

Refugee Readiness Fund Update – February 25, 2016

a) Provincial: ISSofBC Contract – Hub, Trauma Supports, RRT Training

Hub	Trauma Supports	RRT Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added training presentation on private sponsorship Added important weblinks to Federal information and services available 6 newsletters 5 fact sheets To come: weekly newsletters, additional fact sheets and training presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinician Trauma Support Hotline up and running - stat report due March 31 Links to information & resources Final stages of production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapist Manual Presentation/training on Refugee Mental health Vulnerability screening tool Presentation/training on Refugee Primary Health Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 day training events developed for the 5 RRT communities Meeting Mar 3 to discuss logistics and set dates for training Outline and presentations drafted, ISSofBC to meet with RRTs to customize and finalize content for each community

b) Community: Refugee Response Teams

- Detailed Phase 1 budgets reviewed; contract negotiation calls in progress; RRTs providing information required to finalize contracts.
- Working toward finalized contracts by Mar 2 with media release to follow.
- RRT Network established to support provincial coordination and information sharing; first meeting planned for Mar 3.
- RRT Network to meet weekly at first and then less frequently during the contract term. IRCC to be invited to participate in the network.
- Notional total commitment = \$277,202 to be finalized through negotiations.
- Balance of the \$500,000 budget to be distributed by end of June 2016 based on refugee destinations and service gaps.

Metro Vancouver	Fraser Valley	Vancouver Island	Thompson Okanagan	Cariboo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOSAIC \$113,494 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DiverseCity \$71,393 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) \$47,500 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelowna Community Resources Society (KCRS) \$30,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigrant & Multicultural Services Society of Prince George \$14,815

2016/17 Estimates Note Advice to the Minister

Ministry: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (Resp. for Labour)
Minister Responsible: Hon. Shirley Bond

Title: Refugee Readiness Fund

Revised: March 7, 2016

Issue: B.C.'s New Refugee Readiness Fund for 2016

Recommended Response:

- Recognizing the severity of the global humanitarian crisis in Syria, the Government of B.C. created the Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF), a one-time investment of \$1 million to enhance federal and provincial refugee programs and provide additional resources for communities and private sponsors who are working to bring refugees to B.C.
- The Province has committed \$500,000 of RRF funding to the Immigrant Services Society of B.C. (ISSBC) to prepare for the arrival, resettlement and integration of refugees in B.C.
- This funding expands ISSBC's capacity to help refugees and will complement the services available to refugees under the federal government's Resettlement Assistance Program.
- Specifically, the ISSBC contract will support province-wide information sharing, training and supports for private sponsors and service providers including trauma counsellors who will be working with refugees.
- The remaining \$500,000 will establish up to five Refugee Response Teams in communities across B.C. to take a coordinated approach to identify, prioritize and address urgent refugee needs. These teams have been in place since the beginning of March 2016.

Background/Status:

- The Government of Canada, through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), has jurisdiction over the national immigration system, including priorities, processes, and funding for refugee resettlement.
- ISSBC's directly awarded contract began on November 30, 2015 and runs through to March 31, 2017.
- The primary deliverables for the ISSBC contract include:
 - an online Resettlement Readiness Hub to connect private sponsors, service providers, volunteers and potential employers with the information

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they need to plan for the arrival and support of Syrian refugees. The Hub tracks volunteer offers, in-kind donations, as well as housing and employment leads in fact sheets and weekly newsletters: <http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-readiness-hub>

- A range of supports for clinicians caring for traumatized refugees, including a 1-800 consultation line and a trauma needs assessment tool and guidelines for facilitating trauma supports through clinicians.
- Refugee Readiness workshops to train private sponsors, service providers, potential employers, volunteers and members of the Refugee Response Team to be ready and plan for the arrival of refugees.
- In addition, the open Call For Responses (CFR), that closed December 21, 2015, seeks services of up to five Refugee Response Teams to address the community based needs of service providers and private sponsors working with Syrian refugees. This CFR procured services in the amount of up to \$500,000 of the RRF in up to five regions across the province:

Lead Organization	Region
MOSAIC	Metro Vancouver , incl. Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminister, Richmond, Coquitlam, North Vancouver
DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society	Fraser Valley , incl. Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Delta, Surrey, Langley, Mission
Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society	Vancouver Island , incl. Victoria, Nanaimo, Duncan
Kelowna Community Resources Society	Thompson/Okanagan , incl. Kamloops, Salmon Arm, Kelowna, Vernon, Penticton
Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George	Cariboo incl. Prince George, Smithers

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ADM

Workforce Development
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015JTST0182-002011
Dec. 2, 2015

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Province takes next step to ready for Syrian refugees

VICTORIA – The Province is taking a number of steps to prepare for the arrival, resettlement and integration of refugees in B.C.

Supported by \$500,000 through the \$1 million Refugee Readiness Fund, the government will fund five Refugee Response Teams to proactively plan for the settlement of refugees in their communities. The teams will have representatives from the refugee service provider community: settlement organizations, private sponsors, churches, educators, health care providers and employers. Teams are anticipated in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Okanagan and Cariboo, however locations are contingent on where refugees ultimately settle.

The remaining \$500,000 will be provided to the Immigrant Services Society of B.C. (ISSofBC) to:

- Develop an online hub to connect private sponsors, settlement workers, counsellors, and other service providers throughout the province to the information they need to support refugees.
- Track volunteer offers, in-kind donations and housing and employment leads.
- Set up a range of supports for clinicians caring for traumatized refugees, including a new telephone consultation line and a trauma needs assessment tool.
- Provide workshops and support to the Refugee Response Teams.

ISSofBC is currently the only service provider in B.C. that provides the full suite of federally-funded Resettlement Assistance Program services to government-assisted refugees. They can ensure provincially-funded services are aligned with federal services.

The Province has also identified further initiatives to support successful settlement of refugees in B.C.

Through the Canada-BC Job Grant, up to \$1.5 million will support skills training to assist refugees and new Canadians to gain employment, in partnership with sector/industry associations and employers. The first stream of \$1.0 million will focus specifically on refugees while the second \$500,000 stream will be open to refugees, protected persons entitled to work in Canada, and new immigrants (arrived within the last five years). Funding is focused on three key areas:

- Job readiness training, including specialized language supports and cultural training to prepare for working in British Columbia;
- Job match services to link refugees with employers ready to hire new Canadians
- Job specific training – up to \$10,000 per person for job specific skills training that is cost shared between federal and provincial governments (cover two-thirds of the costs) and

employers (cover the remaining one-third the costs).

The Province will also invest \$2.6 million in project based language training throughout B.C. that will support refugees and other immigrants. \$1.27 million will be provided to community organizations, professional associations and post-secondary institutions across the Lower Mainland to provide training for recent immigrants to help them overcome language barriers faced when seeking employment. Further details as well as specific locations will continue to be outlined within the coming weeks.

In addition, the Provincial Health Services Authority is hiring and training 30 additional interpreters dedicated to languages spoken by refugee populations.

Moving forward, the ministry will continue to engage with settlement communities throughout the province to ensure they have the capacity to support any incoming refugees.

Quotes:

Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour, Shirley Bond–

“Refugees coming to British Columbia are escaping unimaginable hardship. We will do everything we can to ensure their transition to Canada is as successful as possible. I’ve been incredibly impressed by the offers of support from across our province and I’m confident we will be able to welcome these new Canadians with open arms.

“Our announcements today complement supports provided by the Federal government, and will help build capacity in communities where refugees are making their new home.”

Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services and Surrey-Tynehead MLA Amrik Virk –

“My community has welcomed many refugees over the years and we’re looking forward to welcoming more. We know that newcomers are eager to build a new start for their families and we’re going to be ready to help.”

Chief executive officer, ISSofBC, Patricia Woroch–

“I want to thank the Province for working with us to build these Refugee Response Teams. We look forward to working with communities to build their capacity and to supporting other refugee and immigration providers to settle them successfully.”

Quick Facts:

- Wait periods and premiums for Medical Service Plan coverage are waived for all refugees health (MSP)
- Each refugee student in public school in B.C. is funded from the Province’s pupil funding formula.
- All refugees are able to access the Employment Program of BC
- In addition, refugees are eligible to receive:
 - Child care subsidy
 - B.C. early childhood tax benefit – up to \$55 per month per child under age 6.
 - B.C. basic family bonus – up to \$111 per child per month when combined with the

National Child Benefit Supplement

- Student aid
- In 2015, the B.C. government will provide nearly \$1.7 million to engage cultural groups, promote multiculturalism and fight racism in B.C.

Learn More:

For more information about Federal supports for Government Assisted Refugees go to:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/manuals/ip/ip03-part2-eng.pdf>

For more information on the Canada Job Grant and how to apply, please visit: www.workbc.ca

Media Contact:

Media Relations

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

and Responsible for Labour

250 387-2799

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2015PREM0057-001453
Sept. 8, 2015

Office of the Premier
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism
and Skills Training
and Responsible for Labour

New provincial fund to help Syrian refugee settlement

VANCOUVER – Recognizing the severity of the global humanitarian crisis in Syria, the Government of British Columbia is creating a \$1-million readiness fund for Syrian refugees settling in B.C.

The fund is a one-time investment intended to complement existing provincial and federal support services for refugees. It will enhance existing provincial refugee programs and provide additional resources for private sponsors who are working to bring these refugees to B.C.

The Province will work with settlement agencies, community groups and private sponsors to make sure these funds are used to achieve the best outcomes for these refugees. Specifically the funds will be used for:

- Counselling – trauma counselling through a range of psycho-social supports.
- “Groups of Five” private sponsorship supports – A “Group of Five” is made up of private citizens who come together to sponsor a refugee. These funds will assist these private sponsors to help navigate the refugee-sponsorship process.
- Community-level supports – help for local governments that will be settling Syrian refugees so there will be a welcoming community for these newcomers.
- Foreign Credential Recognition – many Syrians will arrive in Canada with work experience and credentials from their home country. Funds will be available for B.C.-based professional associations to quickly and fairly review and approve their foreign credentials so they can start working in B.C.
- Employer supports - funds to help businesses and existing immigrant settlement organizations employ, train and mentor Syrian refugees. These funds will also provide matching funds to employers who train and commit to hire a Syrian refugee.

For any questions about existing supports available for refugees or to learn more about how this fund can be used to help, community groups and private sponsors can call 1 877 952-6914.

Quotes:

Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia –

“Our hearts go out to the Kurdi family and to all Syrian refugees suffering in this crisis. B.C. wants to help and though we have limited say in who comes to our province, we can do a lot to support Syrian refugees and all newcomers when they arrive. This new fund will help get them the supports they need to adjust to their new life, find work and integrate into our province.”

Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour –

“Everyone who has seen the photos of Syrian refugees fleeing their country or who has heard their stories has been moved to want to help. We know that helping refugees integrate into British Columbia when they get here is one of the best ways we can help them. Our province is ready to welcome these newcomers and this readiness fund will allow us to respond quickly when the need arises by working through the support groups already connected with refugees.”

Patricia Woroch, CEO, Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia -

“The groundswell of interest in the Syrian refugee crisis by British Columbians over the past week has been both remarkable and inspiring. As we prepare to receive increased numbers of refugees here in B.C., we need to review our capacity and infrastructure to support their future integration into this Province. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Province to provide the best possible start as refugees, so they can rebuild their lives now and in the future.”

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MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
INFORMATION NOTE

Cliff #: 110441

Date: September 4, 2015

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister

ISSUE: Refugee Settlement

BACKGROUND:

- The federal government has sole responsibility for determining immigration policy and the number of newcomers that are admitted into Canada, including refugees.
- Canada's refugee resettlement program is one of the three largest in the world (alongside the United States and Australia), and is divided into three categories:
 1. The Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Program resettles Convention Refugees Abroad through funding from the federal government or Quebec.
 2. The Private Refugee Sponsorship Program resettles refugees through the support of Canadian citizens and permanent residents.
 3. Joint programs, such as the Blended Visa Office-Referred Program offer cost-sharing arrangements between CIC and private sponsors.
- In January 2015, the federal government committed to resettling 10,000 Syrian refugees by 2018. As of July 27, 2015, 2,302 Syrians have been resettled to Canada, 1,666 of whom were privately sponsored refugees (PSRs).
- BC received 1,528 refugees in 2014. BC currently has the lowest proportion of refugees to total new immigrants of any other province, and receives a disproportionately lower amount of GARs compared to other provinces such as Manitoba (see Appendix 1).

DISCUSSION:

Number of Refugees

- The federal government consults with the provinces on the number of GARs. Provinces can indicate a willingness to take in additional GARs and in 2011, BC accepted a small increase (73) in the number of GARs over three years. Over the past year, BC has been actively engaged with the federal government to create one or more pilot projects aimed at supporting new immigrants and refugees in BC communities.
- The federal government has final authority over how many GARs come to Canada and which communities those GARs are settled in.
- PSRs are settled in whichever community their private sponsor is located, so neither the federal nor provincial government directs where PSRs go.
- Nova Scotia publicly stated on September 3, 2015, that the province is willing to take more GARs.
- Opposition parties and settlement agencies argue that a federal preference for PSRs over GARs has emerged in recent years, reducing federal settlement costs.

- Groups such as the Canadian Council for Refugees state that private refugee sponsorships should be additional to GARs rather than offsetting the number of government sponsorships.

Settlement Services for Refugees

- In the first year of arrival, GARs receive federal health care coverage and financial assistance to cover basic living expenses. GARs also receive specialized settlement support through the federally funded Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP). BC's approved RAP providers are the Immigrant Services Society of BC and the Community Airport Newcomer's Network. Both are located in Vancouver.
- For PSRs, financial assistance and initial settlement support is provided by the sponsoring organization.
- All refugees are also eligible for the same federally funded settlement services as other landed immigrants. The services available include language training, information and referrals, labour market access, and community integration.
- The federal government has delivered settlement services to permanent residents and refugees since April 2014, when the services were repatriated from the provincial government. BC administered the services between 1998 and 2014 with federal funding that averaged \$100+ million annually.
- BC spends \$4M annually on services to federally-ineligible clients including temporary foreign workers, naturalized citizens, provincial nominees and refugee claimants. Refugee claimants are people who are in the process of claiming refugee status from within Canada rather than abroad (also known as asylum seekers).
- The provincially funded services mirror the federal services, including information and referrals, community orientation, and informal language training. In addition, \$400,000 of the \$4M in provincial funding is directed to the Immigrant Services Society of BC for trauma counselling for refugee claimants.
- See Appendix 4 and Appendix 5 for additional information on settlement services.

Outcomes of Refugees in BC

- There can be provincial costs associated with welcoming new GARs, particularly once RAP supports end after one year. Provincial costs are primarily related to health care and income assistance.
- While new refugees to BC tend to have very low incomes and high rates of income assistance, this steadily improves the longer the refugee has been here (see Appendix 3). In the long term, refugees have been shown to have a net positive benefit on the economy of the host country.
- BC has a relatively high rate of refugee retention compared to other provinces. 87.3% of refugees who landed in BC between 2000 and 2006 were still in BC in 2006, according to tax filer data. During that time, 1,330 refugees left BC, but slightly more (1,365) came to BC from other provinces, resulting in a net positive increase in refugee retention. Given that refugee economic contributions increase over time, it is beneficial to retain refugees long term (see Appendix 2).
- Syrian refugees have varying levels of education and English language skills, and many require psychosocial support.
- Increased settlement supports are required for GARs with complex needs, such as specialized medical programs, trauma counselling and interpretation.

ATTACHMENTS: Appendix 1: Volume of Refugees in BC
 Appendix 2: Retention of Refugees in BC
 Appendix 3: Income and Social Assistance for Refugees in BC
 Appendix 4: Settlement Services Summary
 Appendix 5: List of Service Providers

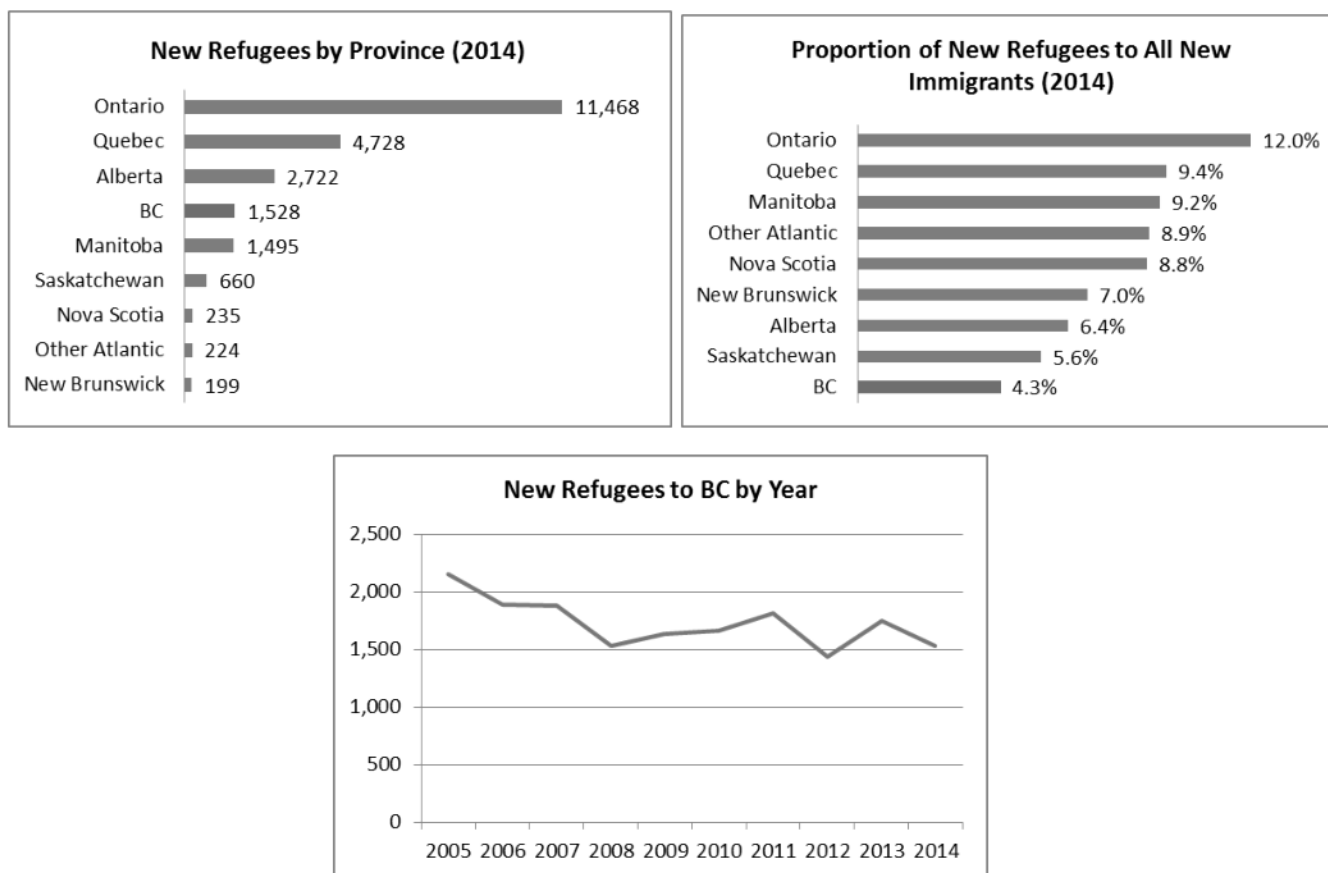
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Robyn Uhl and Carling Helander – 5 hours

APPENDIX 1: Volume of Refugees in BC¹

In 2014, BC accepted 1,528 refugees, which represents 6.6% of all refugees to Canada and 4.3% of all new immigrants in BC that year. BC has the lowest proportion of refugees to total new immigrants of any other provinces.

The 10-year trend of the number of refugees settling in BC is a general decline, although not a steady one. There was a fairly significant decline between 2006 and 2007 before increasing again between 2008 and 2011. The last three years have been fairly variable. This mirrors the national trend in the overall number of refugees settled in Canada.



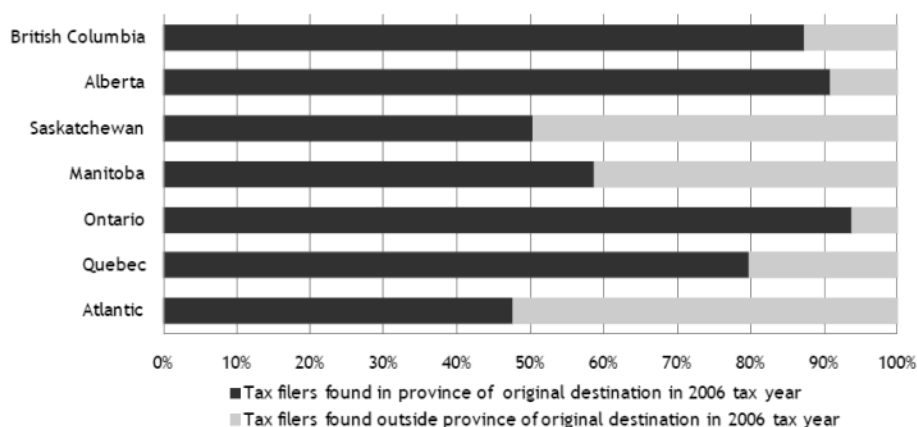
¹ Data source: CIC Facts and Figures

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2014/permanent/12.asp>

APPENDIX 2: Retention of Refugees in BC²

Based on tax filer data, BC has a relatively high rate of refugee retention compared to other provinces (87.3%). Only Ontario and Alberta have higher retentions rates. BC also received a net positive rate (2.7%) of secondary migration of refugees between 2000 and 2006, as 1,330 refugees left for other provinces but 1,365 came to BC from other provinces. Given that refugee economic contributions increase over time, it is beneficial to retain refugees long term.

Note that this does not capture refugees who did not file taxes in 2006, and it is possible the retention tendencies of non-tax filing refugees may be different than tax filers.



Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

Province	Destined at landing	Out-migration	Destined and resident in 2006	In-migration	Resident in 2006	Retention rate (%)	Net change (%)
Atlantic	2,340	1,225	1,115	180	1,295	47.7	-44.7
Quebec	28,325	5,715	22,610	1,065	23,675	79.8	-16.4
Ontario	68,470	4,225	64,245	6,695	70,940	93.8	3.6
Manitoba	4,775	1,975	2,800	410	3,210	58.6	-32.8
Saskatchewan	2,125	1,055	1,070	260	1,330	50.4	-37.4
Alberta	8,400	765	7,635	6,075	13,710	90.9	63.2
British Columbia	8,865	1,330	7,735	1,365	9,100	87.3	2.7

Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB).

² Data Source: Okonny-Myers, "The Interprovincial Mobility of Immigrants in Canada". Citizenship and Immigration Canada, June 2010.

APPENDIX 3: Income and Social Assistance for Refugees in BC

Refugees' income and rates of social assistance use in BC are greatly linked to how long the refugee has been in BC. As the table below illustrates, new refugees have very low incomes and high rates of social assistance, but this steadily improves the longer the refugee has been here.³

Years since arriving	Average total income in 2011	% receiving social assistance income in 2011
Less than 2 years	\$2,963	57.1%
3-5 years	\$13,310	38.7%
6-10 years	\$17,763	28.2%
11-15 years	\$25,260	15.0%
16 - 20 years	\$27,111	10.7%

³ Source: Longitudinal Immigration Database

APPENDIX 4: Settlement Services Summary

	Federally Funded		Provincially Funded (Total: \$4M)	
	Settlement Services ⁴	Resettlement Assistance Program	Settlement Services ⁵ (\$3.6M)	Specialized Settlement (\$400,000)
Providers in BC	176 service provider locations around the province ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immigrant Services Society of BC (Vancouver) - Community Airport Newcomer's Network (Vancouver) 	58 service provider locations around the province ⁷	Immigrant Services Society of BC (Vancouver)
Client Eligibility	All permanent residents (including both GAR and PSR refugees) from arrival onwards (no time limit)	Government assisted refugees only, for maximum of one year (privately sponsored refugees receive support from their sponsors)	Federally ineligible clients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refugee claimants (aka asylum seekers from within Canada, not yet approved as refugees) - Temporary foreign workers (incl. students with work permits) - Provincial nominees and spouses (awaiting PR approval) - Naturalized citizens 	- Refugee claimants (aka asylum seekers from within Canada, not yet approved as refugees)
Services Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language assessments and classes - Help finding a job - Help with daily life such as finding a place to live and filling out forms and applications - Information about community services such as mentoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial greeting upon arrival - Income support - Temporary accommodation and help finding permanent accommodation - Basic household items - General orientation to life in Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language classes - Help with finding a job - Information and referral to other services - Community integration and help with daily life via workshops, support groups, and mentoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trauma counselling - 1-on-1 information and referrals

⁴ Citizenship and Immigration Canada is currently in the process of re-procuring contracts.

⁵ The Ministry is currently in the process of re-procuring provincial contracts (current contracts expire December 31, 2015).

⁶ Not all providers offer the full range of services. For example, within a community one organization may provide language supports while another organization provides community orientation and employment supports.

⁷ Some providers receive both federal and provincial funding.

