitchurch-Stouffville	www.wsplibrary.ca
Police		
Victim Services of York Region Inc.	Newmarket	www.victimservices-york.org
York Regional Police - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau	Markham	www.police.york.on.ca
Food Banks		
Aurora Food Pantry	Aurora	www.aurorafoodpantry.ca
Georgina Community Food Pantry	Sutton West	http://georginafoodpantry.ca/
Gibson Centre	Markham	https://105gibson.wordpress.com/
Humanity First	Concord	www.humanityfirst.ca
King Township Food Bank	Schomberg	www.kingtowshipfoodbank.ca
Markham Food Bank	Markham	www.markhamfoodbank.ca
Newmarket Food Pantry	Newmarket	http://newmarketfoodpantry.ca/
Richmond Hill Community Food Bank	Richmond Hill	www.richmondhillcommunityfoodbank.ca
Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers - Rosies Closet	Newmarket	www.therose.ca
Salvation Army	York Region	http://www.salvationarmy.ca/
Vaughan Food Bank	Vaughan	www.vaughanfoodbank.ca
Clothing and Household Items		

Goodwill	York Region	http://www.goodwill.on.ca/donation-centre-locator/
JRCC Furniture Depot	Thornhill	http://www.jrccfurnituredepot.org/
Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers - Rosies Closet	Newmarket	www.therose.ca
Salvation Army	York Region	http://www.salvationarmy.ca/
The Furniture Bank	Toronto	http://www.furniturebank.org/syrian-refugee-crisis/
Emergency Shelters		
360 Kids	Markham	www.360kids.ca
Belinda's Place	Aurora	belindasplace.ca
Blue Door Shelters	East Gwillimbury	www.bluedoorselters.ca
Leeder Place Emergency Family Shelter	East Gwillimbury	www.bluedoorselters.ca
Newmarket Youth Shelter	East Gwillimbury	www.bluedoorselters.ca
Porter Place Men's Shelter	East Gwillimbury	www.bluedoorselters.ca
Salvation Army (The) - Sutton Youth Shelter	Sutton West	www.suttonyouthshelter.ca
Sandgate Women's Shelter	Georgina	www.sandgate.ca
Sutton Youth Multi-Service Centre	Georgina	www.suttonyouthshelter.ca
Yellow Brick House Women's Shelter	Richmond Hill	www.yellowbrickhouse.org
Syrian Consular Offices		
Syrian Arab Republic, Honorary Consulate	Montreal	http://www.syrianconsulate.ca/
Information for Sponsors of Syrian Refugees		
Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)		http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/sponsor.asp
Lifeline Syria	Toronto	http://lifelinesyria.ca/
Refugee Sponsorship Training Program	Toronto	http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugee-sponsorship/latest-policy-program-update/changes-for-sponsoring-syrian-iraqi-refugees/
How to donate		
Donations for Syrian Refugees in Ontario		http://www.ontario.ca/page/syrian-refugees-how-you-can-help

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