APPENDIX 5: List of Service Providers

Provincially Funded

Community	Service Provider
100 Mile House	Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy
Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services
Campbell River	MISA of North Vancouver Island
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community Services
Courtenay	North Island College
Dawson Creek	Dawson Creek Literacy Society
Duncan	Cowichan Valley IAS
Fort Nelson	Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society
Fort St. James	College of New Caledonia
Fort St. John	Ft St John Literacy Society
Fort St. John	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Hope	Read Right Society
Invermere	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Kamloops	Kamloops-Cariboo Regional Immigrant Society
Kelowna	Kelowna Community Resources Society
Kelowna	Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
Keremeos	Lower Similkameen Community Services Society
Kitimat	Kitimat Child Development Centre Association
Kitimat	Kitimat Community Services Society
Langley	Langley Community Services Society
Mission	Mission Community Services
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society
North Vancouver	Capilano University
North Vancouver	North Shore Multicultural Society
Penticton	SOICS
Port Alberni	Literacy Alberni Society
Powell River	Powell River Employment Program Society
Prince George	IMSS-PG
Prince Rupert	Hecate Strait Employment Development Society
Quesnel	New Focus Society
Revelstoke	Okanagan College
Richmond	Richmond Multicultural Community Services
Salmon Arm	Shuswap Settlement Services Society
Smithers	Smithers Community Services Association
Squamish	ISS-BC Squamish
Surrey	DIVERSEcity
Surrey	Options Community Service Society
Surrey	Progressive Intercultural Community Services

Terrace	Northwest Community College
Terrace	Skeena Diversity Society
Terrace	Volunteer Terrace
Valemount	Valemont Learning Society
Vancouver	Collingwood Neighborhood House
Vancouver	Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
Vancouver	Immigrant Services Society of BC
Vancouver	Jewish Family Service Agency
Vancouver	LA FED DES FRANCOPHONES DE LA C-B
Vancouver	Little Mountain Neighbourhood House
Vancouver	MOSAIC
Vancouver	Mount Pleasant Neighborhood House
Vancouver	Multicultural Helping House
Vancouver	REACH Center Association
Vancouver	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Vancouver	South Vancouver Neighborhood House
Vancouver	Vancouver Public Library
Vancouver	YMCA of Greater Vancouver
Vernon	Vernon ISS
Victoria	ICA - Greater Victoria

Federally Funded

Community	Service Provider
100 Mile House	Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literary Society
Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services
Armstrong	Nexus BC Community Resource Centre
Burnaby	Burnaby English Language Centre
Burnaby	Douglas College
Burnaby	NewToBC c/o Burnaby Public Library
Burnaby	School District No. 41 - Burnaby
Burnaby	Training Innovations
Burnaby (101-1899 Willingdon)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Burnaby (103-4181 Hastings St)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Burnaby (1899 Willingdon)	MOSAIC
Burnaby (200-5172 Kingsway)	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Burnaby (207-7355 Canada Way)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Burnaby (310-7155 Kingsway)	MOSAIC
Burnaby (5902-5904 Kingsway)	MOSAIC
Burnaby (7009 Kingsway)	MOSAIC
Campbell River	Multicultural and Immigrant Services Association of North Vancouver Island
Campbell River	North Island Employment Foundations Society

Castlegar	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Chetwynd	Chetwynd Public Library
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community Services
Coquitlam	Back in Motion
Coquitlam	Douglas College
Coquitlam	Douglas College
Coquitlam	NewToBC c/o Coquitlam Public Library
Coquitlam	School District No. 43 - Coquitlam
Coquitlam	SHARE Family and Community Services Society
Coquitlam (204-2342 Westwood)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Coquitlam (1163 Pinetree Way)	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Coquitlam (200/201-504 Cottonwood)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Coquitlam (240A-3020 Lincoln Ave)	Immigrant Services Society
Coquitlam (435B North Rd)	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Courtenay	Creative Employment Access Society
Courtenay	Multicultural and Immigrant Services Association of North Vancouver Island
Courtenay	North Island College
Cranbrook	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Creston	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Dawson Creek	Dawson Creek Literacy Society
Delta	NewToBC c/o Fraser Valley Regional Library
Delta	School District No. 37 - Delta
Duncan	Cowichan Valley Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society
Enderby	Nexus BC Community Resource Centre
Fernie	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Fort Nelson	Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society
Fort Nelson	Fort St. John Literacy Society
Fort St James	College of New Caledonia
Fort St John	Employment Connections
Fort St John	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Fort St John	School District No. 60 - Peace River North
Golden	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Grand Forks	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Hope	Read Right Society
Invermere	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Kamloops	Kamloops Cariboo Regional Immigrants Society
Kelowna	Kelowna Community Resources Society
Kelowna	Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
Kelowna	School District No. 23 - Central Okanagan

Keremeos	Lower Similkameen Community Services Society
Kimberley	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Kitimat	Kitimat Child Development Centre Association
Kitimat	Kitimat Community Services Society
Langley	Douglas College
Langley	Langley Community Service Society
Langley	New Directions Vocational Testing & Counselling Services Ltd.
Langley	School District No. 35 - Langley
Langley (204-20621 Logan Ave)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Maple Ridge	Douglas College
Maple Ridge	S.U.C.C.E.S.S. at School District #42
Maple Ridge (320-22470 Dewdney Trunk Rd)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Mission	Mission Community Services Society
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society
Nelson	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
New Westminster	Immigrant Services Society
New Westminster	MOSAIC at School District 40
New Westminster	New Westminster English Language Centre
New Westminster	NewToBC c/o New Westminster Public Library
New Westminster (200-620 Royal Ave)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
North Delta	Delta School District No. 37 - Delview Adult Learning Centre
North Vancouver	Capilano University
North Vancouver	North Shore Multicultural Society
North Vancouver	Training Innovations
North Vancouver (120 West 14 th St)	NewToBC c/o North Vancouver City Library
North Vancouver (1277 Lynn Valley Rd)	NewToBC c/o North Vancouver District Public Library
North Vancouver (205/207-123 Est 15 th St)	MOSAIC
Parksville	The Career Centre - Central Vancouver Island Job Opportunities Building Society
Penticton	Penticton & District Multicultural Society
Port Alberni	Island Work Transitions
Port Alberni	Literacy Alberni Society
Port Coquitlam	Conseil scolaire francophone de la C-B
Port Coquitlam	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Port Moody	Training Innovations
Powell River	Powell River Employment Program Society

Prince George	Immigrant & Multicultural Services Society
Prince George	School District No. 57 - Prince George
Prince Rupert	Hecate Strait Employment Development Society
Quesnel	New Focus Society
Revelstoke	Okanagan College
Richmond	Back in Motion
Richmond	NewToBC c/o Richmond Public Library
Richmond	Richmond Family Place Society
Richmond	School District No. 38 - Richmond
Richmond (110-5751 Cedarbridge Way_)	Immigrant Services Society
Richmond (150-8400 Alexandra Rd)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Richmond (210-7000 Minoru Blvd)	Richmond Multicultural Community Services Society
Richmond (220-4351 No. 3 Rd)	Richmond Multicultural Community Services Society
Richmond (220-7000 Minoru Blvd)	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Richmond (250-8191 Westminster Hwy)	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Salmon Arm	Okanagan College
Salmon Arm	Shuswap Settlement Services Society
Smithers	Smithers Community Services Association
Squamish	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Squamish	Training Innovations
Surrey	Back in Motion
Surrey	NewToBC c/o City Centre Library - Surrey
Surrey	Pacific Community Resources Society
Surrey	Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS)
Surrey	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Surrey	School District No. 36 - Surrey
Surrey	Surrey English Language Centre
Surrey	Surrey Language Assessment Centre
Surrey (7330 – 137 th St)	DIVERSEcity
Surrey (8855 156 St)	DIVERSEcity
Surrey (10060 King George Hwy)	Douglas College
Surrey (1107-7330 137 th St)	DIVERSEcity
Surrey (13520 78 Ave)	Options Community Services Society
Surrey (9815 -140 th St)	Options Community Services Society
Surrey (George Blvd)	Douglas College
Surrey (King George Hwy)	Douglas College

Terrace	Northwest Community College
Terrace	Skeena Diversity Society
Terrace	Volunteer Terrace
Trail	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Trail	Greater Trail Community Skills Centre
Valemount	Valemount Learning Society
Vancouver	Collège Éducacentre College
Vancouver	Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Vancouver	Decoda Literacy Solutions Society
Vancouver	Family Services of Greater Vancouver
Vancouver	Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique
Vancouver	Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
Vancouver	Jewish Family Service Agency
Vancouver	Kiassa Neighbourhood Services Association
Vancouver	Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Society
Vancouver	Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society
Vancouver	Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
Vancouver	Multicultural Helping House Society
Vancouver	NewToBC c/o Vancouver Public Library
Vancouver	Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS)
Vancouver	REACH Centre Association
Vancouver	S.U.C.C.E.S.S. at The Old Barn Community Centre
Vancouver	S.U.C.C.E.S.S. - Fraser Social Service Centre
Vancouver	S.U.C.C.E.S.S. - Granville Social Service Centre
Vancouver	School District No. 39 - Vancouver
Vancouver	South Vancouver Neighbourhood House
Vancouver	Vancouver Community College
Vancouver	Vancouver Formosa Academy
Vancouver	Vancouver Public Library
Vancouver	Western ESL Services
Vancouver	YMCA Connections
Vancouver (1522 Commercial Dr)	MOSAIC
Vancouver (1720 Grant St)	MOSAIC
Vancouver (28 West Pender St)	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Vancouver (501-333 Terminal Ave)	Immigrant Services Society
Vancouver (501-333 Terminal Ave)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Vancouver (530 Drake St)	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)
Vancouver (601-333 Terminal	Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISS)

Ave)	
Vernon	Nexus BC Community Resource Centre
Vernon	Vernon & District Immigrant Services Society
Victoria	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society
Victoria (102-2220 Sooke Rd)	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
Victoria (930 Balmoral Rd)	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
Victoria (9860 Third St)	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
West Vancouver	NewToBC c/o West Vancouver Memorial Library
Whistler	Training Innovations
Williams Lake	Immigrant and Multicultural Services society
Winlaw	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 111154

Date: November 3, 2015

PREPARED FOR: Rob Mingay, Assistant Deputy Minister

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: November 6, 2015, 2:30pm

ATTENDEES: Nicola Manning, ADM, Employment and Labour Market Services

ISSUE(S): Employment Services for Refugees

BACKGROUND:

- The Employment Program of BC (EPBC), managed by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, helps all unemployed British Columbians who are seeking work and legally eligible to work in BC.
- EPBC operates WorkBC Centres through the province to provide job seekers access to self-service resource areas (computers, telephones, and basic job search supports) and, if eligible, personal services and supports such as workshops, training services, and customized job placement.
- Refugees are considered “general clients” for EPBC and are eligible for most types of personal services and supports.
- Refugees are also eligible for settlement and employment supports through federally-funded service providers. The services available include language training, mentorship, and help finding a job.
- Many of the EPBC service providers sub-contract to the same organizations that provide federal settlement services.
- JTST recently provided \$600,000 in deferred funds from the Canada-BC Immigration Agreement for the Immigrant Employment Collaboration Project, which aims to help EPBC more effectively serve the immigrant population.
- One of the key themes of the Refugee Readiness Fund (the Fund) is employment supports. However, stakeholders have indicated that this is a less pressing priority for the \$1 million Fund than community and sponsorship supports.
- s.13

s.13

- All of the \$1 million Fund will be distributed through the procurement process. None of the Fund will be used for government administration costs or diverted to other ministries.

DISCUSSION:

- JTST is interested in ensuring that EPBC is fully leveraged as a resource to refugees and their sponsors.
- There is no part of the Fund specifically earmarked for employment supports. However, under Stream B of the Fund communities may propose projects that relate to employment services.
- In addition, the provincial resources developed under Stream A can ensure that refugee sponsorship groups are more aware of the services available through EPBC. JTST would be happy to work with EPBC on appropriate messaging.
- Comments from JTST stakeholders have indicated that there may be opportunities to improve referral processes between the main EPBC offices and the sub-contractors who provide immigrant-focused services.
- There may also be opportunities to leverage the outcomes of the Immigrant Employment Collaboration Project to identify ways to better serve the refugee population.
- JTST will be receiving updates from the federal government about the number of refugees arriving in BC. JTST can share this information with EPBC for program planning purposes.
- JTST would be happy to collaborate with EPBC on any other ideas to improve services to refugees.

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Refugee Readiness Fund will not directly impact the Employment Program of BC's service model.
- The Fund will likely provide an opportunity to raise awareness with sponsors and refugees about the services available under EPBC. JTST would be happy to work with EPBC on appropriate messaging.
- JTST is open to working collaboratively with EPBC to share information and identify additional opportunities to improve services to refugees.

Contact: Cloe Nicholls, Executive Director, WDID

Telephone: (office) 250-387-5790 (cell) s.17

Reviewed by				
Dir:	ED:	ADM:	DM:	MIN:

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
DECISION NOTE

Cliff #:111190

Date: November 10, 2015

PREPARED FOR: Athana Mentzelopoulos, Deputy Minister

ISSUE: Procurement of B.C. Settlement and Integration Services (BCSIS)

BACKGROUND:

- Prior to 2014, B.C. administered all immigrant settlement services using federal funding for permanent residents (including refugees), and provincial funds for refugee claimants and naturalized citizens.
- In April 2014, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) repatriated settlement and continued to limit services to permanent residents, excluding temporary residents, asylum seekers / refugee claimants, and naturalized citizens.
- Given the gap in services, in April 2014 B.C. allocated \$4M in provincial funds to continue providing services to federally ineligible clients.
- To support client continuity, B.C. issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to direct award contracts to federally-funded settlement agencies to also support temporary residents, refugee claimants, and naturalized citizens. The NOI also allowed for two one-year renewal options to March 2017. The Ministry has extended contracts to December 31, 2015.
- In January 2015, to align with a focus on pathways to citizenship, the Ministry initiated work to recalibrate provincial settlement service provider contracts with an enhanced focus on services to temporary residents (e.g. foreign workers and post-secondary international students).
- Given this shift in focus would require a new procurement process, the original intention was to issue a competitive Call for Responses (CFR) to negotiate new, recalibrated, provincial contracts once existing contracts expired. A draft CFR was posted on BC Bid in July 2015 to provide stakeholders the opportunity for feedback.
- In September 2015, the CFR was put on hold to ensure alignment with the newly-announced provincial Refugee Readiness Fund. Ministerial direction has since confirmed that the \$4M BCSIS will remain distinct from the Refugee Readiness Fund. There are no policy dependencies between the two initiatives.

DISCUSSION:

- The federal government (CIC) is currently negotiating new contracts for settlement services following an open procurement process (results expected January / February 2016 with new contracts for April 2016).

- s.13,s.16
- The rationale for a direct award contract process is consistent with the original approach in April 2014:
 - Established processes and service delivery models are in place to continue the above noted services to federally-ineligible clients;
 - Contractors have the required background, depth of knowledge, skill and expertise to deliver the services; and,
 - They have strong connections to and work in partnership with local community partners.
- Because the justification for a direct award cannot be strictly proven, the Ministry must post a Notice of Intent (NOI) on BC Bid for 10 days (Core Policy Manual 6.3.2(c)(7)) to award any new contracts. The NOI must include a complete list of the intended contractors and provide an opportunity for feedback.
- With the end of the current contract term fast approaching (December 31st, 2015), service providers are anxious for provincial direction regarding the procurement process and certainty on the future of provincial settlement services.

OPTIONS:

s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

RECOMMENDATION: s.13,s.16

Approved / Not Approved	Date:
Comments:	

Contact: Erin Seeley, Executive Director, Economic Immigration Programs Branch
 Telephone: 604.775.2215(office) s.17 (cell)

Reviewed by

Dir:	ED:	ADM:	DM:
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Notice to Vendors
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Notice is hereby given that the Province of British Columbia intends to continue delivering services for newcomers to B.C. in 2016/17 through federally funded settlement agencies. Newcomers who are eligible to receive services from B.C. are temporary foreign workers, provincial nominees who are awaiting permanent residency approval, refugee claimants, and immigrants who have obtained Canadian citizenship. These temporary residents and naturalized citizens would otherwise be ineligible for settlement and integration services due to the transition of program administration from British Columbia to Canada on April 1, 2014.

The province has been contracting with federally funded settlement agencies since April 2014 to assist the above-mentioned client groups. The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training will extend current contracts to March 31, 2016. Contract extensions will ensure continuity of services for B.C. clients until the results from the call for proposals issued in August 2015 by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (formerly Citizenship and Immigration Canada) are known. The current contractors will be contacted by the Ministry within the next several weeks to sign a modified contract for a three-month extension from December 31, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Refer to the attached *Appendix 1* for a list of current service providers that will be offered a contract extension.

To maintain continuity of services for temporary residents and naturalized citizens and to meet provincial priorities, the Ministry intends to enter into new contracts with service providers who will be successfully entering into a contribution agreement with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada starting in April 2016. These service providers will be contacted by the Ministry in February/March 2016 to negotiate services for B.C. clients for the period between April 1, 2016 and December 31, 2017. The Ministry may issue another notice before April to provide more information.

Please contact the Immigration Programs Branch
at Vicki.Chiu@gov.bc.ca if you have any questions.

Appendix 1: B.C. Settlement Services Providers

1. Abbotsford Community Services
2. Capilano University
3. Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy
4. Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society
5. Chilliwack Community Services
6. College of New Caledonia
7. Collingwood Neighborhood House
8. Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
9. Cowichan Intercultural Society
10. Dawson Creek Literacy Society
11. DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society
12. Fort Nelson Community Literacy Society
13. Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
14. Ft St John Literacy Society
15. Hecate Strait Employment Development Society
16. Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
17. Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George
18. Immigrant Services Society of BC
19. Jewish Family Service Agency
20. Kamloops-Cariboo Regional Immigrant Society
21. Kelowna Community Resources Society
22. Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
23. Kitimat Child Development Centre Association
24. Kitimat Community Services Society
25. La Fed Des Francophones De La C-B
26. Langley Community Services Society
27. Literacy Alberni Society
28. Little Mountain Neighbourhood House
29. Lower Similkameen Community Services Society
30. MISA of North Vancouver Island
31. Mission Community Services
32. MOSAIC
33. Mount Pleasant Neighborhood House
34. Multicultural Helping House
35. New Focus Society
36. North Island College
37. North Shore Multicultural Society
38. Northwest Community College
39. Okanagan College
40. Options Community Service Society
41. Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society
42. Powell River Employment Program Society
43. REACH Center Association
44. Read Right Society
45. Richmond Multicultural Community Services Society
46. S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
47. Shuswap Settlement Services Society
48. Skeena Diversity Society
49. Smithers Community Services Association

- 50. South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services
- 51. South Vancouver Neighborhood House
- 52. Valemount Learning Society
- 53. Vancouver Public Library
- 54. Vernon Immigrant Services Society
- 55. Volunteer Terrace
- 56. YMCA of Greater Vancouver

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
DECISION NOTE

Cliff #: 111340

Date: November 27, 2015

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister

ISSUE: B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund procurement options

BACKGROUND:

- The Government of Canada, through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), has jurisdiction over the national immigration system including refugee resettlement.
- In recognition of the severity of the humanitarian crisis in Syria, the Government of B.C. created the \$1M Refugee Readiness Fund (the Fund) in September 2015.
- On November 24, 2015, the federal government announced that 10,000 Syrian refugees will be arriving in Canada by December 31, 2015, and 15,000 more will arrive by the end of February 2016.
- B.C. is expected to receive up to 3,500 refugees between December 2015 and February 2016. For comparison, in 2014 B.C. received a total of 1,528 refugees.
- The federal government currently funds the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSBC) to provide services to resettled refugees under the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP).
- A Treasury Board submission has been prepared to access the \$1M for the Fund through contingency funding. This will span two fiscal years: 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- The Fund will focus on capacity-building with an emphasis on ensuring a community-driven approach (with a focus outside the Lower Mainland), avoiding duplication with existing services, and minimizing long term service dependencies.

DISCUSSION:

- Based on gap analysis and extensive stakeholder consultation, Ministry staff have designed the Fund in two streams: A) province-wide coordination, resources, and information; and, B) community-based Refugee Response Teams.
- Stream A will include an online information hub, trauma-related clinician support, and refugee readiness workshops (Appendix A).
- Under Stream B, multi-partner Refugee Response Teams in five regions (Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley, Victoria, Nanaimo, Kamloops/Kelowna, and Prince George) will assess and address community-specific refugee settlement needs and create Action Plans (Appendix B).

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• s.13

- Using a competitive procurement process to allocate the \$1M provides transparency and fairness to the stakeholders who have expressed an interest in supporting refugee settlement and provides them with an avenue to submit a funding proposal.
- An open procurement is also less likely than a direct award to generate criticism from stakeholders and the public.
- However, competitive procurement requires evaluating proposals and negotiating multiple contracts, which will take longer than a direct award to get services in place. This may not allow enough time to be nimble and responsive to the arrival patterns of Syrian refugees in B.C.

OPTIONS:

s.13,s.17

s.13,s.17

s.13,s.17

RECOMMENDATION:

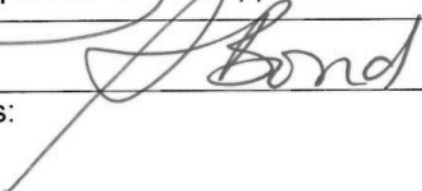
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Recommended Next Steps:


1. Announcement of procurement plan on December 2.
2. Sign contract with ISSBC to have initial supports in place immediately and start developing training and resources for January/February workshops.
3. Post Call for Responses on December 7, 2015 and leave open until December 21, allowing respondents two weeks to respond. Have contracts in place for late January.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1: ISSBC Proposed Contract Service Description
- Appendix 2: Overview of Proposed Call for Responses for Refugee Response Teams in Five Communities.

Approved / Not Approved	Date: Dec. 2, 2015
	
Comments:	

Contact: Cloe Nicholls A/Executive Director, Immigration Policy Branch, Labour Market & Immigration Division, Telephone: 250.216.9102 (cell)

Reviewed by			
Dir: CN	ED: CN/ES	ADM:	DM: 

Appendix 1: Proposed ISS of BC Contract Description of Services

Refugee Readiness Training and Resources

Deliverable	Intended Outcome(s)	Description
BC Syrian Resettlement Webpage/Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Columbians are empowered to help with the resettlement process in a coordinated and supported manner. Refugee-serving organizations and individuals have access to resources that help them to more effectively address refugees' unique needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province-wide "how to help" portal (track and graphically post statistics on volunteers, housing, employment, in kind donations and also ensure leads are sent to appropriate regional settlement agencies) Newsletter to keep the public informed of progress/status of resettlement; including flows of people (weekly from Dec 6 – Feb 22, then monthly until Nov 2016) Public information resource centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral links to existing services and resources such as the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program, the Trauma-Informed Practice Guide, Stopping the Violence counselling, etc.) Learning resources ('fact sheets' and/or mini-modules on topics such as: understanding the Syrian conflict, 'myth busting' about refugees; cultural and health profile of Syrians; working with interpreters; etc.) Tracking of statistics and user experience as per reporting requirements
Trauma-Related Clinician Support (via refugeehealth.ca)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinicians serving refugees throughout the province have resources and supports at their disposal to help them support refugees' trauma-related needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate a 1-800 clinical consultation line (Mon-Fri business hours) to provide advice to clinicians serving refugees. Develop and distribute a guideline document for facilitating trauma support groups for refugees Develop and distribute a trauma needs and vulnerability assessment tool Provide up-to-date information and referral links Tracking of statistics and user experience as per reporting requirements
Refugee Readiness Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service providers assisting GARs in communities outside the Lower Mainland have the knowledge and expertise to rapidly adapt to serving refugee populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop curriculum for a Refugee Readiness Workshop targeted at service providers, clinicians, school counsellors, housing providers, private sponsors and others who are part of the refugee-serving community. Topics to focus primarily on trauma awareness and response, supplemented by topics such as cultural understanding and working with interpreters. Workshops to be maximum of 2 days in length. Deliver one Refugee Readiness Workshop in each community as determined by the province. Record workshops and post video or audio and presentations on online Resource Centre. Tracking of statistics and user experience as per reporting requirements

Appendix 2: Overview of Proposed Call for Responses for Refugee Response Teams in Five Communities.

Phase 1	Phase 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee response teams forms comprised of a diverse membership, such as private sponsorship groups, settlement service agencies, healthcare providers , social service agencies, and municipal staff • Each team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies community needs without duplicating federal or provincial programs • Creates an action plan to support sponsorship and welcome refugees at a community level • Seek ministry approval of action plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements approved action plan projects • Collects information on refugee landings in the RRT community and relay this information to ISSBC and the province • Acts as the local resource for information and supports for refugee landings in the community.

Map of B.C. with Refugee Response Teams



MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
DECISION NOTE

Cliff #: 111812

Date: January 26, 2016

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister

ISSUE: B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund procurement results

BACKGROUND:

- The Government of Canada, through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has jurisdiction over the national immigration system including refugee resettlement.
- On November 24, 2015, IRCC announced that 25,000 Syrian refugees will be arriving by March 1, 2016. B.C. is expected to receive between 2,000-2,500 refugees by March 1 with 85% expected to be Government Assisted Refugees.
- In response, the Government of B.C. created the B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund – a one-time investment of \$1,000,000 to support the refugee resettlement.
- ISS of BC received \$500,000 of the fund as a direct award to provide province-wide training and resources to build capacity for refugee service and support. At the time of the award, ISS was the sole provider of federal services under the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) to B.C. refugees. On February 5, 2016 the federal government announced that the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria was also named as an additional RAP provider in B.C.
- The remaining \$500,000 of the fund was procured through an open Call for Responses (CFR) posted on Dec 7, 2015 and closed on Dec 21, 2015. The call procured for Refugee Response Teams to create action plans in response to urgent needs for refugees that are not being addressed by federal programs. The CFR indicated that teams would be focused in five regions across B.C.: Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Thompson Okanagan and Cariboo.
- Government Assisted Refugees (GARS) land in Vancouver and receive initial services through the RAP program but will then be dispersed to communities outside of Vancouver and Victoria where permanent housing is available. Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) are destined to where their sponsors are located. Supports need to be in place rapidly in these communities.
- Urgent issues at the community level include: finding permanent housing, connecting PSRs to settlement services and language training, educating private sponsors, managing and recording volunteers, donations, job and housing leads etc. It is expected that the Refugee Response Teams will create a customized approach to their urgent community needs.
- The CFR stated that "...funding will be allocated to the communities based on information available about the number of landings expected in each of the

communities at the time the call closes." The current landing estimates by community are provided in Appendix 1.

DISCUSSION:

- While direct services to refugees is under federal jurisdiction, the timelines and overwhelming public interest has presented a gap in community-level supports.
- The scope of the CFR is intended to be flexible to adjust to dynamic community needs. Respondents were requested to provide a budget for phase 1 - action plan development and a budget for phase 2 – implementation.
- There were a total of 8 responses to the call. One response was received in each of the communities outside of Metro Vancouver and four responses were received for Metro Vancouver: MOSAIC, ISS of BC, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., and La Federation des Francophones de la Colombie-Britannique.
- The results of the Call for Responses are as follows:
 1. Metro Vancouver – MOSAIC
 2. Fraser Valley – DiverseCity
 3. Vancouver Island – Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS)
 4. Thompson Okanagan – Kelowna Community Resources Society
 5. Cariboo – Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George
- s.13,s.17
-

OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATION:

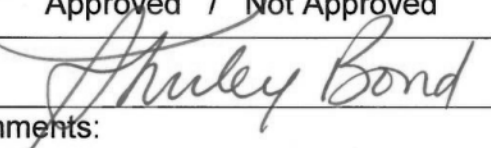
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Recommended Next Steps:

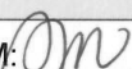
1. Approval to proceed with contract negotiations.
2. GCPE notified of announcements pending.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1: Current Landing Estimates
- Appendix 2: Estimated Landings by Community and Revised Allocations
- Appendix 3: Refugee Pathway & Funding Allocation Plan

Approved / Not Approved	Date: Feb. 11, 2016
	
Comments:	

Contact: Erin Seeley Executive Director, Immigration Programs Branch, Telephone:
 604.775.2215 (office) ^{s.17} (cell)

Reviewed by			
Dir: LS	ED: ES	ADM:	DM: 

Appendix 1: Current Landing Estimates as Posted on January 22, 2016

City	GARs/ BVORs*	PSRs in Inventory	Admitted PSRs	TOTAL
Burnaby	5	15	34	54
Coquitlam	0	1 to 4	0	1 to 4
Duncan	7	0	0	7
Fernie	0	0	1 to 4	1 to 4
Fruitvale	0	1 to 4	0	1 to 4
Kamloops	5	1 to 4	0	6 to 9
Kelowna	9	0	9	18
Ladysmith	0	1 to 4	0	1 to 4
Langley	5	7	1 to 4	13 to 16
Maple Ridge	0	5	0	5
Nanaimo	1 to 4	0	0	1 to 4
New Westminster	0	1 to 4	7	8 to 11
North Vancouver	5	1 to 4	0	6 to 9
Oliver	5	0	0	5
Osoyoos	1 to 4	0	0	1 to 4
Port Moody	0	1 to 4	0	1 to 4
Prince George	0	5	5	10
Richmond	0	5	1 to 4	6 to 9
Salmon Arm	1 to 4	0	0	1 to 4
Smithers	0	5	0	5
Surrey	0	38	9	47
Vancouver	749	32	34	815
Victoria	23	11	0	34
West Vancouver	0	0	5	5
White Rock	0	0	1 to 4	1 to 4
TOTAL	816 to 825	130 to 151	107 to 119	1053 to 1095

*GAR = Government Assisted Refugee

BVOR = Blended Visa Office-Referred

PSR = Privately Sponsored Refugee

Source: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/map.asp> as posted on the IRCC website on Friday, January 22, 2016

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR

DECISION NOTE

Cliff #: 113165

Date: May 27, 2016

PREPARED FOR: Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour

ISSUE: B.C. Refugee Readiness Team Funding for Phase 2: July 2016 - March 2017

BACKGROUND:

- The Province has dedicated \$500K from the \$1M Refugee Readiness Fund to fund five Refugee Readiness Teams (RRTs) across B.C.
- Following the initial planning phase, RRTs have now launched their action plans and are addressing urgent issues at the community level, including: finding permanent housing; connecting Privately Sponsored Refugees to settlement services and language training; educating private sponsors; working with local employers; and managing and tracking volunteers, donations, job and housing leads etc. The actions for each have been prioritized through consultations with a diverse team of multi-disciplinary stakeholders in each region.
- The final destinations of a large number of Syrian refugees were unknown at the time of contract negotiation in March 2016 and as refugees continue to arrive in BC some uncertainty remains about geographic dispersion.
- As a result of this uncertainty and as per DN 111812, RRTs were initially provided with partial funding for a total of \$274,898.63. The Ministry committed to review updated refugee landings data from May/June to determine how the remaining funds (\$225,101.38) would be distributed to the five teams.
- As part of the action plan deliverables, each RRT proposed a Phase 2 funding model; with only one exception (Vancouver Island), all RRTs proposed a significantly higher budget than the allocation in the original Call for Responses.
- The five teams are:
 1. Metro Vancouver – led by MOSAIC
 2. Fraser Valley – led by DiverseCity
 3. Vancouver Island – led by Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society
 4. Thompson Okanagan – led by Kelowna Community Resources Society
 5. Cariboo – led by Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George

DISCUSSION:

- With the uncertainty and variation in refugee arrivals since the original RRT contract negotiation, Ministry staff have reviewed options for the remaining allocation of Phase 2 funding to reflect the regional realities and RRT plans.
- In order to establish an evidence-based rationale for distributing the remaining funds, staff established a funding formula for the five RRTs based on:
 - The number of refugee landings in each community, and
 - The geographic reach of each community.
- Landings data is a factor as communities with a greater percentage of refugee arrivals will likely require enhanced coordination to implement larger activities.
 - Landings Data accounts for all Syrian refugees who have arrived in each community as of April 14, 2016 as well as Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) who were relocated through ISSofBC subcontracts, and Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) still in the federal inventory.
- Geographic size and reach of each RRT is a factor as RRTs that are more geographically dispersed will likely require additional funds for transportation, communication, and coordination.
 - Geographic Size is calculated using the total distance (km) from the RRT team lead office to each city receiving Syrian refugees in the community; in this way, it also reflects the number of cities in each community and forthcoming PSR arrivals.
 - Applying the formula, the distribution of the Phase 2 funds is proposed as follows (for a more detailed table, see Appendix 1):

s.13,s.17

OPTIONS:

s.13,s.17

s.13,s.17

Option 3: Redistribute the remaining phase 2 funds for each contract to the five successful respondents by applying a formula based on up-to-date landings data and geographic reach (see Revised 2B Allocations, Appendices 1 and 2).

s.13,s.17

RECOMMENDED OPTION:


Option 3: Redistribute the remaining Phase 2 funds for each contract to the five successful respondents by applying a formula based on up-to-date landings data and geographic reach (see Revised Allocations, Appendix 1).

Recommended Next Steps:

1. Approval by June 10 to proceed with contract negotiations to have revised contracts in place by July 1, 2017.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1: Estimated Landings by Community and Revised Allocations

Approved / Not Approved	Date: <u>June 1, 2017</u>
Deputy Minister's Signature: 	

ADM Contact: Rob Mingay, (604) 250-3081

Prepared by: Erin Seeley Executive Director, Immigration Programs Branch

Reviewed by		
Dir: LS	ED: ES	ADM:

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
INFORMATION NOTE

Cliff #:113403

Date: June 13, 2016

PREPARED FOR: Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister

ISSUE: Update and clarification on Refugee Readiness Teams funding and Skills Connect program redesign.

REFUGEE READINESS TEAMS (RRT)

- In response to further discussion and feedback, Option 3 from attached approved Decision Note 113165 (Appendix A) has been updated so that the Phase 2 contract amounts for two regions: Vancouver Island and Cariboo, now reflect the notional contract allocations proposed in the original RRT Call for Responses.
- The other three regions will receive increases proportionate to their geographic reach and the updated number of refugee landings.

s.13,s.17

SKILLS CONNECT

- Following the signed DN 113263 (Appendix 2) the Ministry posted a Notice to Vendors (NTV#17-SC01) on BC Bid notifying the public that the existing Skills Connect contracts will be extended until March 31, 2017 while the Ministry re-designs and procures for a new program for skilled immigrants to begin in the late fall of 2016.
- Procurement for new programming is anticipated for July / August 2016 so that contracts can be in place on or before December 1, 2016. Contracts will be negotiated with successful bidders through to March 31, 2018, with the option to extend for another two years.
- The current Skills Connect program and the new programming will overlap for a short period of time during this calendar year to allow for a smooth client transition.
- For 2016/17 the province has allocated \$3.5M and the federal government has committed to contribute up to \$800K toward the new programming.
- s.13,s.16,s.17

ATTACHMENTS: Appendix 1 – Decision Note 113165
Appendix 2 – Decision Note 113263

Contact: Erin Seeley, Executive Director, Immigration Programs Branch, Workforce Development and Immigration Division
Telephone: (mobile) ^{s.17}

Reviewed by			
Dir:	ED: ES	ADM: RM	DM:

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
DECISION NOTE

Cliff #:113743

Date: July 28, 2016

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour

ISSUE: Allocation of Additional Funding to the Fraser Valley Refugee Response Team

BACKGROUND:

- The Province has dedicated \$500K from the \$1M Refugee Readiness Fund to fund five Refugee Response Teams (RRTs) across B.C.
- Funding was allocated to the RRT lead agencies in two instalments to ensure that total funding allocated aligned to the extent possible with the destining of refugees across the province.
- The first instalment of funding was allocated in early March; the second and final instalment of funding was allocated in late June based on April 14th landing data.
- Three of the five RRTs (Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Thompson-Okanagan) received small funding increases over and above the original allocation established for the region in the Call for Responses (CFR) and the remaining two regions (Vancouver Island and Cariboo) remained at the original allocation.

DISCUSSION:

- s.13,s.17
s.13,s.17 . New data released in July by the Immigrant Services Society (ISS) Refugee Hub on the final destination of refugees showed a larger number in the Fraser Valley than in Metro Vancouver.
- Upon review, the federal landings data used in April matched the final destination information provided by ISS for the Vancouver Island, Thompson Okanagan, and Cariboo regions, however not for the Fraser Valley and Metro Vancouver regions.
- This discrepancy between the landings data and the ISS data can be attributed to the high degree of secondary migration between these two adjacent regions. The federal landings data captures where refugees initially land; the new data provided by ISS in July captures where refugees have settled permanently.
- Given the original intent of the phased allocation process was to ensure that funding reflected refugee settlement; the FV RRT allocation may be insufficient to support the needs of a larger than anticipated number of refugees destined to Fraser Valley communities.
- The FV RRT s.13,s.17 a new total funding allocation of \$155,385.88.

- The Ministry has identified sufficient uncommitted funding from BC Settlement and Integration Services (BC SIS) that could be re-allocated to the FV RRT.
- Ministry Procurement Advisors confirmed that an increase to the FV RRT was within procurement policy and no postings would be required on BC Bid.
- ^{s.13} RRT "

OPTIONS:

s.13,s.17

s.13,s.17

Option 3: Allocate an additional \$30K to the Fraser Valley RRT.

s.13,s.17

RECOMMENDED OPTION: Option 3**Approved / Not Approved**

Date: August 4, 2016

Minister's Signature:



ADM Contact: Rob Mingay, 604 250-3081

Prepared by: Lucy Swib, Director, Workforce Development and Immigration Division

Reviewed by			
Dir: LS	ED:	ADM: RM	DM: SB

Fabrikova, Zhanna JTST:EX

From: Seeley, Erin JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2015 11:15 AM
Subject: Call for Responses - British Columbia Refugee Readiness Fund

Good morning,

Following the Notice to Vendors for the B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund, please see the following link to BC Bid where the Call for Responses is now posted:

<http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca/open.dll/welcome?language=En>

Responses will be accepted until the deadline of **December 21, 2015 at 2:00PM**. Should you have any enquiries about the Call for Responses or the process, please contact RRF@gov.bc.ca before **December 15, 2015 at 2:00PM**.

Thank you,
Erin

Erin Seeley
Executive Director | Immigration Programs Branch
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
450 – 605 Robson Street
Vancouver BC | V6B 5J3

p: +1.604.775.2215 e: Erin.Seeley@gov.bc.ca
www.welcomebc.ca/pnp

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MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR

INFORMATION NOTE

Cliff #:113649

Date: July 18, 2016

PREPARED FOR: Rob Mingay, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour

ISSUE: Utilization of BC Settlement and Integration Services (BC SIS) Uncommitted Funds

BACKGROUND:

- In FY 16/17 the Ministry committed \$3,935M of the \$4M allocated to the BC SIS program, leaving \$65K as uncommitted free balance.
- A review of current programming priorities was conducted to determine potential investments of available provincial funds dedicated to the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees. Three areas emerged:
 - 1.) Enhanced Refugee Readiness Funding for Fraser Valley**
- The second and final tranche of the Refugee Readiness Team funding was allocated in late June based on refugee landings data available in April, 2016.
- s.13,s.17

•

- The landings data used in April were comparable to the final destination information provided by the ISS Refugee Hub for the three other Refugee Response Team regions (Vancouver Island, Thompson Okanagan, Cariboo).
 - 2.) Supports for International Students**
- The Ministry has been working with the Ministry of Advanced Education (MAVED) to enhance services for International Students through the BC SIS program in alignment the objectives of the BC International Education strategy.
 - 3.) Increased Supports to Align Settlement Services and WorkBC Centres**
- The Ministry has also been in discussions with the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (MSDSI) to continue the work of the Employment Collaboration project focused on increasing collaboration and

immigrant client referrals between WorkBC Centres and settlement services agencies.

DISCUSSION:

- Recommendations for the utilization of the available BC SIS uncommitted free balance are as follows:
s.13,s.17

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-

Next Steps:

- Proceed to allocate funding as recommended.

ADM Contact: Rob Mingay, Phone # 250 387-5608

Prepared by: Lucy Swib, Director, Workforce Development & Immigration Division

Reviewed by		
Dir: LS	ED: ES	ADM:

From: [Uhl, Robyn JTST:EX](#)
Subject: Details for the Refugee Readiness Fund consultation, Sept. 30
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 3:16:23 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for confirming your attendance at our Key Stakeholder Consultation on BC's \$1M Refugee Readiness Fund. This half-day consultation session will play an important role in ensuring the province can be responsive to the quickly-evolving refugee situation. The meeting will take place on September 30, 2015, from 1:00-4:00pm at the [Executive Airport Plaza Hotel](#) (Fraser Room) in Richmond located at: 7311 Westminster Hwy. Richmond, BC V6X 1A3 (phone: 604-278-5555).

AMSSA will be leading the consultation process and facilitating travel reimbursements. Prior to booking your travel, please ensure that all costs are within the allowable travel expenses detailed in the [Travel Expenses for Non-BC Government Employees](#). Please keep all of your receipts so that AMSSA is able to account for and reimburse your travel expenses. You will receive an AMSSA Expense Reimbursement form at the meeting.

The hotel offers a complimentary shuttle service from the airport. If you are driving to the meeting you can pick up your parking pass at the Hotel Reception, which you can then place on the dash of your car.

Should you have any questions regarding travel expenses, logistics, and reimbursements, please contact Lynn Moran at LMoran@amssa.org. For questions related to the Fund or the consultation process, please contact me at robyn.uhl@gov.bc.ca

Thank you kindly,

Robyn

Robyn Uhl

Senior Policy Analyst, Immigration Policy
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Government of British Columbia
3rd Floor, 1106 Cook Street, Victoria BC
Phone 250.889.2361

From: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
To: Nicholls, Cloe JTST:EX
Subject: DIVERSEcity RRT - Additional Funding
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2016 10:36:00 AM
Importance: High

Hi Cloe, without making any commitments we have asked this RRT to provide a high level budget/action plan of what they can realistically spend to March 31st, 2017 should we be in a position to consider additional funding; s.13,s.17
s.13,s.17

Please share with Rob for the briefing with the ADM/Minister. If you need anything else from me on this let me know.

Lucy Swib
Director, Immigrant Integration
Immigration Programs Branch
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training
450-605 Robson Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5J3
Phone: (604) 660-1546

Refugee Readiness Fund Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

DMCSE Presentation
March 21, 2016



Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF)

- The Government of Canada, through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has jurisdiction over the national immigration system including refugee resettlement.
- On November 24, 2015, IRCC announced that 25,000 Syrian refugees would arrive in Canada by March 1, 2016.
- BC responded by creating the RRF, a \$1M one time investment to assist Syrian refugees and to leverage existing federal and provincial supports
- This presentation will provide a progress update on the Syrian refugee resettlement process in BC and RRF activities to date

Syrian Refugee Resettlement in BC

As of March 7, 2016:



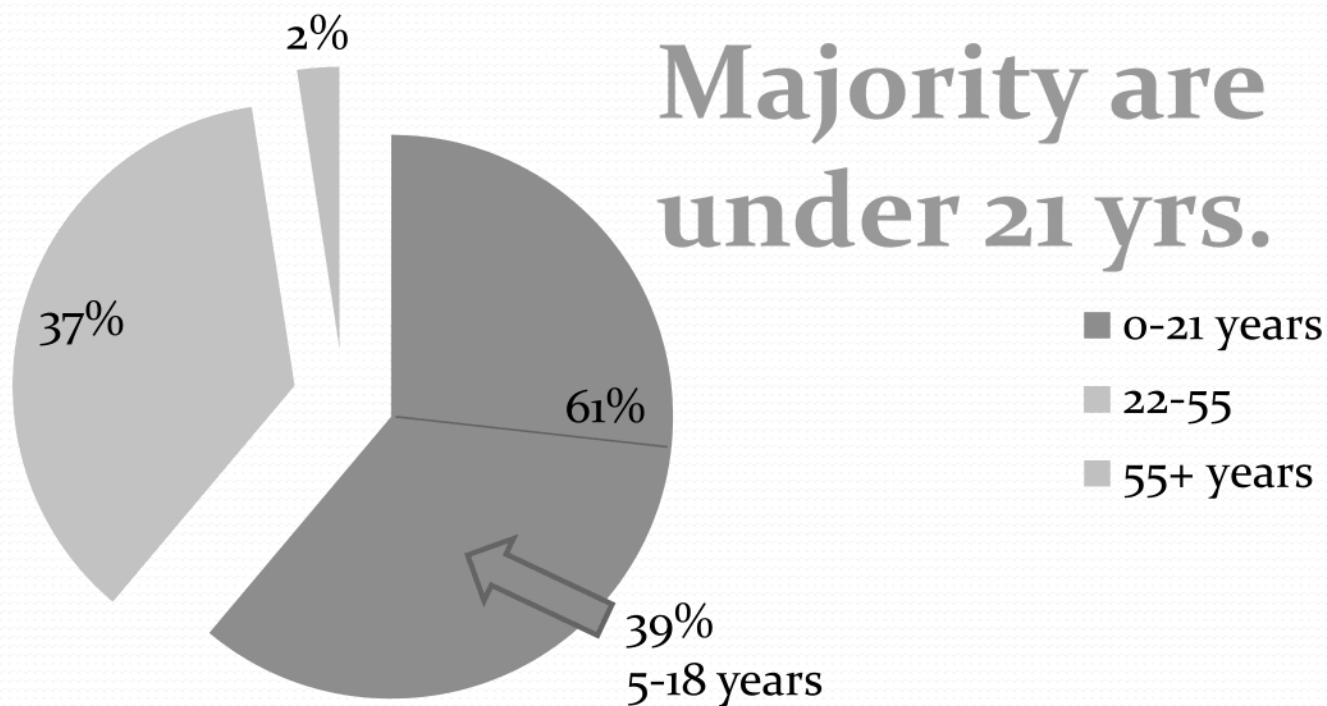
2,267 individuals have arrived in BC to date.

Average family size **4.45**

Preliminary estimates are for another **2,000**
BC refugee arrivals in the remainder of 2016.

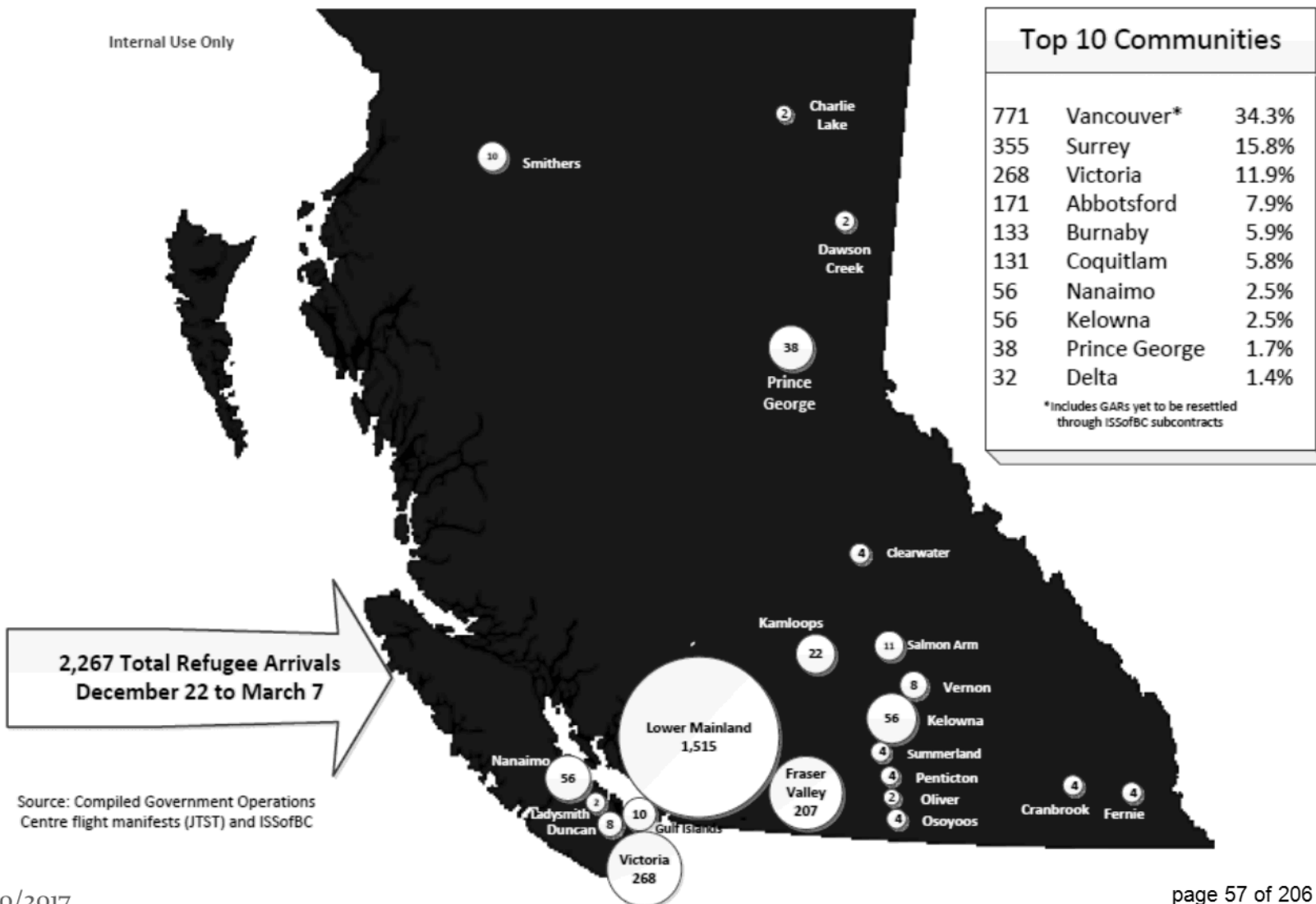
Syrian Refugee Demographics

Ages of Syrian Refugees



Settlement Communities

Internal Use Only



Government Assisted Refugee Housing



1,084 (60%) in temporary accommodation, 333 are scheduled for check out.



707 people (40%) in permanent accommodation.

Services and Supports

Federal Funding

Resettlement Assistance Program

- Income support for up to 1 year
- Resettlement services for the first 4-6 weeks, including:
 - Reception services
 - Temporary accommodation
 - Assistance with permanent accommodations
 - Furniture and household goods
 - Initial needs assessments
 - Orientation on financial information and life skills training
 - Links to federal and provincial settlement programs

** Privately sponsored refugees receive above supports from their sponsor*

Settlement Services, which provide:

- Language assessments and classes
- Assistance finding a job
- Assistance with daily living
- Information on community services

Interim Federal Health Care

- Coverage varies depending on the refugees age and status

Canada Child Tax Benefit

Student Aid

Provincial Funding

- Health (MSP)
 - Refugees are eligible for immediate enrolment upon arrival
- Education
- Employment Program of BC
- Child Care Subsidy
- BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit
- BC Basic Family Bonus
- Student Aid

\$1M Refugee Readiness Fund

- Provincial Resources and Training
- Community Capacity Building

Basic Refugee Needs

Community Readiness

\$1M Refugee Readiness Fund

Community
Supports

Refugee
Response Teams
(RRTs)

\$500K



Provincial
Supports

ISSofBC Contract

\$500K

Complimentary to Existing Services and Regionally-Focused

Refugee Readiness Fund

Community Supports: 5 Refugee Response Teams (RRTs)

1

**Metro
Vancouver**

MOSAIC

2

**Fraser
Valley**

DiverseCity

3

**Vancouver
Island**

Victoria
Immigrant
and Refugee
Centre
Society
(VIRCS)

4

**Thompson
Okanagan**

Kelowna
Community
Resources
Society
(KCRS)

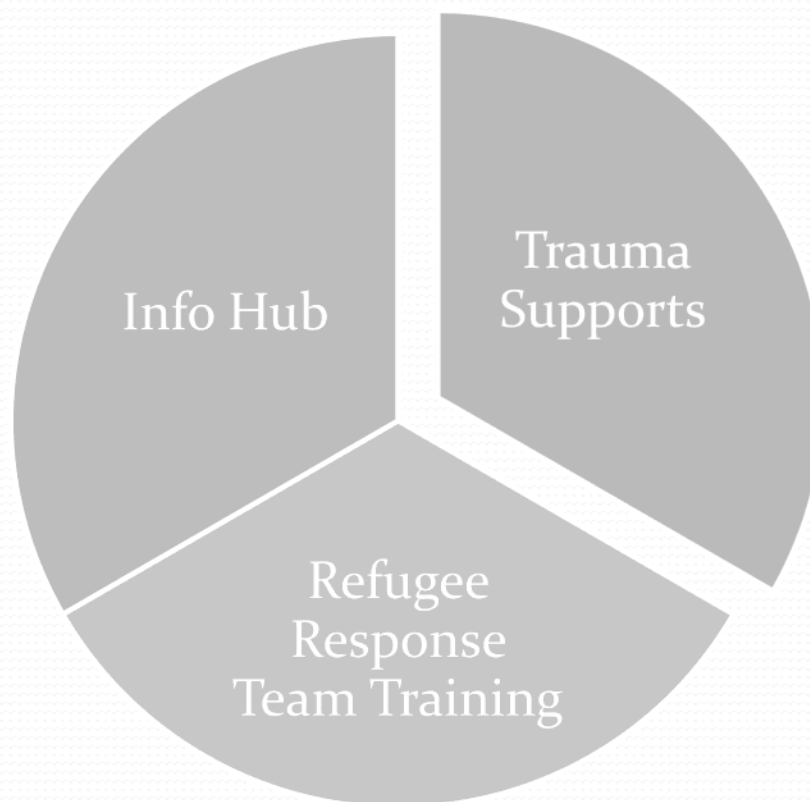
5

Cariboo

Immigrant &
Multicultural
Services
Society of
Prince George

Refugee Readiness Fund

Provincial Supports: ISSofBC Contract



Additional Provincial Efforts

Stakeholder and Municipal Outreach

Service Provider
Engagement

UBCM Conference
& Follow-Up
Letters

Employer
Roundtable

Cross-Ministry ADM Committee

Coordinated
communications
and planning
efforts

s.13,s.17

Next Steps

Federal Engagement

- Clarify expected arrivals for remainder of 2016.
- Suggest a pause on arrivals until housing backlog cleared.
- Press for increased settlement and language funding.

Early Interventions

- Develop and implement strategies to reduce fiscal impacts.
- Build on existing cross-ministry partnerships.
- Focus on language and employment needs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- s.13,s.17
- Evaluate refugee outcomes & effectiveness of interventions.
- Align with federal Syrian Refugees Outcome Monitoring Framework.

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Workforce Development and Immigration Division

Rob Mingay

Revised Annotated Agenda – Key Stakeholder Consultation

1pm – 4:30pm Sept. 30th, 2015 Vancouver, B.C.

CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the consultation are to:

- Establish a common understanding of the objectives, themes, and guiding principles of the Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF)
- Allow space for participants (and facilitators) to learn from one another's experience/expertise in refugee (re)settlement
- Identify potential approaches for utilizing the \$1M RRF that are aligned with the fund's five themes and guiding principles

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(This information will be visible during the breakout sessions on a PowerPoint)

Five Themes

1. Trauma counselling
2. Groups of Five
3. Community-level supports
4. Foreign Credential Recognition
5. Employer supports

Guiding Principles

1. **Community based** – approaches should leverage the generosity of British Columbians and the expertise of local community groups and settlement agencies.
2. **Non-duplicative** – approaches must not duplicate but rather, leverage existing federal or provincial services and supports including labour market programs and settlement services.
3. **'Readiness' focus** – approaches should focus on ensuring the province is ready and able to support increased numbers of refugees arriving to the province; this will include providing comprehensive support services for refugees impacted by the Syrian crisis and enhanced support for private sponsors.
4. **Time-limited** – the RRF is a one-time fund to support the readiness of refugees arriving to BC in the near future. Ongoing or long-term services and supports will need to be addressed through longer-term funding structures.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS *

- ☐ Printed agendas (1 per participant)
- ☐ Expense forms (1 per participant)
- ☐ 1 projector
- ☐ 1 laptop
- ☐ PowerPoint presentation (with JTST prepared slides)
- ☐ Name tags – prepared with participants’ names and pre-assigned break-out groups
- ☐ Colored markers/ballpoint pens (1 per participant)
- ☐ 5 flip charts
- ☐ Flip chart markers
- ☐ Additional flip charts if there isn’t a white board in the training room
- ☐ Optional – extra-large sticky notes
- ☐ Painters tape / blue tac
- ☐ Pads of paper (1 per participant)

PREPARATION (BEFORE 30th) *

JTST

- ☐ Finalize Scott’s PowerPoint slides and share with AMSSA
- ☐ Finalize the participant list and share with AMSSA

AMSSA

- ☐ Organize the PowerPoint presentation (including the JTST-prepared slides)
- ☐ Divide participants into 5 groups of approx. 4 and 2 groups of approx. 10. Identify participants’ groups on their nametag using a color code.¹

PREPARATION (DAY OF) *

- ☐ Set up the consultation room
 - Arrange chairs in half rounds of 6 [this is how AMSSA typically sets up the room for meetings of this size]
- ☐ Set-up the laptop, projector, and PowerPoint
- ☐ Set up sign in table with the following resources:
 - Sign in sheet for participants
 - Reimbursement / Expense claim forms
 - Name tags
- ☐ Coordinate the tea and coffee break

**** Please note that these lists are non-exhaustive – it is up to AMSSA’s discretion to prepare the materials and training facility as they see fit***

¹ Note from AMSSA: *The facilitator will color code each theme, so there will be 5 colors. All participants will have the colored dot on their name tags, and will use the same colored dot system to vote at the end of the meeting.*

FACILITATION GUIDE

Time	Topic	Facilitation Style	Facilitator	Materials
1:00-1:30pm (30 min)	Welcome <u>Objective:</u> Participants feel welcomed and understand the objectives of the consultation (see p.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an opening welcome statement • Acknowledge that the meeting is taking place on traditional Musqueam territory of the First Nations • Outline of the key objectives of the session (p.1) • Give everyone in the room 2-3 minutes to introduce themselves, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who they are ○ Their connection to the refugee sector ○ Why they are here today 	Conversation	AMSSA	Ensure everyone is wearing their name tags
1:30-1:45pm (15 min)	Overview of the RRF <u>Objective:</u> Participants have a common understanding of the objectives, themes, and guiding principles of the RRF. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the RRF including actions to date. • Highlight the underlying principles and the five themes highlighted in the SRRF Press Release (see p.1) 	Presentation	Scott MacDonald	JTST PowerPoint slides (to be given to AMSSA in advance)
1:45-3:00 (75 min)	SWOT Analysis of RRF Themes <u>Objective:</u> Participants have an opportunity to map out existing federal and provincial services/supports and identify important opportunities and gaps relating to the province's ability to receive and support refugees for each of the five RRF themes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that five stations have been set-up around the room – each with its own SRRF theme, moderator, and flip chart with SWOT analysis template. • Divide participants into five groups, according to the number (or color) on their name tag – which has been pre-assigned 		AMSSA will provide overall facilitation for this exercise. JTST staff will moderate discussion at each of the 5 stations. Facilitators include: Cloe Nicholls, Vicki Chiu, Robyn Uhl, Fiona Cheong, and Joni Rose	5 flip charts, each with the SWOT template drawn on 5 flip chart pens

	<p>by AMSSA to ensure a mixture of private sponsors and settlement service providers in each group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWOT #1 – 15 minutes to discuss • SWOT 2-5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2 minutes to move flip charts between groups -3 minutes to debrief the new group -10 minutes for discussion • At the end of each session, ask participants to stay put while the JTST moderators take their flip charts and move (a clockwise direction) to a new group. • After 75 min, all five groups will have had an opportunity to feedback on all five of the RRF themes. <p><i>Notes for JTST staff: as a moderator, please support your group to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stay on theme and on time - Ensure that certain settlement agencies or groups <i>DON'T</i> use this time to promote their own programs at the expense of allowing others to voice their ideas <p><i>After the 10 minutes are up – you will take the flip chart with you and walk clockwise around the room to the next group and debrief your next group for 3 minutes (this will help us avoid herding participants around the room)</i></p>		<p>(TBC)</p> <p>Cloe will be FCR, Robyn G5s, Joni Employer supports, Vicki Trauma, Fiona Community supports</p> <p>Scott MacDonald will 'float' around the room observing and listening to the various groups (neither participating nor facilitating)</p>	
3:00-3:15	BREAK (TEA & COFFEE)		Each moderator duplicate their flip chart so we can hang them on opposite sides of the room.	
3:15-4:15pm (60 min)	<p>Identifying Potential RRF Approaches</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Participants brainstorm potential approaches for addressing identified gaps and opportunities that are aligned to RRF principles (i.e. time-limited, non-duplicative, etc.).</p> <p>Topics to cover in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ needs and potential approaches to addressing needs ➤ broad identification of current programming and capacity 	Break out groups (30 min)	<p>AMSSA will provide overall facilitation for this exercise.</p> <p>Part One - JTST staff will moderate the two discussion. Facilitators include: Cloe Nicholls, Joni Rose, Vicki</p>	Flip charts, Pens,

	<p>➤ how funding should be allocated (RFP, LOI, direct award)</p> <p>Part One - Two Breakout Groups (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide participants into three groups, according to the number on their name tag – which has been pre-assigned by AMSSA to ensure a mixture of private sponsors and settlement service providers in each group. • Assign a note taker to write down the emerging ideas, and a spokesperson to feedback to the plenary after 30 min. • Use a “parking lot” flip chart to capture ideas that do not align with RRF principles and/or themes – but are still valuable. <p>Part Two - Group plenary (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring both groups back together in a plenary and have the three spokespeople share the potential approaches their groups have identified. • <u>Facilitator</u>: guide the conversation to focus on short-term approaches that align with the RRF principles • <u>Notetakers</u>: Each JTST moderator will record emerging ideas related to her theme on her flip chart - clustering similar ideas wherever possible and using the parking lot to capture ideas that may be outside the scope of RRF • Ultimately there should be a list of 5-10 potential approaches for each of the five RRF themes at the front of the room. • Facilitator/moderators to capture who has capacity for approaches and how the RRF should be allocated. • Minute taker will capture broader conversation 	Plenary Group Discussion (30 min)	Chiu.	
4:15-4:30pm (15 min)	<p>Next Steps + Closing</p> <p><u>Objective</u>: Participants are informed of next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott will inform participants of the upcoming broader stakeholder consultations and how their recommendations 	Group Discussion	Scott MacDonald	

FINAL

	(including those on the parking lot) will be shared with decision makers. He will clarify that the 1M is in addition to the 4M and provide an update on ineligible clients.			
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Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Call for Responses (CFR) Name: B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund

CFR Number: CFR-16-RRF-01

Issue Date: December 7, 2015

Response Deadline: December 21, 2015

Issuing Organizations: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Schedule of Events:

Event	Anticipated Time (Pacific Time)
Notice to Vendors	December 2, 2015
Issue CFR	December 7, 2015
Enquiries Deadline	December 15, 2015, 2:00 pm
Response Deadline	December 21, 2015, 2:00 pm
Contract Commences	February 2016

Submit Enquiries in writing to the Authorized Contact Person: RRF@gov.bc.ca

Response Submission Location: Responses will be accepted by submission of an electronic response through B.C. Bid and must be received before the Response Deadline. One complete electronic response should be received in accordance with B.C. Bid instructions for e-bidding. Only pre-authorized e-bidders registered on the B.C. Bid system can submit electronic responses.

Respondents should note that eBidding is a subscription service (\$150 per year) that allows subscribers to electronically respond to eBid opportunities through B.C. Bid. The registration process involves submitting a form in addition to registering online, and normally takes at least two business days to complete.

A registration guide is available under Downloadable Guides on the B.C. Bid homepage (<http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca/custom/BCBidRegistrationGuide20100708.pdf>). For assistance, contact the B.C. Bid Help Desk at 250-387-7301 or bcbid@gov.bc.ca.

Non-binding CFR Process: This CFR is not a tender, Request for Proposals (RFP) or contract and does not obligate the Province to proceed with an RFP or any procurement process or any Contract. No inference to the contrary can be drawn from the Province's use of the B.C. Bid electronic bidding service for the receipt of Responses for this CFR. The Province reserves the right to modify the terms of this CFR at any time in its sole discretion. This includes the right to postpone or cancel this CFR at any time and the right not to enter into a Contract for the funding of a project with any Respondent. For greater certainty and without limitation: (a) this CFR process shall not give rise to any "Contract A" based tendering law duties, or any other legal obligations arising out of any process contract or collateral contract; and (b) neither the Respondent nor the

Province shall have the right to make any claims against the other with respect to any decision to fund a project under a Contract or failure to approve a project for funding.

A Respondent is not bound by its Response and may withdraw it at any time before entering into a Contract. However, if a Respondent is selected to negotiate a Contract with the Province, any statements or representations in the Response may be incorporated into the Contract and relied upon by the Province.

The Province reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Responses. Even if the Province determines that the Respondent meets the eligibility requirements, this will not create any rights on the Respondent's part including, without limitation, the right to be selected for project funding, the right to enter into a Contract or any rights of enforcement, equity or reimbursement.

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1. Introduction and Overview

This Call for Responses (“CFR”) is to solicit Responses from Respondents interested in leading Community Refugee Response Teams (RRT) to develop and implement action plans for meeting immediate refugee needs as part of the B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund.

For the purposes of proposing services under this CFR, there are five Communities in British Columbia that may have the refugee population to warrant a RRT:

1. Metro Vancouver
2. Fraser Valley
3. Vancouver Island
4. Okanagan
5. Cariboo

The Province may enter into Contracts for a total of up to \$500,000 with Respondents offering services that meet the criteria and principles for funding under this CFR. Contracts are anticipated to commence in February 2016. The term of the Contracts will be dependant on refugee arrivals but is tentatively set to end March 31, 2017. The general scope of work and responsibilities are defined in this CFR.

1.1. Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (“Ministry”) leads, and is guided by, the government’s economic strategy, Canada Starts Here: The B.C. Jobs Plan (<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/bcjobsplan/>). The Ministry plays a leadership role in aligning skills training to where the jobs are, as well as ensuring that training and skills development match the needs of sectors that are creating jobs.

B.C.’s Skills for Jobs Blueprint

(http://www.workbc.ca/WorkBC/media/WorkBC/Documents/Docs/Booklet_BCsBlueprint_web_140428.pdf) includes key actions designed to put British Columbians first in line to fill the job openings expected by 2022. Given B.C.’s aging population and the projected number of domestic entrants to the labour market, B.C. will continue to rely on newcomers to the province as a source of new labour supply.

The Ministry leads the attraction and retention efforts of new workers by establishing B.C. as a destination of choice to live, study and work for people from across Canada and around the world. Ensuring that newcomers to B.C. can fully participate in their communities and the economy is critical to meeting B.C.’s labour market challenge.

1.2. B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund Overview

The Government of Canada has jurisdiction over the national immigration system, including refugee resettlement. However, recognizing the severity of the global humanitarian crisis in Syria, the Government of B.C. has created the Refugee Readiness Fund (“Fund”), a one-time investment of \$1 million to enhance federal and provincial refugee programs and provide additional resources for communities and private sponsors who are working to bring refugees to B.C. This CFR is to procure services in the amount of up to \$500,000 of the Fund in up to 5 communities within the province, depending on need.

The Fund will complement rather than duplicate provincial and federal settlement and employment services.

The Fund's five initial areas of focus were:

- Trauma counselling and psycho-social supports
- 'Groups of Five' private sponsorship support
- Community-level supports and welcoming communities
- Foreign credential recognition
- Employer and labour market attachment supports

The Ministry has engaged and consulted with municipalities, settlement service providers, Sponsorship Agreement Holders, health care providers, and non-profit groups regarding use of the Fund. Through this consultation, it was determined that the highest priorities for the Fund are supports for trauma and mental health needs, private sponsorship in general (not just Groups of Five), and communities. There was strong support for enhancing resources and training for service practitioners and private sponsors, as well as building community capacity through coordination, networking, and information sharing. Credential recognition and employment supports were identified as less pressing priorities compared to immediate sponsorship and settlement needs. The province will be pursuing other avenues outside the Fund such as reprioritizing projects to ensure foreign credential recognition and employer and labour market needs are met for example, through the Canada-BC Job Grant, up to \$1.5 million will support skills training to assist refugees and new Canadians to gain employment, in partnership with sector/industry associations and employers. The first stream of \$1.0 million will focus specifically on refugees while the second \$500,000 stream will be open to refugees, protected persons entitled to work in Canada, and new immigrants (arrived within the last five years). Funding is focused on three key areas:

- Job readiness training, including specialized language supports and cultural training to prepare for working in British Columbia;
- Job match services to link refugees with employers ready to hire new Canadians
- Job specific training - up to \$10,000 per person for job specific skills training that is cost shared between federal and provincial governments (cover two-thirds of the costs) and Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and employers (cover the remaining one-third the costs).

1.3. Service Context

Since April 2014, the federal Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has had lead responsibility for administering services aimed at helping new immigrants, including refugees, settle and adapt to life in B.C. and Canada through its Settlement Program: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/grants-contributions-funding>.

The services provided by IRCC in which refugees can participate include language training, information and referrals, help finding employment that matches their skills and education, and help integrating into Canadian society (refer to <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/grants-contributions-funding/>). IRCC also administers the Resettlement Assistance Program for Government Assisted Refugees, which provides new refugees with income support, temporary

accommodation, basic household items, and general orientation to life in Canada for up to one year. In the case of Privately Sponsored Refugees, the sponsorship group is expected to provide similar services and supports.

In addition to the IRCC settlement programs, refugees are eligible for labour market programs funded by the Canada Job Fund such as Employment Services and Supports and Project Based Training projects.

The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program, funded by IRCC, provides resources and services in order to address the ongoing information needs of private sponsors, including e-training, webinars, and a limited number of in-person workshops. For more information visit: www.rstp.ca/en/training/workshops/.

The Province provides \$4M annually in funding to service providers throughout the province for settlement services to other newcomers who are ineligible for federal services, such as temporary foreign workers, refugee claimants, and naturalized citizens. In addition, the province is co-funding with IRCC the Skills Connect for Immigrants program, which provides case-managed career counselling services, and Project Based Language Training (PBLT), which provides language training tailored to specific occupations/occupational groups that are in high demand in B.C. Both Skills Connect and PBLT are available to permanent residents including refugees. These programs and services are distinct from the \$1 million B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund.

1.4. Outcomes

The Ministry expects that services and deliverables provided under this CFR achieve the following outcomes.

- a) Communities are able to take a coordinated, planning-based approach to refugee sponsorship, support, and initial settlement.
- b) Communities are able to leverage shared knowledge and expertise to address the needs of new sponsors and refugees and enhance readiness in the community.
- c) British Columbians have an increased capacity and capability to help refugees effectively settle into their new lives.

2. Service Requirements

2.1. Eligible Respondents

In order to apply for funding under this CFR, Respondents will be a Legal Entity that is entitled to operate in British Columbia by the time of contract signing.

2.2. Eligible Services

The services are divided into two phases. Recipients are expected to conduct both phases within their Region.

- a) Phase 1: Action Planning and Coordination
 - Convene a Community RRT comprised of a diverse membership, such as private sponsorship groups, settlement service agencies, healthcare providers, educational organizations, social service agencies, and municipal staff to:

- Identify and prioritize Community refugee service needs based on available federal data on refugee flow and settlement.
- Develop a Community Refugee Response Action Plan to address urgent, short-term needs or issues in support of refugees. The Action Plan should ensure that there is a coordinated approach to addressing the immediate needs of refugees within the local community on arrival without duplicating federal or provincial services. Examples may include but are not limited to: assisting coordination of education, housing and health care access (where not provided through the Resettlement Assistance Program); providing links with employers, and other labour market opportunities, providing public information and mobilizing the support of volunteers; and coordinating Community sponsorships and community supports within the local community. The Action Plan should not duplicate existing services or resources.

The Action Plan is not required as part of the Response to this CFR. The Action Plan will be prepared by the Recipients as part of the Contract and submitted to the Ministry at a later date for approval prior to being funded. Additional parameters for Action Plans may be determined by the Ministry.

b) Phase 2: Action Plan Implementation

- Implement the Action Plan as approved by the Province. Activities in the Action Plan may be implemented with different timelines within the Contract term. However, it is expected that Action Plan implementation will start no later than four weeks from the contract start date.

The role of the Recipient leading the Community RRT is to provide the mechanism for multiple community partners to collaborate on identifying Community needs related to refugee settlement and developing project proposals for addressing those needs. In addition, the Recipient will be the contract lead and a point of contact for the Province for that community and be expected to assist the province with gathering feedback on initiatives to support Syrian refugee landings in their communities. Recipient will be responsible for leading the Community RRT and ensuring that it achieves the deliverables set out above including: naming the lead to be the administrative and financial coordinator of the Community RRT within their community, including identifying key partners, planning and facilitating the number of meetings necessary to fulfil the services described above, coordinating implementation of the Action Plan. The RRTs are expected to be a local resource for information and communications about Syrian refugee resettlement.

The RRTs are expected to work on initiatives within their respective communities and reflective of needs within their immediate community. It is expected that the RRTs will feed information and statistics to the B.C. Syrian Resettlement Hub – a website managed by ISS of BC that will provide updates on the statistics on volunteers, donations (financial and in-kind) and donors, employment offers and leads and refugee landing data within the province.

ISS of BC will also be delivering a two day workshop in collaboration with each of the five community RRTs. These workshops will be targeted at service providers, clinicians, school counsellors, housing providers, private sponsors and others who are part of the refugee-

serving community. Topics will focus primarily on trauma awareness and response, supplemented by topics such as cultural understanding and working with interpreters.

For the purposes of proposing services under this CFR, there are five Communities in British Columbia divided as follows:

1. Metro Vancouver
2. Fraser Valley
3. Vancouver Island
4. Okanagan
5. Cariboo

Responses must be aligned with one of the above Communities and describe RRT membership with at least one representative from each of the following sectors:

1. Settlement
2. Education
3. Healthcare
4. Local government
5. Private Sponsor/Sponsorship Agreement Holder
6. Business community (e.g. Chamber of Commerce; large employer)

If a Respondent is interested in providing services in more than one Community, separate Responses must be submitted for each Community. Teams with members that have service locations in the proposed community and are active community participants will be considered more favorably. Contracts will only be awarded in Communities where the Ministry determines, at the time of Recipient selection, that there are a sufficient number of refugees recently settled or expected to be settled in the Community to justify funding of services under this CFR. See Appendix A section 2 (Response Form Executive Summary) and Appendix B section B1.2 (Review and Selection Process – Investment Prioritization) for more information.

3. Funding

The Ministry has set a budget for this CFR of \$500,000. This one-time funding will be allocated to the communities based on information available about the number of landings expected in each community at the time the call closes. As a notational allocation, and a guideline of the maximum amount that will most likely be awarded in each community, refer to the table below:

1. Metro Vancouver (Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, Tsawwassen, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam, New Westminister, Port Moody and area)	\$200,000
2. Fraser Valley (Surrey, White Rock, Delta, Langley, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and area)	\$125,000
3. Vancouver Island (Victoria/Nanaimo)	\$100,000
4. Okanagan (Kamloops/Kelowna)	\$50,000
5. Cariboo (Prince George)	\$25,000

The Ministry reserves the right to adjust the allocation of funding between Communities. Contract amounts will be determined by the Ministry based on proportionality to the number of refugees recently settled or anticipated to be settled in the Community at the time of Contract negotiations, and other considerations at the discretion of the Ministry. See Appendix B section B1.2 for more information.

4. Recipient's Responsibilities

4.1. Reporting and Monitoring

The Recipient will submit progress reports to the Province every three months that include the following:

- Project activities and outputs to date;
- The number of private sponsors, service practitioners, and other community members that have participated in the project activities;
- Any unresolved service delivery issues and/or actions taken to address them; and
- Any anticipated delivery issues or potential slippages.

At the end of the contract, the Recipient will submit a final report to the Province that summarizes:

- The achievement of the performance targets, specifically the impact of the project on their Region or on any particular target group;
- Type and total number of private sponsors, service practitioners, and other community members that are impacted by the project; and
- Lessons learned and recommendations as to how B.C.'s communities could better respond to refugee arrivals and the number of refugees received to each community.

4.2. Contract Deliverables and Payment

Contracts will be negotiated and finalized with an agreed fixed cost for Phase 1 and an agreed maximum cost for Phase 2. Contract deliverables should be completed within the contract period however it is expected that the majority of deliverables in the action plans will be achieved within the first 8 months of the contract.

Action Plan activities funded in Phase 2 will be subject to an application, review, and approval process as set out in the Contract. If direct service to refugees is proposed as a phase 2 project, it must not duplicate services or supports that are available in the proposed community and demand for these services must be documented by sources of research. However, as this is short-term funding, any direct services should be proposed as a pilot and a sustainability plan beyond this funding should be established. The cost of implementing the Action Plan will be drawn down from the agreed maximum cost for Phase 2 as negotiated in the Contract.

A payment schedule will be determined during contract finalization depending on the approved project activity timeline and deliverables. The Recipient will submit a progress or final report and an invoice as per the payment schedule attached to the Contract.

5. CFR Terms and Conditions

5.1. Call Process

This CFR will be open for the submission of Responses, in accordance with the details set out on the Cover Page, until the Response Deadline. The Province is under no obligation to consider a Response received after the Response Deadline.

5.2. Enquiries/Contact

All enquiries related to this CFR, including any requests for information and clarification, are to be directed, in writing, to the Authorized Contact Person identified on the Cover Page, who will respond to all enquiries. Information obtained from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon. Enquiries and any responses will be recorded and distributed to all Respondents at the Province's option. The deadline for enquiries is noted on the Cover Page. Any updates to the CFR will be posted to BC Bid at www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca.

5.3. CFR Eligibility Assessment

Assessment of Responses submitted pursuant to this CFR will be by a committee formed by the Province. In approving any proposed project for funding, the Province reserves the right to consider and make funding decisions based on overall considerations of service coverage and/or funds available.

5.4. Changes to Responses

A Respondent may amend its Response up until the Response Deadline. Respondents are not bound by their Responses and may withdraw a submitted Response at any time up to Contract signing. In order to better understand a proposed project, the Province may request clarifications or rectifications to a Response, or additional information from a Respondent, at any time during this CFR process.

5.5. Respondent's Expenses

Respondents are solely responsible for their own expenses in preparing a Response and for discussions or meetings with the Province, if any, to finalize a Contract. The Province will not be liable to any Respondent for any claims, whether for costs or damages incurred by the Respondent in preparing the Response, or any other matter whatsoever.

5.6. Ownership of Responses

All Responses are non-returnable and become the property of the Province and are subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC)*.

5.7. Collection and Use of Personal Information

Respondents are solely responsible for familiarizing themselves, and ensuring that they comply, with the laws applicable to the collection and dissemination of information, including resumes and other personal information concerning employees and employees of any subcontractors. Respondents will ensure that they have obtained written consent from employees before forwarding any employee personal information to the Province. Such written consents are to specify that the personal information may be forwarded to the Province for the purposes of responding to this CFR and used by the Province for the purposes set out in the CFR. The Province may, at any time, request the

original consents or copies of the original consents from Respondents, and upon such request being made Respondents will immediately supply such originals or copies to the Province.

5.8. Notification

The Province will notify Respondents in writing as to the status of their Response once funding decisions have been made.

5.9. Form of Contract

Any Contract with a successful Respondent will be on substantially the same terms and conditions as found in the attached Shared Cost Arrangement template (Appendix C to this CFR) and any other terms and conditions satisfactory to the Province.

Appendix A: Response Form

NOTES FOR SUBMITTING A RESPONSE:

- a) The Response should be submitted in accordance with the instructions and guidelines set out in this CFR.
- b) The Respondent is encouraged to use the Response Form and associated templates set out in Appendix A of this CFR, or substantially similar documents, in submitting their Responses. The Response cells may be expanded when responding.
- c) Information provided outside of this Response Form, unless requested by the Province, may not be assessed.
- d) The Response Form consists of five (5) parts:
 - 1. Respondent's Declaration Letter
 - 2. Executive Summary
 - 3. Respondent's Eligibility
 - 4. Respondent's Financial Management Capacity
 - 5. Response:
 - 1) Organizational Experience
 - 2) Proposed Refugee Response Team Leadership
 - 3) Proposed Price
- e) Respondents must not make more than one submission for the same proposed Community. Respondents who wish to deliver services in more than one Region should submit separate responses for each Community. Teams with members that have service locations in the proposed community and are active community participants will be considered more favorably
- f) Organizations are encouraged to collaborate with others and form consortiums when submitting a Response.
- g) Responses should not propose a price that exceeds the maximum stipulated in section 3 of this CFR.
- h) Response Submission Location: Please see CFR cover page for full details.

1. Respondents Declaration Letter

Subject: B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund – CFR-16-RRF-01

The enclosed Response is submitted in response to the above-referenced Call for Responses, including all Addenda. We have carefully read and examined the Call for Responses and have conducted such other investigations as were prudent and reasonable in preparing the Response.

By submission of our Response, we agree to all of the terms and conditions of the Call for Responses.

Sincerely,

Signature

Note to Respondents: As per the BC Bid Terms and Conditions for electronic bidding, the use of the electronic key (“e-Bidding Key”) is the legal equivalent to a Respondent’s authorized signature.

Signatory’s name:	
Title:	
Signatory’s phone number:	
Signatory’s e-mail address:	
Legal name of Respondent/Lead Contractor:	
Doing business as name (if applicable):	
Street address (and mailing address, if different):	
Respondent’s main contact (if different from the signatory):	
Contact’s phone number:	
Contact’s e-mail address:	

2. Executive Summary

a) Lead Organization type (please mark an "X" beside the appropriate organization listed below):					
Local government			Settlement organization		
Public post-secondary institution			Private training institution		
Sponsorship Agreement Holder			Other legal entity (please indicate)		
Incorporation/registration number in BC:					
b) Identify Community where the project will take place by marking an "X" to one of the following Communities (see the table in section 3 of the CFR for more information):					
Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley			Victoria		
Kamloops/Kelowna			Prince George		
			Naniamo		
c) Proposed project Start date (day/month/year) to End date (day/month/year)					
d) Total funding request					
Phase 1:					
Phase 2:					

3. Respondent's Eligibility

3.1 Legal entity

Requirement

The Recipient will be a Legal Entity that is entitled to operate in British Columbia by the time of contract signing.

Response guidelines

The Respondent should demonstrate how it will meet the requirement of being a Legal Entity entitled to operate in British Columbia by the time of contract signing.

IMPORTANT: A society may submit an Article of Association and a Corporation may submit a Certificate of Incorporation as an attachment; and a school district and post-secondary institution may provide a statement attesting to their ability to operate in British Columbia.

4. Respondent's Financial Management Capacity

4.1 Financial management

Requirement

Under the Contract, the Recipient will provide accountability of funds.

Response guidelines

Describe your organization's internal or contracted financial management expertise, including key staff and accounting processes relevant to the proposed project.

In the event the financial management expertise is contracted, the Respondent should provide information on the company/individual accountable for this operation.

5. Response

5.1 Organizational Experience

5.1.1 Demonstrated experience with similar projects

Requirement

Under the Contract, the Recipient will have sufficient experience establishing and coordinating a community working group (or other type of community-based collaboration group), and facilitating a collaborative process to prioritize and deliver time-limited projects.

Response Guidelines

Please provide the following information:

Two examples of the Respondent's experience within the last five years (from the date of issue of this CFR) in:

- Establishing and coordinating a community working group (or other type of community-based collaboration group); and/or,
- Facilitating a collaborative process to prioritize and deliver time-limited community-based projects

Experience with projects that include both of the above components will be considered more favourably. Experience with projects relating to refugees and settlement support will also be considered more favourably.

The Respondent should include for each example:

- i. name and description of the project;
- ii. description of community stakeholders engaged and their respective roles;
- iii. identify beneficiaries of the project;
- iv. start/end dates;
- v. key outcomes;
- vi. how the project demonstrates knowledge of the refugee experience, settlement support community and experience working with refugees (if applicable);
- vii. any other information relevant to assessing the Respondent's experience in meeting the above requirement; and
- viii. contact information of a reference, preferably a funder/sponsor who will validate the information presented (e.g. name, email, phone number).

Note: The Respondent may include sample Terms of Reference documents from previous teams or committees as attachments to this Response Form.

Example 1:

Example 2:

5.2 Proposed Refugee Response Team Leadership

5.2.1 Refugee Response Team membership

Requirements

Under the contract, the recipient will, convene a Community RRT comprised of a diverse membership, such as private sponsorship groups, settlement service agencies, healthcare providers, educational organizations, social service agencies, and municipal staff

Responses must describe RRT membership with at least one representative from each of the following sectors:

1. Settlement
2. Education
3. Healthcare
4. Local government
5. Private Sponsor/Sponsorship Agreement Holder
6. Business community (e.g. Chamber of Commerce; large employer)

Response guidelines

Please provide the following information:

- The members name, organization and a brief description of their experience/involvement with the refugee population within the proposed community.

Note: The Respondent may include letters of support regarding the members of the team from the community as an attachment to this Response Form.

5.2.2 Driven by local stakeholders' needs/demand

Requirements Under the Contract, the Recipient will lead a Community RRT driven by the needs and demands of stakeholders from their proposed Community to:

- Identify and prioritize Community refugee service needs based on available federal data on refugee flow and settlement.
- Develop a Community Refugee Response Action Plan to address urgent, short-term needs or issues in support of refugees.

Response guidelines

Please provide the following information:

The Respondent should provide a description of how they will ensure that the action plan is responsive to stakeholders' needs and demand within their proposed Community including, but not limited to:

- The number of refugees recently settled in the Community (PSR and GAR) and an estimate of future refugees to be settled in the Community in the near future (e.g. next 12 months), to the best of the Respondent's knowledge using available federal data;
- The Respondent's established presence and engagement in the proposed Community with the refugee and settlement community;
- The supports and services that are needed
- A brief overview of the services and supports that already exist in the community
- The gaps in serves that exist in the community
- How these gaps can be filled by the RRT and by organizations.

This information should be supported and cited by one or more of the following:

- Results of local and/or Community surveys or reports;
- Precedings from community discussion forums or conferences; and/or
- Direct feedback from refugee sponsors and refugee service practitioners within their proposed Community.
- Historical data, reports etc.

Note: The Respondent may include supporting documentation or letters of support from private sponsors and community service providers as an attachment to this Response Form.

5.2.3 Scope and relevance of project leadership activities

Requirements

Under the Contract, the Recipient will deliver both Phase 1 and Phase 2 services described in section 2.2 that will result in the expected outcomes as described in section 1.4.

The Respondent should describe their approach to convening a Community RRT and how it will lead to expected outcomes as described in **section 2.2** of this CFR.

Response Guidelines

Please provide the following information:

A description of the Phase 1 coordination and planning activities, including:

- the main objectives of convening a Community RRT;
- the anticipated operational logistics of the Community RRT, such as planning and decision making processes, meeting frequency and location, record-keeping, etc.;
- how the funding resources will be allocated; and
- how to resolve potential conflicts.

a) A completed Appendix D - Project Timelines and Activities Template.

The Respondent should complete the Project Timelines and Activities Template describing the high level activities and the timeline for the overall management of the project i.e. phase 1 and 2 as provided in Appendix D to this CFR and attach it to the Response Form. It is expected that a more detailed description of the projects for phase 2 will be part of the phase 2 application process.

5.2.4 Not duplicative of other community capacity building processes

Requirements

Under the Contract, the Recipient will deliver Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities that are not duplicative of other planning and coordinating forums and projects or services that may already be offered in the proposed community(ies).

The Respondent should demonstrate that their activities are not duplicative of but complementary to or building upon any other community forum or projects.

Response Guidelines

Please provide the following information:

a) Identify any existing community working groups (or similar type of community-based collaboration group) relating to refugees and demonstrate how your proposed project is distinct from what is currently available. *Note: The Respondent may include supporting documentation, evidence of research such as a bibliography (list of citations, links etc.) or letters of support from private sponsors and community service providers as an attachment to this Response Form.*

b) If a similar community working group (or other type of community-based collaboration group) relating to refugees is already available in the Community, state how the proposed project will complement or leverage the existing activities and networks. Also describe any collaboration and/or consultation with existing community groups in the developing and delivery of your proposed project. If similar projects do not exist in the proposed community as specified in a) respond with "Not Applicable"

5.3 Proposed Price

5.3.1 Reasonableness of Price

Requirements

Under the Contract, the Recipient will deliver a reasonably priced project in consideration of the type and scope of services described in section 2.2(a) of this CFR.

Response guidelines

Please provide the following information:

a) A completed Appendix E –Pricing Template

The Respondent should complete Part 1 of the Pricing Template as provided at Appendix F to this CFR and attach it to the Response Form.

b) Any leveraging of funds and contributions from other sources that might enhance the outcomes of the project.

The Respondent should complete Part 2 of the Pricing Template as provided at Appendix E to this CFR and attach it to the Response Form.

Appendix B: Review and Selection Process

This Appendix outlines the assessment process for determining B.C.'s Refugee Readiness Fund funding.

The Province reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to allow clarifications and rectifications to be made to the Response and to ask for additional information from Respondents at any time after the Response Deadline.

B1. Assessment Process

The assessment process will consist of the following stages:

B1.1 Stage 1 – Eligibility and Assessment against Desirable Criteria

The Province will review each Respondent against the eligibility requirement set out in section 2.1 of the CFR. Refer to section 3 within the Response Form.

Those Respondents that satisfy the Province as to meeting the eligibility requirement in section 2.1 of the CFR will then be further assessed by considering the desirable criteria below. The Response Form (Appendix A) contains further detail on what the Province will be looking for and assessing for each criterion.

Desirable Criteria for Responses	Scores	Minimum Score
Eligibility Assessment	Pass/Fail	Pass
Financial Management Capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none">Finance staff and financial management processes	5	60%
Response		
a) Organizational Experience with similar projects	20	60%
b) Proposed Project Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none">Refugee response team membershipDriven by stakeholders' demandScope and relevance of project activitiesNot duplicative of community capacity building projects	60	60%
c) Proposed Price <ul style="list-style-type: none">Comparison of Costs	10	N/A
d) Leveraging of Other Funds	5	N/A

Respondents should provide a complete response for each desirable criterion listed in the Appendix A (Response Form).

Responses will be individually reviewed by assessing to what extent the Respondent clearly and completely addressed each of the desirable criterion identified above, by answering the specific questions and requests for information that are detailed in the Response Form (see Appendix A of this CFR). The weightings set out above represent an estimate of the Province's intended approach to Response evaluation, however the Province reserves the right to evaluate Responses based on different weightings or factors in its sole discretion.

B1.2 Stage 2 – Investment prioritization

Responses will be categorized by Community. The Ministry will determine the top-ranking Response in each Community for which there is a satisfactory Response. If the Ministry determines, at its sole discretion, that at the time of selection that there is an insufficient number of refugees recently settled or expected to be settled in a Community, or if the Response extensively duplicates existing activities in the Community, the Ministry will not pursue a Contract in that Community. Funding awards will be allocated between Recipients based on total available funding, Recipients' submissions to this CFR, proportionality to the number of refugees recently settled or anticipated to be settled in the Community at the time of Contract negotiations, or other considerations at the discretion of the Ministry.

If the total funding requests exceeds the budget, or otherwise in its sole discretion, the Province may finalize the contact(s) with a reduction of cost and/or service.

B1.3 Stage 3: Reference Checks

References may be contacted to verify statements made in the Respondent's response submission. The Province reserves the right to contact any clients of the referenced projects or work provided throughout the Response to verify statements made. The Province will not enter into a Contract with any Respondent whose references, in the Province's sole opinion, are found to be unsatisfactory. The Province also reserves the right to check additional references beyond the references provided by the Respondent and to use itself as a reference.

B2. Notification of Funding Approval

At the conclusion of Stage 3, all Respondents will be notified of the status of their Responses. All successful Responses identified for funding award are subject to successful contract finalization.

B3. Proposed Price and Leveraging of Other Funds

Respondents must submit in substantially similar format a completed Appendix E (Pricing Template).

Respondents are encouraged to propose pricing that is reasonable based on the volume of refugees recently settled or anticipated to be settled in the Community to the best of the Respondent's knowledge.

Price will be weighted at 10% of total available points. Prices proposed are to be inclusive of all expenses and costs, including travel expenses (if any). The score for price will be calculated using the formula:

$$(\text{Lowest Total Cost Response in the same Community} / \text{Respondent Total Proposed Cost}) * \text{Maximum Points Available} = \text{Points Awarded}$$

Leveraging of other funds will be weighted at 5% of total available points. Respondents must indicate the source, anticipate use, and amount of other funds to be leveraged in Appendix E (Pricing Template). The score for leveraging of other funds will be calculated using the formula:

$$(\text{Respondent proposed total amount for leveraged funds} / \text{Highest proposed total amount for leveraged funds in the same Community}) * \text{Maximum Points Available} = \text{Points Awarded}$$

B4. Funding Priorities/Distribution Review

Notwithstanding anything else contained in this CFR, the Province, at its sole discretion, at all times reserves the right to:

- a. Accept or reject any or all Responses.
- b. Allow clarifications and rectifications to be made to the Response and to ask for additional information from Respondents at any time after the Response Deadline.
- c. Select those Responses that propose the best services or mix of services for meeting the objectives of the B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund.
- d. Allocate funding to address Community distribution and coverage and funds available.
- e. Allocate funding to address provincial priorities.
- f. Limit its approval of any Responses to the amount of the one-time B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund.
- g. Not enter into any particular Contract, or no Contracts, in its sole discretion.
- h. Renegotiate or cancel any Contract if there is a change to funding availability or if there appears to be insufficient ongoing demand for the services.
- i. Ensure there is no overlap or duplication, or to strategically manage any overlap or duplication, with other funded programs or existing services.
- j. Engage other resources to provide any services or programs, even if there is the potential or likelihood that there will be an overlap between the services or programs provided by those other resources and any services or projects provided by the Recipient under a Contract, or with the Services that are the subject of this CFR.
- k. In the event that additional funds are made available, the Ministry may, based on the qualified respondents available and the needs of the Communities, qualify proposals for Contract finalization that were not previously advanced to Contract finalization and/or allocate additional funds to existing Contracts.

Appendix C: Shared Cost Arrangement Template

Any Contract entered into between the Respondent and with the Province will be in similar form and substance as the accompanying **Appendix C** document on B.C. Bid.

Appendix D: Timelines and Activities Template

Complete the Project Timelines and Activities Template below with as much detail as possible to ensure your project activities/deliverables and timelines are clearly described. Please indicate milestones and activities that make sense for your project. This should be a high level outline of the activities planned for the RRT over the term of the contract. Details of the action plan will be required as part of the application for phase 2 funding.

Entries below are examples only. Additional rows may be added as needed.

Timeline	Type of Activity / Deliverable	Description of Project Activity/Deliverable*
Feb 1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene Refugee Response Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize terms of reference Organize initial meeting to discuss and approve Terms of Reference, initial discussion of priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Appendix E: Pricing Template

Respondents are advised that a full breakdown of costs may be requested by the Province from the successful Respondent(s) during Contract finalization. Eligibility of costs will be determined through review of the detailed costs during Contract finalization.

Part 1: Budget

Price will be weighted at 10% of total available points. Prices proposed are to be inclusive of all expenses and costs, including travel expenses (if any).

Category	Description	All-Inclusive Price
A. Direct Phase 1 Project Costs (see CFR section 2.2(a))	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff wages (to support <u>direct</u> project activities or the allocated portion of). MERCS (Canadian Pension Plan, EI). The cost of workers' compensation coverage or comparable private insurance compensation coverage for <u>Project staff</u>; Subcontractor (to support direct project activities or the allocated portion of). Insurance (only property insurance should be included as a cost, all other insurance i.e. liability is not eligible under this costs). Community RRT logistics and operations (e.g. participant travel, meeting space, equipment, facilitation). Research (needs assessment, service/resource mapping, gap analysis). Materials development and printing to support dissemination of Community RRT information. Phase 2 Action Plan development. Other: materials and supplies, technology, utilities, interest costs, travel costs, costs of audits, and fees for professional services (to support <u>direct</u> project activities or the allocated portion of). 	\$_____
B. Phase 2 Project Costs (see CFR section 2.2(b))	Budget for Phase 2 (Action Plan implementation) is a maximum cost to be finalized during Contract negotiations. For the purposes of the Response, the budget for Phase 2 projects should be estimated based on the needs of the Community identified in the response. The Province reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to change this budget during Contract finalization (see CFR section 4.2).	\$_____
TOTAL OF A-B		
C. Administration Costs	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff wages (to support <u>in-direct</u> project activities or the allocated portion of). MERCs (Canadian Pension Plan, EI). the cost of workers' compensation coverage. subcontractor (to support in-direct project activities or the allocated portion of). 	\$_____

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other insurance. • other: materials and supplies, rental of premises, utilities, interest costs, travel costs, costs of audits, and fees for professional services (to support <u>in-direct</u> project activities or the allocated portion of). Administrative Costs should represent no more than 10% of total budget.	
TOTAL PROPOSED COST OF PROJECTS		\$_____

Part 2: Leveraging of Other Funds

Leveraging of other funds will be weighted at 5% of total available points. Add more lines to the table below if needed.

Source of Funds	Anticipated Use of Funds	Amount
		\$_____
		\$_____
		\$_____
		\$_____
		\$_____
	Total	\$_____

Appendix F: Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition (within the context of this CFR)
Action Plan	The Action Plan developed by the Community Refugee Readiness Team as described in section 2.2 B of this CFR.
CFR	Call for Responses.
Community Sponsor	An organization, association, or corporation that sponsors refugees without being a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH).
Contract or Shared Cost Arrangement	The sample contract provided in Appendix C.
Fund	The B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund as described in section 1.2 of this CFR.
Government Assisted Refugees (GARs)	<p>A person who is outside Canada and has been determined to be a Convention refugee and who receives financial and other support from the Government of Canada or Province of Quebec for up to one year after their arrival in Canada.</p> <p>GARs are selected from applicants referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other referral organizations.</p>
Group of Five	A group of five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents, each of whom is at least 18 years of age, who agree to work together to sponsor a refugee.
IRCC	Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship (formerly Citizenship and Immigration Canada)
Legal Entity	A public institution, corporation, society, not-for-profit organization or private company.
Ministry	Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training.
Privately Sponsored Refugees	A person outside Canada who has been determined to be a Convention refugee or member of the Country of Asylum class and who receives financial and other support from a private sponsor for one year after their arrival in Canada. Private sponsors are Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs), Groups of Five or Community Sponsors.
Project Based Language Training	A one-time labour market focused language training or occupation/occupational group specific language training tailored to specific occupations/occupational groups that are in high demand in B.C. These services are available free of charge for select newcomers to B.C. who meet IRCC eligibility criteria.
Province	Her Majesty the Queen, in the right of the Province of British Columbia.

Recipient	A Respondent who signed a Shared Cost Arrangement with the Ministry to deliver services funded through the B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund and procured for under this CFR.
Refugee Sponsorship Training Program	The program funded by IRCC to address the information and training needs of sponsorship groups. For more information visit: www.rstp.ca .
Region	Ten distinct geographic areas in B.C. as defined in section 2.2 B of this CFR.
Community Refugee Response Team	A group of community partners convened by Recipients to carry out the activities described in section 2.2 B of this CFR.
Resettlement Assistance Program	Resettlement assistance provided by the Government of Canada to Government Assisted Refugees, including providing income support and temporary housing. For more information visit: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/resettle-assist.asp .
Respondent	A person or an entity that submits, or intends to submit, a Response to this CFR.
Response	A submission made in response to this CFR.
Response Deadline	The deadline for submitting a Response to this CFR as indicated on the Cover Page.
Services	The services described in section 2.2 of this CFR.
Skills Connect for Immigrants	An employment and skills training program that helps skilled immigrants find employment commensurate to their pre-arrival training and experience. The program has been co-funded by B.C. and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC) since 2006.
Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH)	An incorporated organization that signs an agreement with IRCC to sponsor refugees abroad. A SAH can authorize other groups in the community to sponsor refugees under its agreement. These groups are known as “constituent groups.” For more information visit: www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/sah.asp .



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

KEY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION REFUGEE READINESS FUND

MEETING DETAILS

Wednesday September 30, 2015 | 1:00pm – 4:30pm

Executive Airport Plaza Hotel | Fraser Room | 7311 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC V6X 1A3

Participants:

Lynn Moran, AMSSA	Chris Friesen, ISSofBC, CISSA-ACSEI
Sherman Chan, MOSAIC	Manpreet Grewal, Abbotsford Community Services
Tahzeem Kassam, DIVERSEcity	Corina Carroll, DIVERSEcity
Mei-ling Wiedmeyer, Bridge Clinic	Valerie Lockyer, Douglas College
Prof. Glen Peterson, World University Service of Canada, UBC	Rev. Bruce Bryant-Scott, The Anglican Synod of the Diocese of B.C.
Jean McRae, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria	Heather MacDonald, United Church of Canada
Jennifer Mpungu, Mennonite Central Committee	Ron Van Wyk, Mennonite Central Committee
Valerie MacDonald, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver, Comox Valley Refugee Committee	Baljit Sethi, Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George
Jennifer Paige, Canadian Red Cross	Kimberley Nemrava, Canadian Red Cross
Dylan Mazur, Vancouver Association for the Survivors of Torture	Hilde Schlosar, Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society
Shawkat Hasan, B.C. Muslim Association	Dr. Soma Ganesan, Vancouver Coastal Health
Fikre Tsehai, Canadian Lutheran World Relief	Sandra Wilking, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Mary Kam, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.	Lobat Sadrehashemi, BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Lucy Swib, CIC	

AGENDA

1:00 pm	Welcome and Introductions <i>Katie Rosenberger, Facilitator</i>
1:30 pm	Overview of the Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF) <i>Scott MacDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister, JTST</i>
1:45 pm	Breakout Session #1 – SWOT Analysis <i>JTST Staff</i>
3:00 pm	Coffee Break
3:15 pm	Breakout Session #2 – Identifying Potential RRF Approaches <i>JTST Staff</i>
4:15 pm	Next Steps and Closing Remarks <i>Scott MacDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister, JTST</i>

From: [Swib, Lucy JTST:EX](#)
To: [Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX](#)
Cc: [Fung, Dominic K JTST:EX](#)
Subject: FW: 110 Update and Revised Invoice
Date: Monday, August 15, 2016 3:24:00 PM

Please proceed to contact ISS to allow for the utilization of slippage ...cheers, Lucy

Lucy Swib

Director, Immigrant Integration

Immigration Programs Branch

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training

450-605 Robson Street,

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5J3

Phone: (604) 660-1546

From: Seeley, Erin JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 3:02 PM
To: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
Subject: RE: 110 Update and Revised Invoice
I support – please proceed. I will advise ADM at my next bi-lat.
Thanks,
Erin

From: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 12:03 PM
To: Seeley, Erin JTST:EX
Subject: FW: 110 Update and Revised Invoice

Hi Erin, we have now identified slippage from the ISS Hub.... Vicki has identified some options for its use (see below) ... with the recommendation that the ISS Hub use that slippage to support preparation for the next wave and also put into place some activities that will support sustainability of the resources that they have developed. (Reinvestment of slippage with in a contract does not require any additional approvals as the funds are already committed to the ISS Hub.)

I anticipate that we may have some slippage from BC SIS or RRT contracts to address the RRTs additional needs to a modest level..^{s.13,s.17}

^{s.13,s.17}

I support Vicki's recommendation to re-invest Hub slippage into the Hub... please advise and happy to discuss further....thanks, Lucy

Lucy Swib

Director, Immigrant Integration

Immigration Programs Branch

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training

450-605 Robson Street,

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5J3

Phone: (604) 660-1546

From: Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 11:19 AM
To: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
Cc: Fung, Dominic K JTST:EX

Subject: FW: 110 Update and Revised Invoice

Hi Lucy,

We finally received the financial report for the Refugee Hub from ISSBC. s.13,s.17
s.13,s.17

Vicki

From: Fung, Dominic K JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 8:53 AM
To: Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX
Subject: FW: 110 Update and Revised Invoice

From: Kathy Sherrell [<mailto:kathy.sherrell@issbc.org>]
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2016 11:07 AM
To: Fung, Dominic K JTST:EX
Cc: Edith Oen
Subject: 110 Update and Revised Invoice

Hi Dominic

Thank you for your patience as we prepared the updated RRF budget. As discussed we have listed as paid/anticipated and identified potential slippage.

Attached you will also find the revised invoice for the BCSIS 3 month payment to reflect the revised Modification Agreement.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Best,

kathy

Kathy Sherrell | PhD | *Associate Director - Settlement Services*
2610 Victoria Drive, Vancouver, BC V5N 4L2
T: 604-684-7498 ext.1641 | F: 604-684-5683 | kathy.sherrell@issbc.org
<http://www.issbc.org>

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed in the header, and may contain confidential information. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately.

From: [Swib, Lucy JTST:EX](#)
To: [Helander, Carling JTST:EX](#); [Uhl, Robyn JTST:EX](#)
Cc: [Nicholls, Cloe JTST:EX](#); [Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX](#); [Seeley, Erin JTST:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Additional funds for RRTs
Date: Thursday, August 4, 2016 10:10:00 AM

Hi everyone, Vicki has reached out to the RRTs to determine whether additional funds would be needed and could be realistically spent with in this fiscal year to support the next wave of arrivals, (while trying not to raise any expectations).

s.13,s.17

s.13,s.17

.thanks

very much, Lucy
Lucy Swib
Director, Immigrant Integration
Immigration Programs Branch
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training
450-605 Robson Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5J3
Phone: (604) 660-1546

From: Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX
Sent: Thursday, August 4, 2016 9:16 AM
To: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
Cc: Fung, Dominic K JTST:EX
Subject: Additional funds for RRTs
Hi Lucy,

The variance between what the 5 RRTs had asked for in their proposed Action Plan in March and what they got from us is a total of s.13,s.17 I checked in with the RRTs regarding their financial situation as at the end of June and discussed their needs. I did not indicate to the RRTs that there may be any additional funds beyond the \$1M but told them that we wanted to know how they are coping with their budget and whether they feel that their action plan can address the next wave of arrivals.

s.13,s.17

Assuming that this is approved, we will still have to develop a process to determine regional allocation.

Vicki

From: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
To: Fung, Dominic K JTST:EX
Cc: Li, Sandy JTST:EX; Rose, Joni JTST:EX
Subject: FW: ADM Approval for RRT Contract Commitments
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 11:51:00 AM
Importance: High

Hi Dom... you can now proceed with negotiations.... The ADM also approved the commitments by e-mail. This e-mail needs to be attached to each commitment form. Thanks! Lucy

Lucy Swib

Director, Immigrant Integration
Immigration Programs Branch
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training
450-605 Robson Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5J3
Phone: (604) 660-1546

From: Seeley, Erin JTST:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 10:58 AM
To: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
Subject: Fwd: ADM Approval for RRT Contract Commitments

Begin forwarded message:

From: "White, Sunny JTST:EX" <Sunny.White@gov.bc.ca>
Date: June 21, 2016 at 8:17:03 AM PDT
To: "Seeley, Erin JTST:EX" <Erin.Seeley@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: ADM Approval for RRT Contract Commitments

Not sure if Rob responded to you on these; here's approval just in case.

From: Mingay, Rob JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 6:02 PM
To: White, Sunny JTST:EX
Subject: Re: ADM Approval for RRT Contract Commitments
Yes. Approved

Sent from my iPad
Rob Mingay
Assistant Deputy Minister Workforce Development
Ministry of Jobs Tourism Skills Training
1-604-250-3081

On Jun 20, 2016, at 3:02 PM, White, Sunny JTST:EX <Sunny.White@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Rob – did you approve these?

From: Seeley, Erin JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:58 PM
To: Mingay, Rob JTST:EX
Cc: White, Sunny JTST:EX
Subject: ADM Approval for RRT Contract Commitments
Importance: High

Rob – for your approval please by email. Per below we are proceeding with contract revisions for Phase 2 of the RRT.

Thanks,
Erin

From: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:08 PM
To: Seeley, Erin JTST:EX
Cc: Li, Sandy JTST:EX; Fung, Dominic K JTST:EX; Rose, Joni JTST:EX

Subject: ADM Approval for RRT Contract Commitments

Importance: High

Hi Erin, ADM commitment approval is required prior to our sending revised contracts out to RRT lead contracted agencies.

ADM approval can be provided by e-mail; the e-mail will then be attached to the commitment form for each contract. The table below represents the recent decisions made with respect to the disbursement of the balance of the RRT funding, reference: CLIFF #:113403 – Update and clarification on Refugee Readiness Teams.

RRT Lead Contracted Agency	Contract Commitments to June 30, 2016	s.13,s.17
MOSAIC	\$107,655.74	
DiverseCity	\$70,599.48	
Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Center Society	\$52,500.00	
Kelowna Community Resources Society	\$30,000.00	
Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George	\$14,143.41	
Total	\$274,898.63	

I would appreciate your assistance in obtaining ADM e-mail approval for these revised commitments.

Thanks very much, Lucy

Lucy Swib

Director, Immigrant Integration

Immigration Programs Branch

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training

450-605 Robson Street,

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5J3

Phone: (604) 660-1546

From: [Seeley, Erin JTST:EX](#)
To: [Swib, Lucy JTST:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Email to go with BN RRT Phase 2 Funding Distribution
Date: Monday, June 20, 2016 12:52:48 PM
Attachments: [Re MO Requests.msg](#)
Importance: High

FYI

From: Seeley, Erin JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 7:40 AM
To: Mingay, Rob JTST:EX
Cc: White, Sunny JTST:EX; Nicholls, Cloe JTST:EX
Subject: Email to go with BN RRT Phase 2 Funding Distribution
Importance: High

Rob – please see draft email below to accompany BN on the RRT funding that was sent up late Friday. We know that another wave of refugees is expected between Sept and December, and I’ve confirmed with GCPE that the thinking is for a news release then. Cloe has also reviewed.
Erin

Minister,

The attached briefing note provides an update on the status of the contracting for the Refugee Readiness Fund. Per the approved decision note from January 2016 (attached) the Ministry initiated contracts with the Refugee Readiness Fund based on two phases, phase 1 from March – June for contractors to develop action plans and phase 2 funding for implementation to be allocated by June 30, 2016.

At the time of initial contracting there was concern that delays in funding would impact community readiness as refugees were arriving steadily across the province. RRT funding is intended to help communities prepare for the arrival of refugees and build capacity to support their successful integration, and not to be directly supporting the refugees. The second phase of funding in June will support community readiness for ongoing refugee arrivals throughout 2016.

The Ministry must now disperse remaining funding per contract conditions by June 30, 2016 to ensure no disruption in service delivery. We will confirm with service providers that the public announcement of this second phase can be delayed until September 2016 when we expect another wave of refugee arrivals.

Erin Seeley
Executive Director | Immigration Programs Branch
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
450 – 605 Robson Street
Vancouver BC | V6B 5J3
p: +1.604.775.2215 e: Erin.Seeley@gov.bc.ca
www.welcomebc.ca/pnp

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From: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
To: Nicholls, Cloe JTST:EX
Subject: FW: Fraser Valley RRT Funding Increase - DIVERSEcity - Lead Contractor
Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 9:51:00 AM

Hi Cloe, any update on this recommendation? Please advise and thanks, Lucy

Lucy Swib

Director, Immigrant Integration

Immigration Programs Branch

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training

450-605 Robson Street,

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5J3

Phone: (604) 660-1546

From: Swib, Lucy JTST:EX

Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2016 4:16 PM

To: Nicholls, Cloe JTST:EX

Subject: Fraser Valley RRT Funding Increase - DIVERSEcity - Lead Contractor

Importance: High

Hi Cloe, I am following up on the ADM Information Note #113649, specifically the recommendation related to increasing funding for the Fraser Valley RRT, led by DIVERSEcity. I am hoping we can get a firm decision to proceed either this week or early next week and am providing some bullets that I am hoping can be shared with Executive to expedite the decision.

- The second and final tranche of the Refugee Readiness Team funding was allocated in late June based on refugee landings available in April, 2016.

s.13,s.17

s.13,s.17

○ **Total: \$155,385.88**

- Ministry Procurement and Finance staff have confirmed that allocating this additional funding to this RRT was within procurement and financial policy.
- The Branch has delayed executing the Fraser Valley RRT contract amendment until a decision is made on the additional funding, as DIVERSEcity must submit a revised action plan and budget to support the amendment to their contract, which constitutes a considerable amount of work for the RRT.
- Delaying this decision and the amendment significantly could lead to a delay in this RRT's planned activities and could escalate the issue for the Ministry.

Thanks for your assistance in securing a decision as soon as possible.

From: [Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX](#)
To: [Helander, Carling JTST:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Reinvestment
Date: Monday, September 26, 2016 11:58:34 AM

fyi

From: Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 12:20 PM
To: 'Kathy Sherrell'
Cc: Uhl, Robyn JTST:EX; Swib, Lucy JTST:EX
Subject: RE: Proposed Reinvestment

Hi Kathy,

Subsequent to our phone conversation last week, I had discussed and clarified with Dave Jagpal how our two ministries could work together to better support refugees transition to provincial IA. Our conclusion as it relates to your RRF contract is as follows. Dave confirmed that the MSD specialized team will not need the proposed training. But you can use the slippage from the Hub contract to support:

1. The delivery of a training webinar for settlement workers on the IA process via a sub-contract with AMSSA if appropriate (MSD will work with you to develop content); and
2. Curriculum and other resource development for client orientation focusing on IA information and other federally and provincially funded employment supports (again MSD will work with you to provide IA content).

Since direct client service is outside the scope of the RRF, we would not be able to support the delivery of group sessions for refugee clients but the slippage can be used toward additional hours for Bahar to support the above two deliverables and provide any further coordination with the federal RAP.

We can add this to our discussion this Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Vicki

From: Kathy Sherrell [<mailto:kathy.sherrell@issbc.org>]
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2016 9:55 AM
To: Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX
Cc: Chris Friesen
Subject: Re: Proposed Reinvestment

Hi Vicki,

We continue to engage in discussions with MSD, including Morton Beiser, Dave Jagpal and Maria Masuch.

Given the need for MSD workers to do individual intakes by phone or in person, MSD will be forming a specialized team to support the transition of Syrians to provincial social assistance. To ease the time crunch as much as possible (within established time limits and requirements) MSD will begin working with clients 2-3 weeks prior to the transition. Clients have to be fully prepared for the interview (eg aware of the process, requirements, what information is needed, etc).

Through our discussions with MSD, the suggested format is to provide three types of trainings, each meeting a different training/capacity building need:

- (1) Provide 'Syrian Refugees' training to specialized MSD team (eg culture, traditions, norms) to facilitate their ability to provide culturally sensitive services
- (2) Organize 'MSD 101' webinar training for Settlement Workers across BC to increase their

understanding of social assistance, as well as facilitate their ability to assist clients in preparing for their interview (note: we would utilize some of the existing RRF video funds and subcontract AMSSA for this part)

(3) Prepare curriculum for delivery of Group orientations to clients (in first language). In Vancouver, the facilitator would work with ISSofBC RAP to contact RAP clients and ensure all clients are signed up for a session. Topics would include information on MSD, as well as employment supports (eg work BC, Job Grants, etc). The information would include both federally and provincially funded services and programs for refugees, to ensure individuals have access to all of the information/programs they may be eligible for.

Best,

kathy

Kathy Sherrell | PhD | Associate Director - Settlement Services
2610 Victoria Drive, Vancouver, BC V5N 4L2
T: 604-684-7498 ext.1641 | F: 604-684-5683 | kathy.sherrell@issbc.org
<http://www.issbc.org>

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed in the header, and may contain confidential information. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately.

From: Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX <Vicki.Chiu@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2016 3:17 PM

To: Kathy Sherrell

Cc: Chris Friesen

Subject: RE: Proposed Reinvestment

Hi Kathy,

Thanks for the proposal. We are interested in more value added resources and translated materials that would assist this refugee cohort, but we need to get more detail on the training elements for consideration.

s.13

I understand that ^{s.22} and therefore you have brought Chris into the loop. I can wait for your response when you return if necessary. Not that I do not want to talk to Chris but I know he is probably swamped.

Vicki

From: Kathy Sherrell [<mailto:kathy.sherrell@issbc.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 9:27 AM

To: Chiu, Vicki W JTST:EX

Cc: Chris Friesen

Subject: Proposed Reinvestment

Hi Vicki

After careful consideration of the feedback received by refugee readiness teams, as well as our own reflections on needs and capacity, we would like to suggest some of the funds be reinvested into specialized training for MSD staff around the transition from Federal to Provincial Supports. This December significant numbers of GARs will likely begin transferring from Federal RAP support to Provincial Social Assistance. Although RAP workers would normally facilitate the transition of GARs to Provincial supports (eg through assistance in completing documentation, liaising with MSD staff) the same level of support will likely not be available owing to continued high arrivals of Syrian and non-Syrian GARS, as well as high demand from recent arrivals for continued RAP supports (eg orientations, housing search). ISSofBC began meeting with the Ministry of Social Development earlier this summer to explore options moving forward given limited capacity.

We would like to propose the hiring of a Facilitator to work with MSD and IRCC to facilitate the process, including looking at training of MSD staff, creation of resources and translation of documents into first language. This would also include the creation of curriculum for information sessions (eg on WorkBC and other employment supports, as well as Provincial Social Assistance) that could be delivered by Settlement workers across BC, ensuring the provision of consistent information. Information and resources would also be posted on the HUB.

Resources/Budget needs:

Facilitator - \$25 x 35 hours/week x 20 weeks = \$17,500

Printing for Training materials, resources - \$2,000

Graphic Designer - \$800

Admin - \$2234

Total - \$24,574

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Kathy

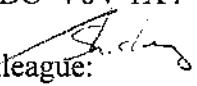
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TB Minor Meeting Date: October 18, 2016
353653

Confidential

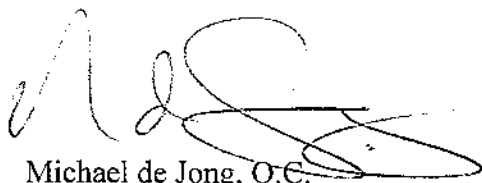
Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Room 138 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Colleague: 

Re: Refugee Readiness Fund

I am writing to inform you that Treasury Board has approved your ministry's request to access up to \$0.6 million from the Contingencies Vote in 2016/17 to complete the implementation of the Refugee Readiness Fund.

Sincerely,



Michael de Jong, Q.C.
Chair

cc: Shannon Baskerville
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Tracy Campbell
A/Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Key Messaging for Cabinet: Refugee Readiness Fund

- On December 2, 2015, the Province announced the procurement of the \$1 million Refugee Readiness Fund (the Fund).
- Half of the Fund is being directly awarded to the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSBC).
 - ISSBC will develop an online information hub, trauma-related clinician supports, and refugee readiness workshops in several communities throughout B.C.
 - These services and resources have been consistently mentioned by our stakeholders as a current gap and are highly needed.
 - ISSBC was selected for this direct award because they are the only organization in B.C. with recent experience providing services to GARs.
 - By funding ISSBC to do this work, we can ensure that provincial efforts are aligned with – but not duplicative of – federal government services.
- The remainder of the Fund will be procured through a Call for Responses (CFR) to create Refugee Response Teams in the proposed settlement communities.
 - Each Refugee Response Team will plan and implement unique activities and projects that are driven by community need.
 - The CFR was posted on December 7 and closes on December 21. Ministry staff will evaluate proposals and negotiate contracts as quickly as possible.
 - The CFR contains nominal allocations to five regions: the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Okanagan, and Cariboo.
 - The initial community structure for this call was based on historical patterns of refugee resettlement within the province, current information from the federal government on the expected numbers of privately sponsored refugees per city and the locations of Sponsorship Agreement Holders and private sponsors.
 - The model of a “community” structure was meant to provide for collaborations across municipalities to leverage resources and capacity.
 - However, the model can accommodate both individual proposals from municipalities as well as collaborative efforts between municipalities.
 - In order for the Ministry to consider funding multiple proposals within a community region, that community region must have a critical mass of refugees and the proposals must meet all criteria as indicated in the CFR.
 - Total funding under the CFR cannot exceed \$500,000, regardless of how many distinct proposals are funded.

From: Pathak Sonali on behalf of Davidson Mark
To: Davidson Mark; Tapley Catrina; Manicom David; Mingay Rob JTST-EX; "leann.wagner@gov.ab.ca"; "alastair.macfadden@gov.sk.ca"; "ben.rempel@gov.mb.ca"; "shirley.phillips@ontario.ca"; "kice.latulippe@midi.gov.qc.ca"; "Charles.Ayles@gnb.ca"; "Suzanne.Ley@novascotia.ca"; "jaiken@gov.pe.ca"; "dhogan@gov.nl.ca"; "shawn.kitchen@gov.yk.ca"; "Andy_levan@gov.nt.ca"; "WMackay@gov.nu.ca"; "mariann.everett@gov.ab.ca"; "mehunter@gov.pe.ca";
Cc: "etutanyak@gov.nu.ca"; "SKownak@gov.nu.ca"; "marie.larsson@gov.nt.ca"; "andrewmackey@gov.nl.ca"; "dsheppard@gov.nl.ca"; "sandyreynolds@gov.nl.ca"; "hidoucette@gov.pe.ca"; "ruth.mcleod@gnb.ca"; "annie.bernard@midi.gov.qc.ca"; "fatmazahra.dahmouni@midi.gov.qc.ca"; "pat.guy@ontario.ca"; "crystal.steiningergov.sk.ca"; "White, Sunny JTST-EX; Bozovic, Olivia JTST-EX; Leung Stephanie; Lavigne Sylvie; "ernest.wheeler@ontario.ca"; Larose Nathalie; Pietrykowski Erin; "Sandra.bennett@novascotia.ca"; "elise.andrus@gov.ab.ca"; "Nadia.phillipchuk@gov.ab.ca"; "benjamin.amoyaw@gov.mb.ca"; "Glenda.segal@gov.mb.ca"; Egerdie, Molly (MCITT); "Shani.bishop@gov.yk.ca"; "Marius.Curteanu@gov.yk.ca"; "jgaric@gov.pe.ca"; "percy.cummins@gov.ab.ca"; "fanny.levy@gov.mb.ca"; "Alice.young@ontario.ca"; "marie.josée.lemay@midi.gov.qc.ca"; "carys.storey@gnb.ca"; "brayleym@gov.ns.ca"; "aamacpherson@gov.pe.ca"; "dsheppard@gov.nl.ca"; "nathalie.ouellet@gov.yk.ca"; "SKownak@gov.nu.ca"; "laurie.morton@gov.nt.ca"; "lara.alcoose@gov.sk.ca"; "Rachel.henderson@novascotia.ca"; Hebert Christine; Lauzon Sarah; "Shatila, Stephanie (MCITT); Renault, Shannon JTST-EX; "Barbara.Basaraba@gov.ab.ca"; "Shannon.dumba@gov.sk.ca"; "tanya.tinkler@ontario.ca"; "Francisco-Jose.valente@midi.gov.qc.ca"; "pamuise@gov.pe.ca"; "hidoucette@gov.pe.ca"; "kmahon@gov.nl.ca"; "andrewmackey@gov.nl.ca"; "Janet_daulet@gov.nl.ca"; "Miragliotta.Carmelinda; Nicholls, Cioe JTST-EX; Uhl, Robyn JTST-EX; Cheong, Fiona JTST-EX; "alice.wong@gov.ab.ca"; "angela.schubert@gov.ab.ca"; "brad.trefan@gov.ab.ca"; "don.kwas@gov.ab.ca"; "gosia.cichy-wecław@gov.ab.ca"; "Anisa.martin@gov.ab.ca"; "izabela.ruberry@gov.ab.ca"; "peter.wecław@gov.ab.ca"; "yadim.kukushkin@gov.ab.ca"; "kathleen.macaspac@gov.ab.ca"; "sena.kowalski@gov.ab.ca"; "yan.zha@gov.ab.ca"; "jesse.vreeken@gov.ab.ca"; "brenda.campbell@gov.ab.ca"; "linda.choi@gov.ab.ca"; "alex.martin@gov.ab.ca"; "tokunbo.famewo-adeniyi@gov.ab.ca"; "Mildred.klassen@gov.ab.ca"; "bryna.sciater@gov.ab.ca"; "Larissa.Hretchka@Ontario.ca"; "christa.ross@gov.sk.ca"; "Megan.Edwards@Ontario.ca"; "Lilit.Bakhshivan@ontario.ca"; "Ashraf.ghanem@gnb.ca"; "paroo.mackinnon@novascotia.ca"; "louise.vanwart@novascotia.ca"; "mona.syed@gov.yk.ca"; "Danielle.comeau@gov.ab.ca"; "Olga.nupil@gov.ab.ca"; "Shannon.dumba@gov.sk.ca"; "Adrienne.leakey@ontario.ca"; "Cory_Holzer@gov.nt.ca"; "pssnow@gov.pe.ca"; "pamuise@gov.pe.ca"; "Stephenson.Katarina; Durham-Valentina.Chris; Tunis.Deborah; Shihab.Himmat; Cameron.Jemifer; Cistera.Luisa; MacPhee.Susan
Subject: More Support on the Way for Service Providers / Plus de soutien pour les fournisseurs de services
Date: Thursday, December 24, 2015 7:21:38 AM

(French to follow/ français à suivre)

On behalf of Catrina Tapley and David Manicom / Au nom de Catrina Tapley et David Manicom

Colleagues :

Minister McCallum announced today that Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) service provider organizations will be receiving an additional \$15 million shortly after receiving a 25%, \$3.6 million increase.

On December 9th, the Government announced an additional \$335 million for resettlement and settlement service providers, outside of Quebec, over the next four years. The money is to be allocated in stages as needs arise. Initially, RAP service providers were given a 25 per cent increase in their funding to allow them to begin increasing their capacity so they can ensure they have supports in place as soon as refugees arrive. Today the Government is announcing that an additional \$15 million of the \$335 million will be allocated for resettlement service providers to support the higher number of GARs arriving in December than initially anticipated.

For more information, please visit the following links:

[NR - More Support on the Way for Service Providers](#)

[KM - Syria – Settlement and Resettlement New Funding](#)

Sincerely,

Mark Davidson
Director General | Directeur général
International and Intergovernmental Relations | Relations internationales et intergouvernementales
Immigration, Citizenship and Refugees Canada | Immigration, réfugiés et citoyenneté Canada
300 Slater Street Ottawa ON K1A 1L1 | 300 rue Slater Ottawa ON K1A 1L1
Mark.Davidson@cic.gc.ca
Telephone | Téléphone 613-437-7492
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

[#WelcomeRefugees](#) / [#Bienvenueauxréfugiés](#)

Colleagues:

Ministre McCallum a annoncé aujourd'hui que les fournisseurs de services du Programme d'aide à la réinstallation (PAR) recevront un montant additionnel de 15 millions de dollars, peu de temps après avoir eu droit à une hausse de 25 p. 100, soit 3,6 millions de dollars.

Le 9 décembre, le gouvernement a annoncé que les fournisseurs de services d'établissement et de réinstallation, à l'exception de ceux du Québec, recevraient un montant supplémentaire de 335 millions de dollars au cours des quatre prochaines années. Ce montant doit être attribué graduellement, en fonction des besoins. Au départ, les fournisseurs de services du PAR ont eu droit à une hausse de leur financement de 25 p. 100 pour leur permettre de commencer à renforcer leurs capacités et de pouvoir ainsi être prêts à soutenir les réfugiés dès leur arrivée. Aujourd'hui, le gouvernement annonce qu'il versera un montant supplémentaire de 15 millions des 335 millions dollars aux fournisseurs de services de réinstallation afin qu'ils puissent aider les RPG qui arriveront en plus grand nombre que prévu en décembre.

Pour plus d'information, veuillez visiter les liens suivantes :

[NR – Plus de soutien pour les fournisseurs de services](#)

[KM – Syria – Settlement and Resettlement New Funding](#)

Sincèrement,

Mark Davidson
Director General | Directeur général
International and Intergovernmental Relations | Relations internationales et intergouvernementales
Immigration, Citizenship and Refugees Canada | Immigration, réfugiés et citoyenneté Canada
300 Slater Street Ottawa ON K1A 1L1 | 300 rue Slater Ottawa ON K1A 1L1
Mark.Davidson@cic.gc.ca
Telephone | Téléphone 613-437-7492
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

[#WelcomeRefugees](#) / [#Bienvenueauxréfugiés](#)

LABOUR MARKET AND IMMIGRATION DIVISION

BRIEFING MATERIALS

Refugee Readiness Fund

DATE: November 5, 2015

TIME: TBD

ATTENDEES:

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister	In person - Legislature #138
Athana Mentzelopoulos, Deputy Minister	In person - Legislature #138
Rob Mingay, ADM	In person - Legislature #138

OBJECTIVES:

- Obtain approval to post the Refugee Readiness Fund Call for Responses.
- Obtain approval (or alternative direction) on preparing a press release announcing the procurement.

DECISIONS:

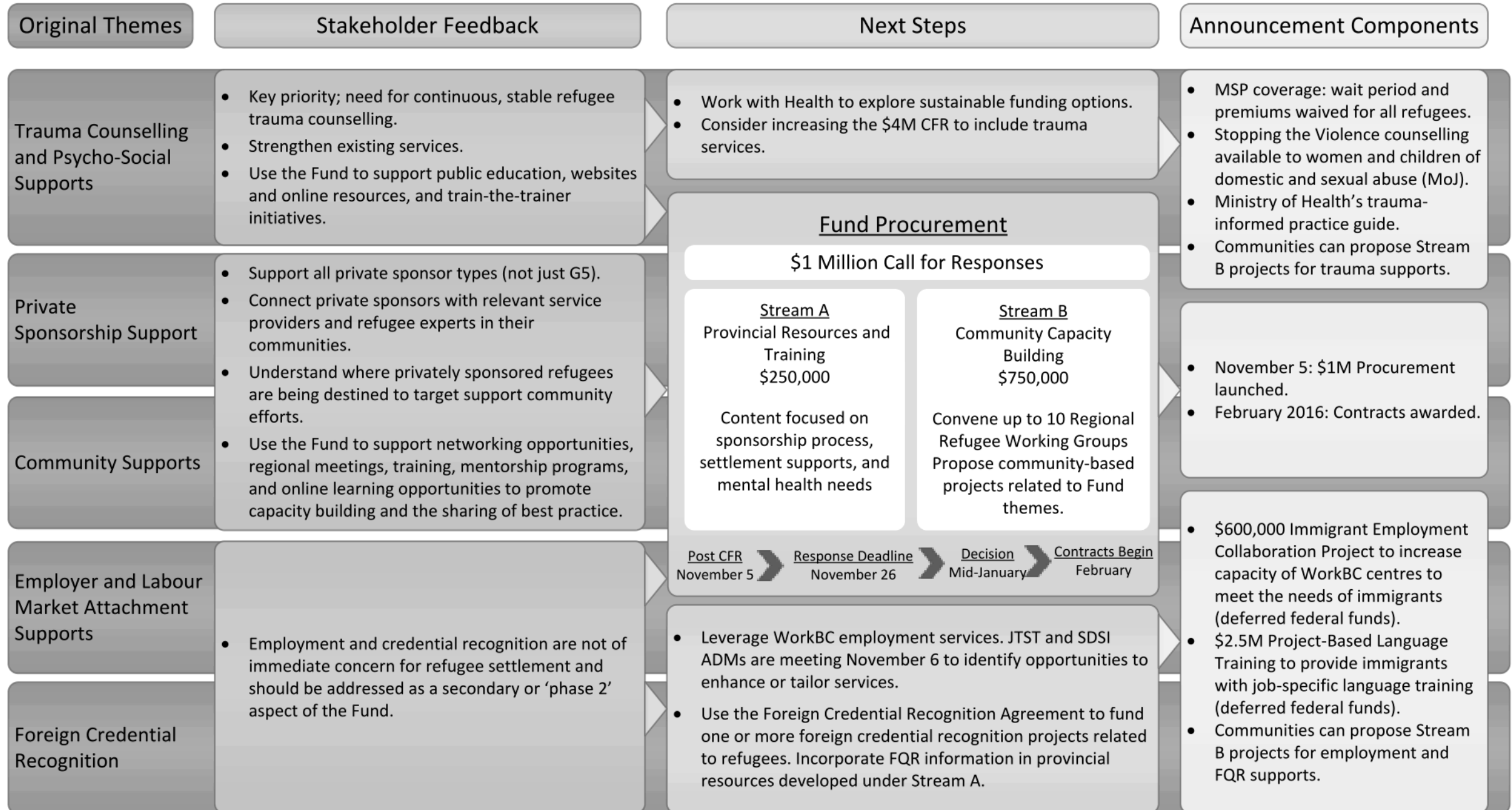
- Approval to post the Refugee Readiness Fund Call for Responses on B.C. Bid.
- Approval for GCPE to prepare and issue a press release.

CONTENTS:

1. Refugee Readiness Fund Update and Next Steps (October 29, 2015).

B.C. Refugee Readiness Fund: Update and Next Steps

October 29, 2015



Notes for IICC Meeting

- Results of Consultation in Sep 30, 2015 – big message, there is a need for community coordination/networking for services for refugees.
- Refugee Readiness Fund
 - Funding to March 31, 2017.
 - Intention of fund was to support that does not duplicate existing funding/initiatives for the influx of Syrian refugees not to provide ongoing supports.
 - However one positive side effect of this initiative is that the resources and information sharing will provide long lasting benefits for refugee resettlement post March 31, 2017.
 - Divided the 1M in half
 - \$500K for **Provincial** Supports – ISSofBC lead contractor (Sub with VAST)
 - Refugee Hub - <http://refugeehub.issbc.org/> - how to help portal for BC for general public and service providers
 - Newsletters with data on progress of resettlement process
 - Referral links
 - Learning resources
 - Constantly expanding and will increase with teams in place
 - Trauma related clinician support on <http://refugeehealth.ca>
 - Toll free line clinicians can call for support
 - A guideline document to help clinicians facilitate a trauma support group
 - Referral links/information on trauma
 - Refugee Readiness Team Training
 - \$500K for Refugee Response Teams in **Communities across BC**
 - Call posted on BC Bid CFR-16-RRF-01 on Dec 7, closed Dec 21
 - 5 teams
 1. **Cariboo** – lead = IMSSPG
 2. **Thompson Okanagan** – lead = Kelowna Community Resources Society
 3. **Vancouver Island** – lead = Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre (VIRCS)
 4. **Metro Vancouver** – lead = Mosaic
 5. **Fraser Valley** – lead = DiverseCity

<https://www.welcomebc.ca/Start-Your-Life-in-B-C/Services-and-Support/For-Refugees>

- **RRT Network** – met very frequently, guest speakers, reporting out of issues, best practices etc.

Key Stakeholder Consultation Refugee Readiness Fund

September 30, 2015



Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and
Skills Training

*Labour Market and Immigration
Division*

Welcome & Objectives

The primary objectives of the consultation are to:

- Establish a common understanding of the objectives, themes, and guiding principles of the Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF)
- Allow space for participants (and facilitators) to learn from one another's experience/expertise in refugee (re)settlement
- Identify potential approaches for utilizing the \$1 million RRF that are aligned with the fund's five themes and guiding principles

Introductions

- Your Name
- The name of the Organization that you represent
- Your connection to the refugee sector
- Why you have come to the meeting today

Overview of the Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF)

Scott MacDonald
Assistant Deputy Minister

British Columbia's Refugee Readiness Fund

Areas of focus

- Trauma counselling
- “Groups of Five” private sponsorship support
- Community-level supports
- Foreign Credential Recognition
- Employer and labour market attachment supports



Principles behind the Refugee Readiness Fund

- Community-based
- Leverage existing provincial and federal support services for refugees
- “Readiness” focus
- One-time funding

BC Response: Refugee Readiness Fund

Actions to date

- ✓ Toll-free number established to field questions on existing settlement support and readiness fund.
- ✓ Initial discussions with key refugee-serving organizations and sponsorship groups
- ✓ Ongoing engagement with municipalities – input, questions, and ideas.

Next Steps

- Stakeholder consultation with service providers and private sponsors/sponsorship agreement holders to confirm design and implementation.

Contacts

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Scott MacDonald

Assistant Deputy Minister
Labour Market Information
d.scott.macdonald@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 250-953-3585

Rob Mingay

Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Development & Immigration
rob.mingay@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 250 387-5608

Cloe Nicholls

A/Executive Director
Immigration Policy
cloe.nicholls@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 250-387-5790

Breakout Session – S.W.O.T. Analysis

- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
- Go to the themed flip chart that has the same colour as the dot on your name tag
- You will stay at the same place for the whole breakout session, but the moderators will switch groups every 15 minutes

Five Themes	Guiding Principles
Trauma Counselling	Community Based
Groups of Five	Non-duplicative
Community -level Supports	'Readiness' Focus
Foreign Credential Recognition	Time-limited
Employer Supports	

Breakout Session – Identifying Potential Approaches

- Break into three groups, as identified by the number on your name tag ('1', '2' or '3')
- As a group, brainstorm potential approaches for addressing identified gaps and opportunities that are aligned with the RRF principles (30 minutes)
- Nominate a spokesperson to report back to the group for broad discussion (30 minute discussion)

Five Themes	Guiding Principles
Trauma Counselling	Community Based
Groups of Five	Non-duplicative
Community -level Supports	'Readiness' Focus
Foreign Credential Recognition	Time-limited
Employer Supports	

Next Steps & Closing Remarks

Scott MacDonald
Assistant Deputy Minister

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!



Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and
Skills Training

*Labour Market and Immigration
Division*

Stakeholder Consultation Refugee Readiness Fund

October 5, 2015 Webinar



Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and
Skills Training

*Labour Market and Immigration
Division*

Who is Participating Today?

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training	Settlement Services	Refugee Sponsors
School Districts & Libraries	Community Foundations	Community & Cultural Associations
International Non-Profits	Refugee Lawyers	Higher Education
Health Providers	Trauma Counselors	Municipalities

Webinar Housekeeping

- Visual Layout



Control Panel - Expand/collapse

- Sound & Audio

Mic & Speakers

Telephone (long-distance charges may apply)

- Use of Chat Box

Send questions during webinar using the chat box, or email questions to communications@amssa.org

- Technical difficulties

Please contact Sabrina Ziegler, AMSSA's Settlement Communications Coordinator at info@amssa.org or 604-718-4220.

Overview of the Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF)

Rob Mingay

Assistant Deputy Minister

Workforce Development and Immigration

Cloe Nicholls

Acting Executive Director

Immigration Policy

Presentation Focus

1. Overview of the Refugee Readiness Fund

2. BC's Actions to Date

3. Next Steps

British Columbia's Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF)

Principles behind RRF

- ☐ Community-based
- ☐ Leverage existing provincial and federal support services for refugees
- ☐ "Readiness" Focus
- ☐ One-time funding



Areas of Focus

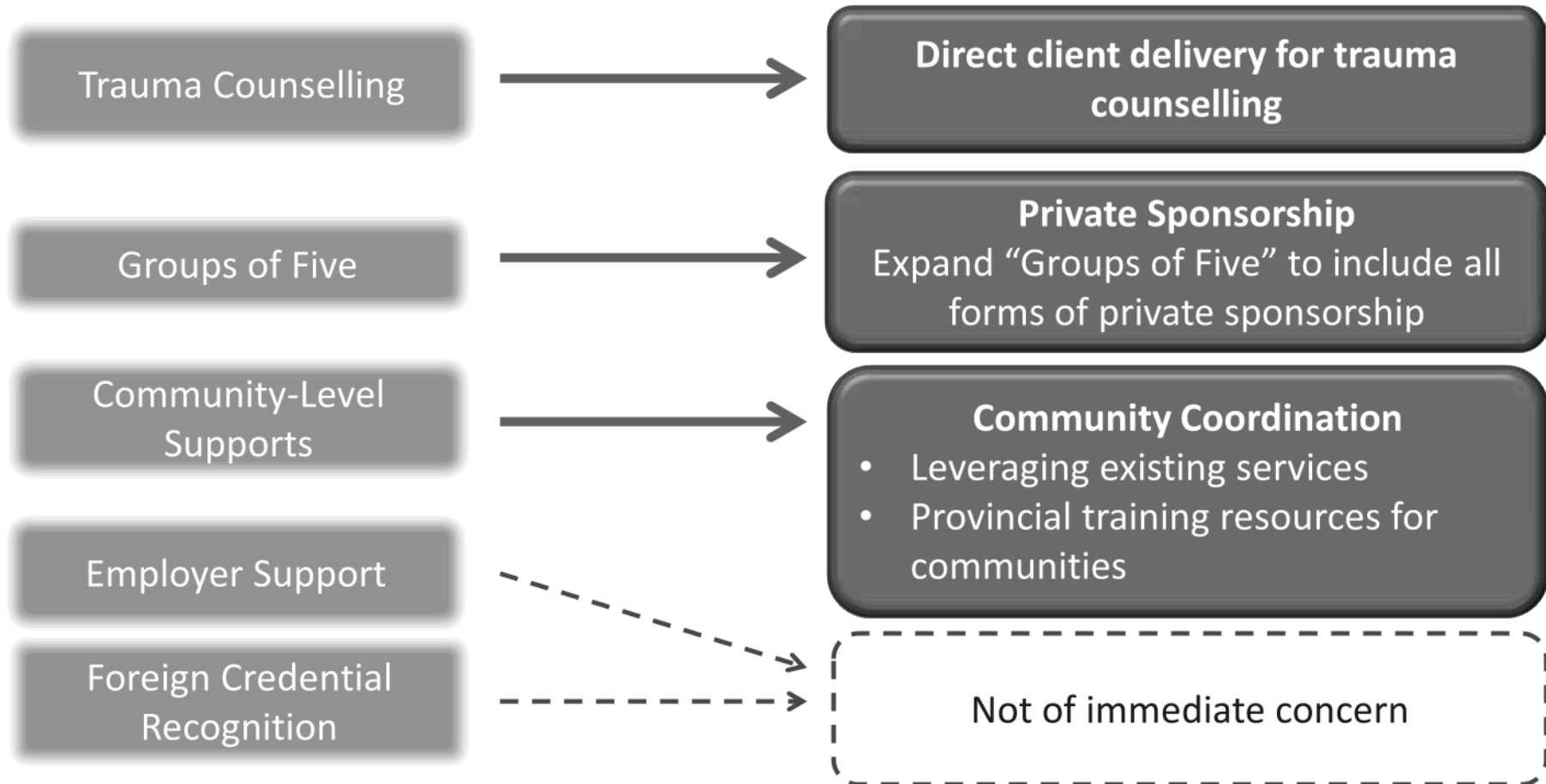
- ☐ Trauma Counselling
- ☐ "Groups of Five" private sponsorship support
- ☐ Community-level supports
- ☐ Foreign Credential Recognition
- ☐ Employer and labour market attachment supports

BC Response: Refugee Readiness Fund

Actions to date

- ✓ **PUBLIC:** Toll-free number established to field questions on existing settlement support and the RRF.
- ✓ **STAKEHOLDERS:** Initial discussions with refugee-serving organizations and sponsorship groups and ongoing engagement with municipalities.
- ✓ **CONSULTATION:** September 30th 2015 In-Person Stakeholder Consultation
 - input, questions and ideas.

Emerging themes from September 30th Stakeholder Consultation



Next Steps

Develop a competitive procurement process for the distribution of Refugee Readiness Fund

Valued Feedback



Contacts

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Rob Mingay

Assistant Deputy Minister

Workforce Development & Immigration

Rob.Mingay@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250 387-5608

Cloe Nicholls

A/Executive Director

Immigration Policy Branch

cloe.nicholls@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250-387-5790

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!



Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and
Skills Training

*Labour Market and Immigration
Division*

Page 144 to/à Page 155

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12;s.16;s.13;s.17

Refugee Readiness Fund Update to Cabinet Committee on Strong Tomorrow December 14, 2015



Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and
Skills Training

Presentation Focus

1. Refugee Overview

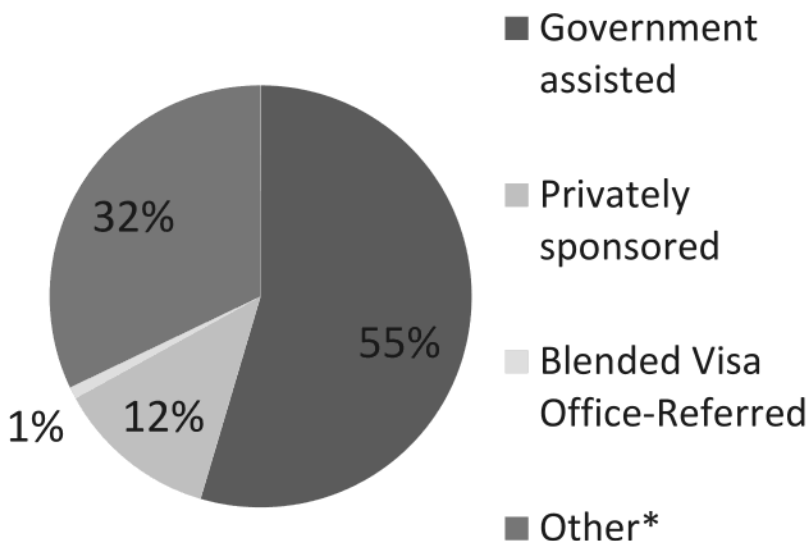
2. Federal Commitments

3. BC Response

4. Next Steps

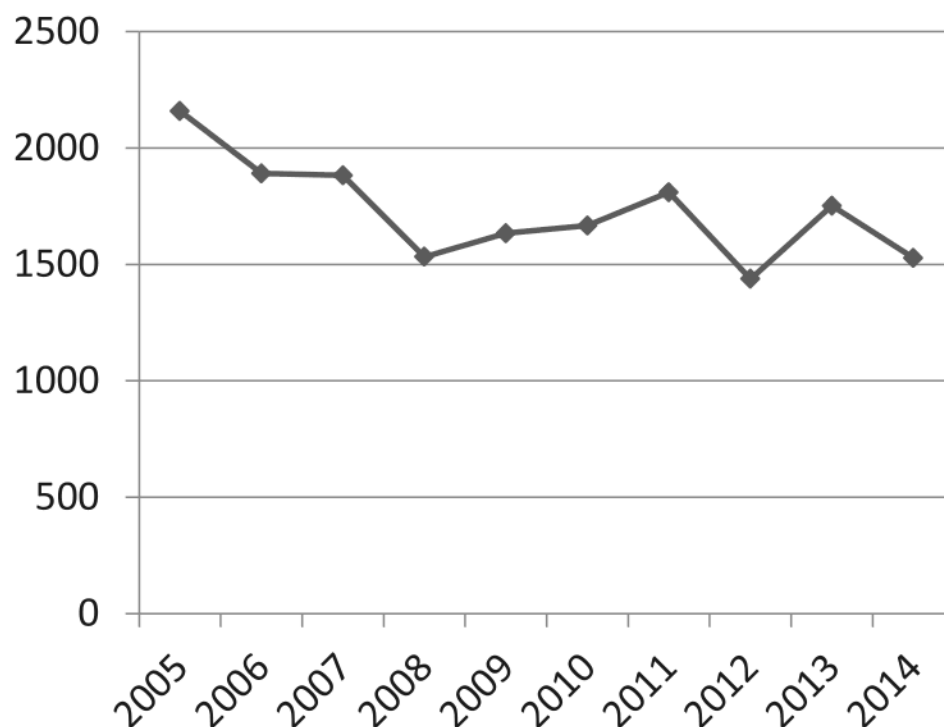
Refugee Overview: Historical Arrivals

2014: 1,528 Refugees



*Successful asylum seekers and their dependents

New Refugees to BC by Year



Refugee Overview: Federal Resettlement

GAR

Government Assisted Refugees

PSR

Privately Sponsored Refugees

BVOR

Blended Visa Office Referred

Refugee Overview: Services and Supports

Federal Funding

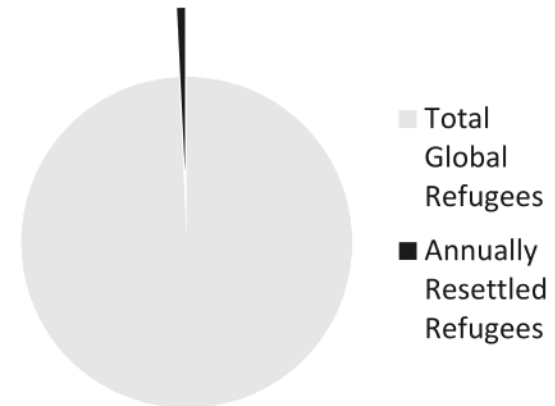
- Income support for up to 1 year
- Initial reception and resettlement
- Community orientation
- Language classes
- Help with daily life and finding a job
- Interim Federal Health Care
- Canada Child Tax Benefit
- Student Aid

Provincial Funding

- Health (MSP)
 - Refugees are eligible for immediate enrolment upon arrival
- Education
- Employment Program of BC
- Child Care Subsidy
- BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit
- BC Basic Family Bonus
- Student Aid

Refugee Overview: Syrian Crisis

- Civil war since March 2011
- Over 11 million displaced
- 4.3 million registered refugees
- Refugee camps in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan
- 4 in 5 refugees are women and children

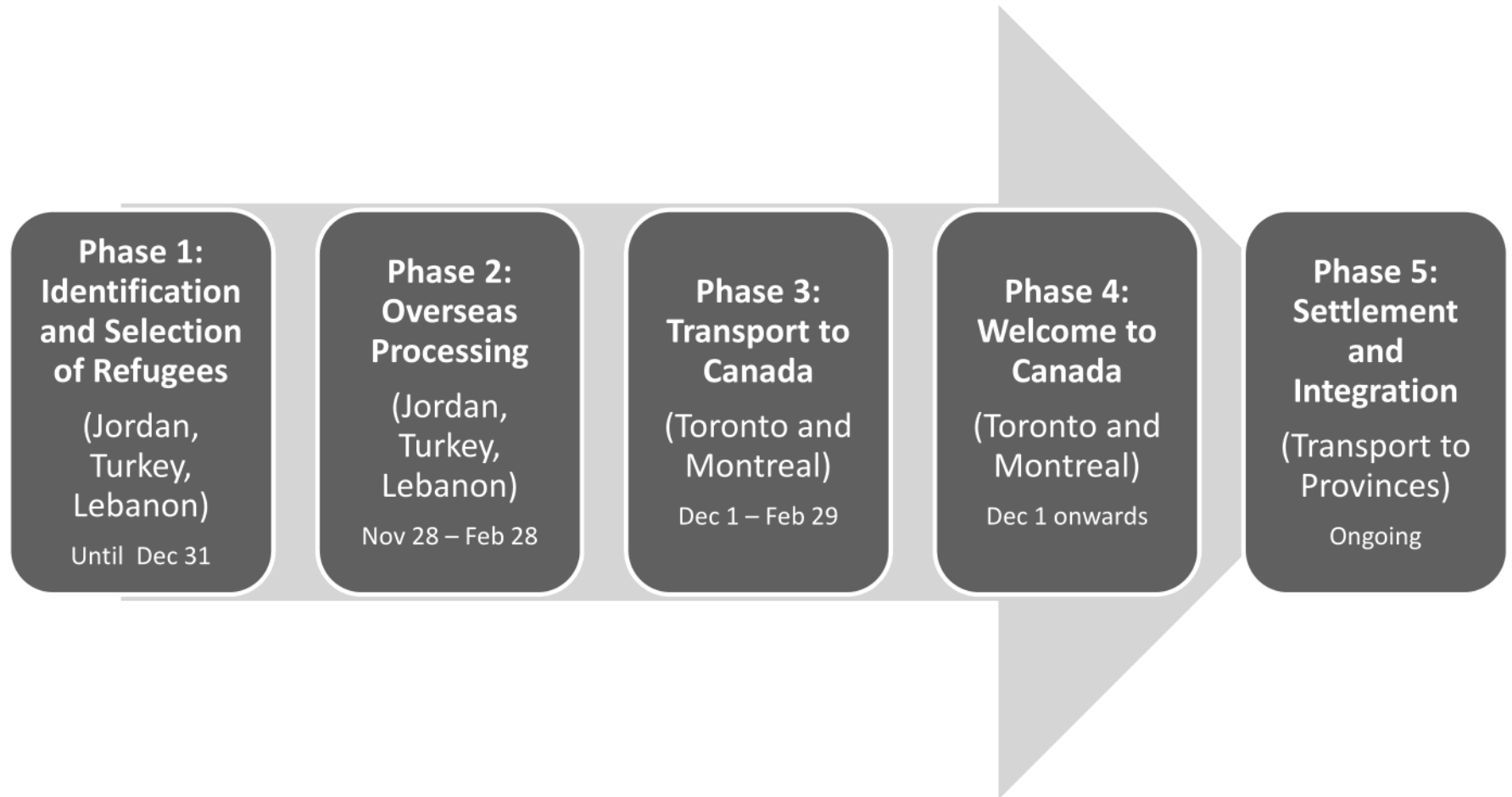


Federal Commitments: Overview

- 25,000 Syrian refugees
 - 10,000 by December 31, 2015 (80% PSRs)
 - 15,000 more by February 29, 2016 (majority GARs)
- Full security screening overseas
 - biometrics, in-depth interviews, checks against databases
- Most vulnerable
 - Focus on families, women and children, and LGBTI
- Additional \$377M for settlement services
- Fully restoring Interim Federal Health Program



Federal Commitments: Strategic Plan



Federal Commitments: Impact on BC

Mid-Late December

Refugees slowly begin arriving in B.C., mostly privately sponsored



January-February

Increased flow of mostly government sponsored refugees



February 29

Up to 3,500 total refugees will have arrived since December

Federal Commitments: Overseas Inventory

- Identified refugees as of November 26
- B.C. is expected destination for 3%
- Destination not yet determined for 16%

B.C. Destination	PSR	BVOR	GAR	Total
Burnaby	31			31
Coquitlam	20			20
Delta	6			6
Duncan		4		4
Kelowna	9			9
Langley	2	5		7
New Westminster	49			49
North Vancouver	1			1
Prince George	5			5
Richmond	10			10
Surrey	20		1	21
Vancouver	54			54
Victoria	10	5		15
B.C. Total	217	14	1	232
Canada Total	7,691	1,439	331	9,226

BC Response: Actions to Date

Refugee Readiness Fund

Toll-free number for inquiries
85+ stakeholder consultations

FPT Engagement

Embedded staff at Government Operations Centre - October
National Planning Forums - November
Ministers Forum and Meeting - December

BC Planning

Cross-ministry ADM Committee
Discussions with BC Mayors

s.13,s.17

BC Response: Refugee Readiness Fund

Announced December 2, 2015:

- Regional Refugee Readiness Teams
 - \$500,000+ to build capacity beyond Lower Mainland
 - Competitive procurement
 - Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Victoria/Nanaimo, Kelowna/Kamloops, Prince George
- Provincial coordination and resources
 - Up to \$500,000
 - Partnership with ISSofBC



BC Response: A Holistic Approach

Refugee Readiness Fund complemented by:

- Up to \$1.5M in job training through the Canada-BC Job grant
 - Job Readiness Training
 - Job Match Services
 - Job Specific Training
- \$1.27M in job-specific language training
- Provincial Health Services Authority is hiring and training 30 additional interpreters
- All refugees eligible for immediate MSP, school enrolment, access to WorkBC Centres and tax credits.

British Columbia's Plan

Working with Communities

- Proposed settlement locations
- Local capacity and willingness
- Possible intake and timing

Advocating to Federal Government

- Increased funding
- Settlement locations outside Lower Mainland
- Access to information on skills and education
- BC input in community/refugee matching

Next Steps

- Federal negotiations
 - Settlement locations and funding
- Continue cross-ministry ADM Committee
 - Disseminate information, identify gaps, align policies/programs, implement strategies
- Implement Refugee Readiness Fund
- Maintain stakeholder partnerships

Refugee Readiness Fund Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Capacity Building Webinar for WorkBC
and Immigrant Settlement Organization service providers
November 22, 2016



Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF)

- The Government of Canada, through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has jurisdiction over the national immigration system including refugee resettlement.
- On November 24, 2015, IRCC announced that 25,000 Syrian refugees would arrive in Canada by March 1, 2016.
- BC responded by creating the RRF, a \$1M one time investment to assist Syrian refugees and to leverage existing federal and provincial supports
- This presentation will provide an overview of the RRF and some activities to date

Syrian Refugee Resettlement in BC

As of October 30, 2016:



3,000 refugees have arrived in BC to date.

2,088 are Syrian GAR individuals.

508 Syrian GAR units

58 BC communities

Estimates are for another **2,000**
BC refugee arrivals in the remainder of 2016.

Services and Supports

Federal Funding

Resettlement Assistance Program

- Income support for up to 1 year
- Resettlement services for the first 4-6 weeks, including:
 - Reception services
 - Temporary accommodation
 - Assistance with permanent accommodations
 - Furniture and household goods
 - Initial needs assessments
 - Orientation on financial information and life skills training
 - Links to federal and provincial settlement programs

** Privately sponsored refugees receive above supports from their sponsor*

Settlement Services, which provide:

- Language assessments and classes
- Assistance finding a job
- Assistance with daily living
- Information on community services

Interim Federal Health Care

- Coverage varies depending on the refugees age and status

Canada Child Tax Benefit

Student Aid

Provincial Funding

- Health (MSP)
 - Refugees are eligible for immediate enrolment upon arrival
- Education
- Employment Program of BC
- Child Care Subsidy
- BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit
- BC Basic Family Bonus
- Student Aid

\$1M Refugee Readiness Fund

- Provincial Resources and Training
- Community Capacity Building

Basic Refugee Needs

Community Readiness

\$1M Refugee Readiness Fund

Community
Supports

Refugee
Response Teams
(RRTs)



Provincial
Supports

ISSofBC

Complimentary to Existing Services and Regionally-Focused

Refugee Readiness Fund

Community Supports: 5 Refugee Response Teams (RRTs)

1

**Metro
Vancouver**

MOSAIC

2

**Fraser
Valley**

DiverseCity

3

**Vancouver
Island**

Victoria
Immigrant
and Refugee
Centre
Society
(VIRCS)

4

**Thompson
Okanagan**

Kelowna
Community
Resources
Society
(KCRS)

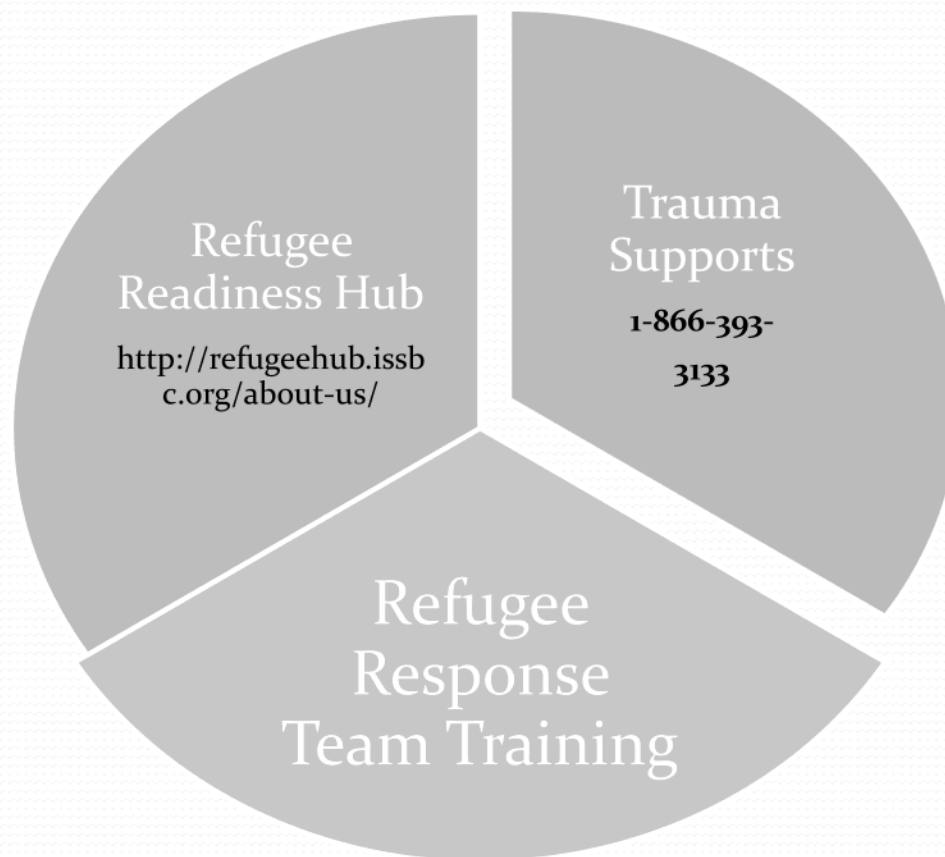
5

Cariboo

Immigrant &
Multicultural
Services
Society of
Prince George

Refugee Readiness Fund

Provincial Supports: ISSofBC Contract



Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Vicki Chiu

Senior Program Advisor

Immigrant Integration

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**Speaking Notes
Refugee Readiness Fund
Teleconference with BC Mayors
December 2, 2015**

Introductions

- Thank you for making time for this call today.
- I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide you all with an overview of the current status of the Syrian refugee resettlement operation and the BC Refugee Readiness Fund.
- This call is also an opportunity for us to discuss the important role you and your communities can play in overall refugee resettlement operation.
- Over the past weeks, my Ministry has conducted an analysis of potential settlement communities for refugees across BC based on a range of criteria and indicators.
- The federal government has also recently released information on where the first wave of privately-sponsored refugees will be arriving in the near future.
 - A total of 213 privately sponsored refugees are destined to communities across BC including: Burnaby, Coquitlam, Delta, Kelowna, New Westminster, Prince George, Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria.

Overview

- During this call, I will give you a brief overview of:
 - the federal government's resettlement program and current commitments for Syrian refugees;
 - BC's response to date in preparing for Syrian refugees;
 - The opportunity for building the capacity of communities outside of the lower mainland to support newly arriving refugees; and
 - The next steps BC will be taking to ensure the Syrian resettlement operation is a success.

BC Context

- Canada has a longstanding tradition of providing international protection to refugees through its national resettlement program, which falls entirely under federal jurisdiction.
- The provincial government does not determine how many refugees are settled here. That is up to the federal government and private sponsors.
- However, we can work with the federal government to identify where BC communities have the capacity to welcome and support refugees.
- In 2014, BC received 1,528 refugees. 55% of these refugees were government-assisted and 12% were private-sponsored.
- Experience has shown us that it is the dedication and commitment of communities like yours across the country that ensure the success of Canada's resettlement program.

Federal Commitments: Overview

- British Columbians have shown remarkable support for the newly-elected federal government's commitment to resettle 25,000 refugees from Syria to Canada by March 2016
- On Nov 24th, the federal government announced a new timeline for 10,000 refugees (mostly privately sponsored) to arrive by the end of the year, with the remaining 15,000 (mostly government assisted) to arrive by the end of February 2016.
 - We know that BC. will receive 213 privately sponsored refugees in 10 communities this December
 - Based on our conversations with the federal government, we expect very few government-assisted refugees in December, but the flow of will increase in January and February.
 - The new federal timeline is good news – it gives us more time to prepare.
- The federal government plans to conduct all security screening overseas.
- Refugees will be transported to Canada primarily by private chartered aircraft, supplemented with military aircraft as required.
- The initial point of entry in Canada will be either Toronto or Montreal.
 - Privately sponsored refugees will continue directly on to their final destination.
 - Government assisted refugees will be matched with host communities and either continue directly to those communities or provided temporary accommodation until transportation is arranged.
- The federal government is focussing on the most vulnerable – families, women, and members of the LGBTI community. No single unaccompanied men will be included unless the UN has identified a strong protection need.
- The federal government estimates this operation will cost a total of \$678 million over six years; \$377 million of which will go towards settlement services.
- Lastly, the federal government has committed to fully restoring the Interim Federal Health Program which was cut back under the previous federal government.
 - This is good news for BC
 - It means that for refugees' first year, they will get extended medical coverage such as dental, vision, and prescriptions.
 - This reduces the cost of private sponsorship and will also reduce emergency interventions that are paid for by the province.

Refugee Overview: Services and Supports

- I would like to highlight that refugees are permanent residents and have access to all the provincial programs that other British Columbians have access to – health care, education, child care subsidy, WorkBC employment and services.

- This means that several provincial ministries will be involved, as children get enrolled in schools and families register for MSP.
- Within government, we are actively planning for this – for example, we have set up an ADM level committee of all impacted ministries to exchange information and plan for readiness.
- However, the bulk of the costs for Year 1 will be borne by the federal government, which is responsible for all settlement-related supports to refugees and immigrants. This includes community orientation, help with daily life, employment services, and language classes.
- As I already mentioned, refugees also receive support immediately upon arrival from either their private sponsor or the federal government - including securing housing, obtaining basic household goods and clothing, and a year of income support.

Community Engagement

- Since September, the BC government has been actively working to prepare for the arrival of Syrian refugees – before the new federal government implemented the more ambitious settlement plan.
- The development and implementation of the \$1M Refugee Readiness Fund has been central to our response, but it is only one component of a much broader approach which has involved:
 - Opening a toll-free telephone line for public inquiries;
 - Meeting with municipalities at UBCM;
 - Engaging with 85 organizations through staff-level consultations, including an in-person consultation with settlement services, private sponsors and community groups;
 - Initiating a cross-ministry ADM committee to ensure a coordinated government response to this situation;
 - Embedding a staff member at the Government Operations Centre in Ottawa to work alongside our federal colleagues on resettlement plans.
 - Participating in community-led, regional planning meetings with municipalities, settlement service providers, schools boards, and others; and
 - Developing a BC-specific plan for proposed refugee settlement locations, volumes, flow rates, and federal funding needs. I will also talk about this more in a moment

BC Plan

- s.13,s.17
-
- As I mentioned, privately sponsored refugees go to the community where their sponsor is located. Generally government assisted refugees settle in places where there is federal Refugee Assistance Program funding.

- However, we are hearing from the federal government that there is an interest and appetite to look at expanding their specialized refugee funding in targeted communities outside the Lower Mainland.
- This could mean more government assisted refugees in areas outside of Metro Vancouver. We are interested in hearing more from you about whether that would be supported by your community.
- s.13,s.16,s.17

Refugee Readiness Fund

- The Refugee Readiness Fund will also play a key role in expanding capacity to support refugees in communities across the province.
- The design of the fund has been based on extensive stakeholder consultation and has landed on the following approach:
 - Half of the Fund will be used to create “Refugee Readiness Teams” in regions across the province – including the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Okanagan, and Cariboo.
 - We are assessing against a number of criteria including existing capacity, employment opportunities, and housing vacancy, and will also work to ensure there is readiness where refugees actually settle.
 - A competitive process is underway to procure for these teams.
 - The other half of the Fund has been provided to the Immigrant Service Society of BC to provide provincial coordination and develop resources that can be used by groups across B.C.
 - ISSBC was selected because they are the only organization in B.C. with recent experience providing services to GARs and the only federal Refugee Assistance Program provider.
- I am confident that using the Fund for these services will help community groups throughout BC, including those in your communities, to have the capacity, knowledge, and expertise to provide the best supports to newly arriving refugees in our communities.

Next Steps

- Looking forward, BC will continue to be active on a number of fronts.
- First and foremost, BC will continue to negotiate with the federal government on the key issues of settlement locations and funding.

- We will continue the cross-ministry ADM committee to disseminate information, identify gaps, align policies and programs, and implement strategies.
- We will continue to move forward on implementing the Refugee Readiness Fund.
- And, we will ensure we maintain close partnerships with your municipalities and stakeholders in your communities throughout this process.

Closing

- That concludes my overview.
- Thank you for your time.
- I am now happy to take questions.



Ministry of
Jobs, Tourism
and Skills Training



***LEARN ABOUT BC'S \$1M FUND
TO SUPPORT SYRIAN REFUGEES***

SYRIAN REFUGEE READINESS FUND INFORMATION SESSION

Information on the recently-announced \$1M Syrian Refugee Readiness Fund and how your community's efforts can support refugees.

TIME: Wednesday, Sep 23, 2015, 11:00-11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: BC Government UBCM Tradeshow Pavilion



Ministry of
Jobs, Tourism
and Skills Training



***LEARN ABOUT BC'S \$1M FUND
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TIME: Wednesday, Sep 23, 2015, 11:00-11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: BC Government UBCM Tradeshow Pavilion

Actions and Engagements to Date

Since early September, the Government of B.C. has been actively working to prepare for an increased volume of refugee arrivals. These efforts have included:

The \$1M Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF)

- Premier Clark announced the \$1M RRF on Sept 8, 2015.
- Engaged with over 85 key stakeholders to inform the design and procurement of the RRF. This included an in-person workshop and teleconference with representatives from across the province.
- Presented the RRF at the Union of BC Municipalities in September 2015.
- The RRF will support creation of province-wide supports and funding for community-based initiatives across the province.
 - Procurement for the RRF is expected to be announced on Dec 2, 2015.

Public Engagement

- Established a toll-free number to field questions on existing settlement support and readiness fund; and
- Held one-on-one meetings and/or phone calls with over 60 individuals who called or wrote to the Ministry in regards to refugees from Syria.

Regional Engagement

- Attended Metro Vancouver planning session and two City of Vancouver planning sessions which included RAP and settlement providers, Sponsorship Agreement Holders, municipalities, school boards, health authorities, police, libraries, and others.

Inter-ministerial Engagement

- Initiated a cross-ministry ADM committee – with representation from 12 ministries, including Health, Education, Children and Families, and Housing – to ensure a coordinated government response.
 - The Committee meets weekly and will establish a Working Level Group to identify and action initiatives to prepare for settlement.
- Developed a BC Plan for proposed refugee settlement locations, volumes, flow rates, and federal funding needs.
 - Conducted an initial analysis of the settlement capacity of communities across B.C. to be shared with IRCC.

Federal Engagement

- Embedded a JTST staff member in Ottawa at the Government Operations Centre for two weeks to work alongside federal colleagues on resettlement planning;
- Attended National Settlement Stakeholder Working Forum in Toronto on November 28 and 29, 2015; and
- Participate in weekly calls with IRCC regional staff to plan and share information.

Refugee Readiness Fund Information Session

UBCM Convention
September 2015



Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and
Skills Training

*Labour Market and Immigration
Division*

Presentation Focus

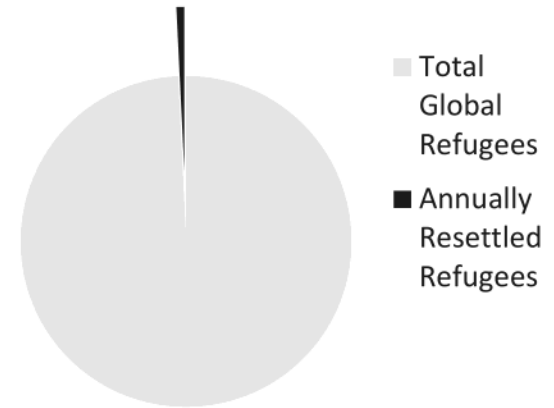
1. Refugee programs and services

2. Refugee Readiness Fund

Global Context on Refugees

- Global humanitarian urgency

- Nearly 60M displaced persons worldwide
 - Largest number since WWII
 - Half of all refugees are children
- Canada received 23,265 refugees in 2014

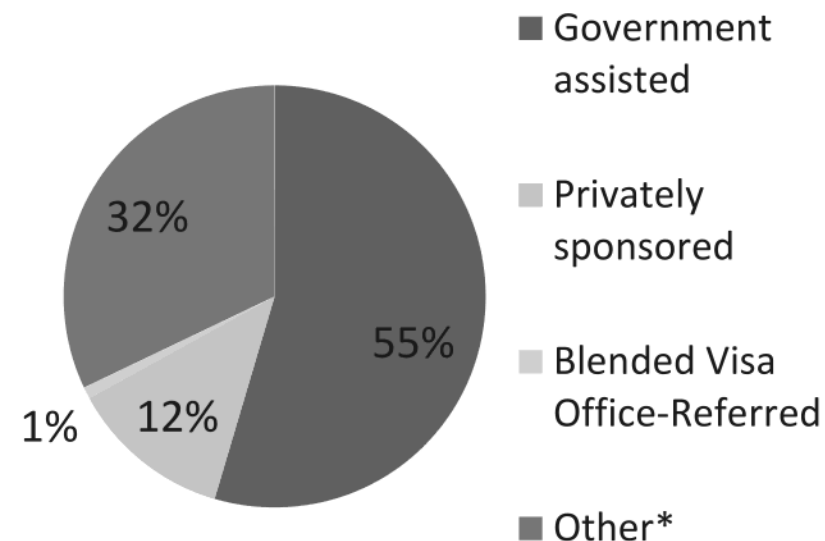


- CIC commitment to UN (2015)

- 13,000 additional resettled refugees over 3 years
- Announcement on September 19, 2015 by federal government
 - Resettling of 10,000 Syrians by September 2016 (15 months earlier than planned) and 23,000 Iraqis by end of 2015.
 - Special coordinator for Syrian refugees who will also help connect Canadians interested in assisting refugees with experienced sponsorship organizations.
- Federal government will match Canadian donations up to \$100M until December 31, 2015 under the Syria Emergency Relief Fund

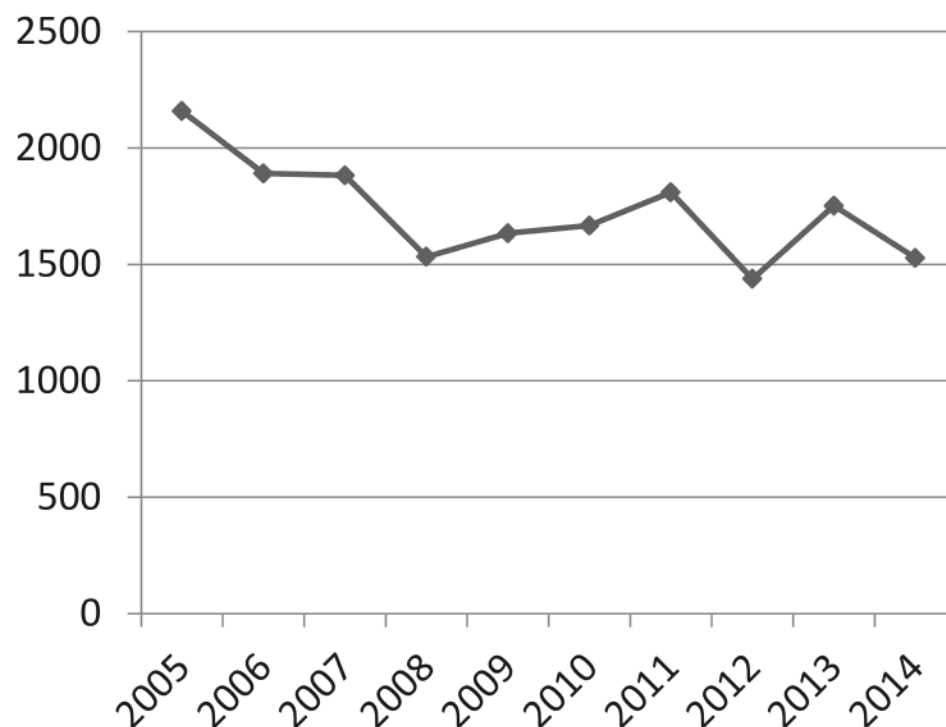
Refugee arrivals in BC

**2014:
1,528 Refugees**

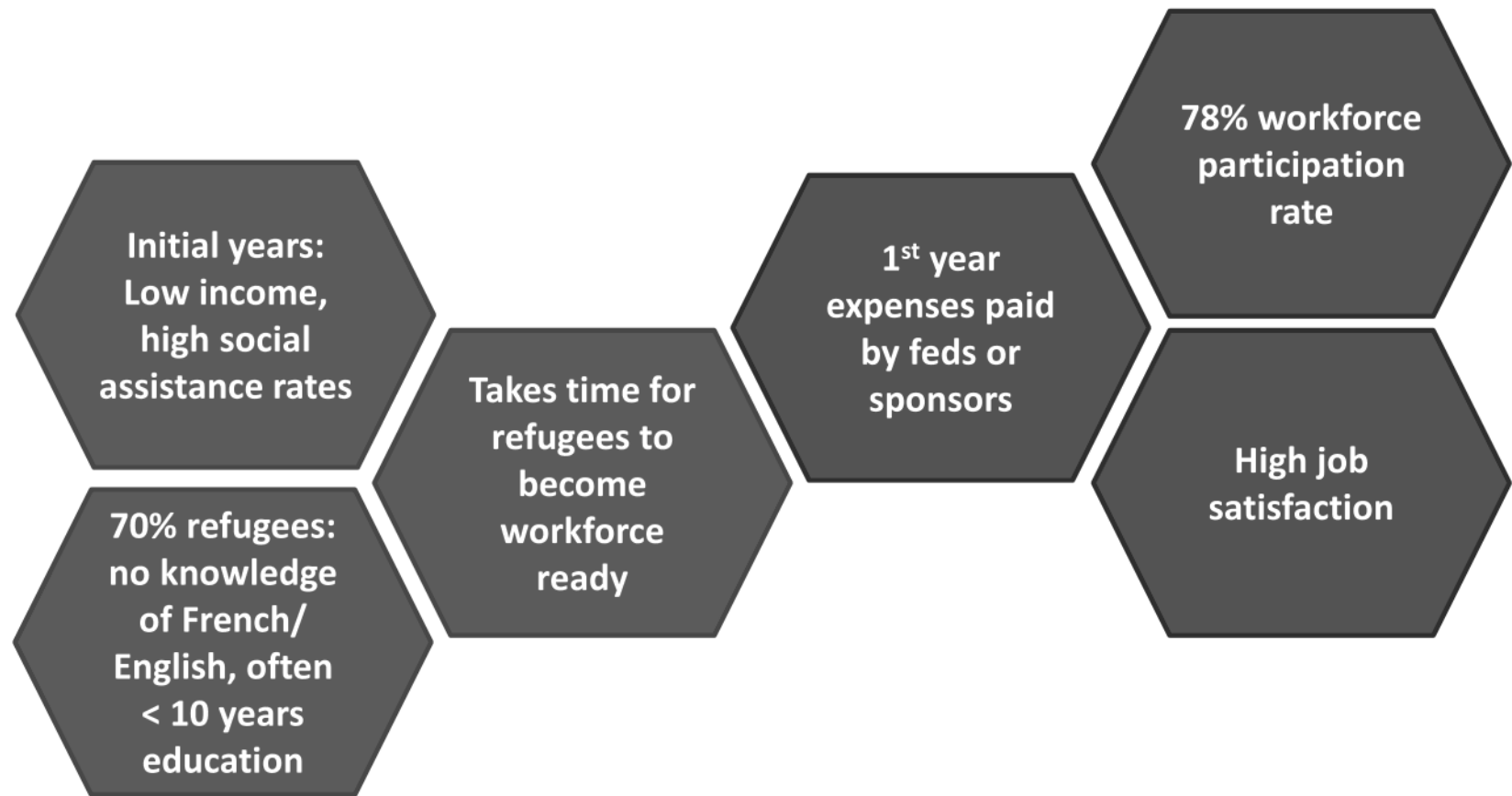


*Successful asylum seekers and their dependents

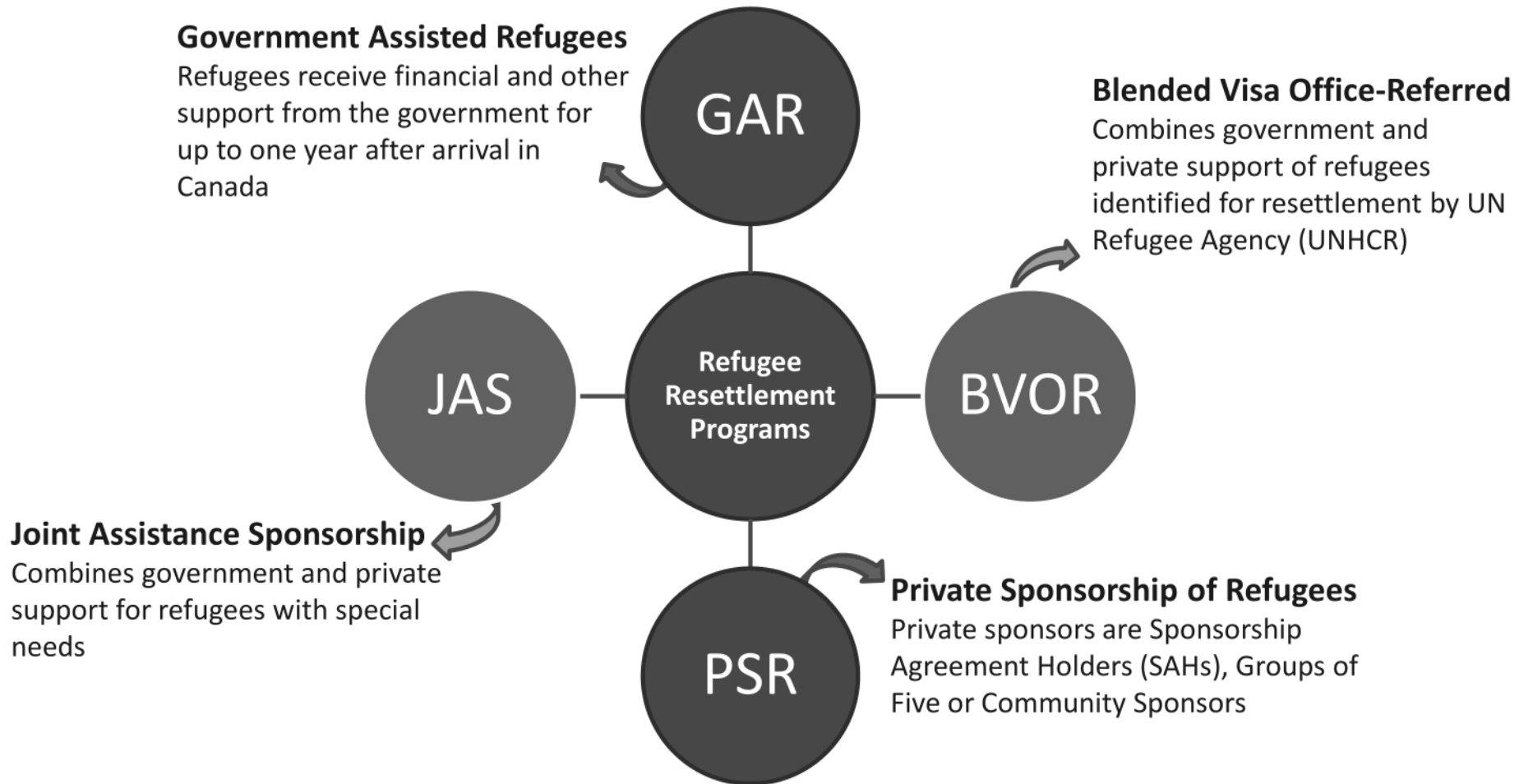
New Refugees to BC by Year



Refugee outcomes improve over time



Refugee Resettlement Programs in Canada



Current Settlement Services in BC

Federally Funded	
Settlement Services (\$90M)	Resettlement Assistance Program
All permanent residents from arrival onwards	GARs only for a maximum of one year.
Assistance with language competency, employment and daily life. Community integration services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income support + basic household items Accommodation assistance General orientation
176 Service Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigrant Services Society of BC Community Airport Newcomers' Network

Provincially Funded	
Settlement Services (\$3.6M)	Specialized Settlement (\$400,000)
Federally ineligible clients	Refugee claimants
Assistance with language competency, employment and daily life. Community integration services	Trauma counselling 1-on-1 information and referrals
58 Service Providers	Immigrant Services Society of BC

Resources on assisting refugees

To sponsor a refugee:

- Visit the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) website:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/index.asp>.
- Training available through CIC-funded Refugee Sponsorship Training Program.

To volunteer:

- Existing refugee sponsors in BC:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsors/list-sponsors.asp>.
- Existing refugee serving organizations:
www.welcomebc.ca

To donate or get more information:

- Call 1-877-952-6914
- Visit the WelcomeBC website:
<http://www.welcomebc.ca/refugee>



British Columbia's Refugee Readiness Fund

Principles behind the fund

- Community-based
- Leverage existing provincial and federal support services for refugees
- “Readiness” focus
- One-time funding

Areas of focus

- Trauma counselling
- “Groups of Five” private sponsorship support
- Community-level supports
- Foreign Credential Recognition
- Employer and labour market attachment supports



BC Response: Refugee Readiness Fund

Actions to date

- ✓ Toll-free number established to field questions on existing settlement support and readiness fund.
- ✓ Initial discussions with key refugee-serving organizations and sponsorship groups

Next Steps

- Feedback from municipalities – input, questions, and ideas.
- Stakeholder consultation with service providers and private sponsors/sponsorship agreement holders to confirm design and implementation.

Valued feedback

- What has been the reaction within your community to the refugee crisis?
- What are you already doing or plan to do to respond to assist refugees?
- What opportunities have you identified?
- What do you need in order to respond effectively?

Contacts

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AN OVERVIEW OF THE REFUGEE READINESS FUND (RRF) CONSULTATIONS

- Following Premier Clark announcement on Sep. 8th that the province would create a one-time \$1.0 million Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF), the JTST team has been engaged in on-going conversations and consultations with stakeholders from across the province.

Initial Engagement – Sept 8th-30th

- On the day of the announcement, JTST held two teleconferences providing information on Premier's announcement to 36 settlement organizations and community groups across BC the province. A 1-800 number was also set up to respond to public inquiries and, as of Oct. 5th, the Call Centre has responded to 76 individuals with questions related to the RRF (the majority of whom were looking for more information on how to sponsor a refugee). The breakdown of topics discussed is as follows:
 - Wants information on how to sponsor (33)
 - Wants information on resources/other sponsorship groups (19)
 - Complaint about the fund (9)
 - Wants to make a donation (6)
 - Wants to sponsor their own family (5)
 - Wants to volunteer (2)
 - Information on being sponsored (1)
 - Wants information (1)
- Sept. 8 to 30: JTST staff had on-going discussions with CIC and representatives from refugee-serving organization and refugee sponsorship groups from across the province, including: the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Services Agencies (AMSSA), Immigration Services Society of BC (ISSofBC), MOSAIC, the Canadian Red Cross, the Anglican Church, and the Roman Catholic Church.
- In addition to holding an information session on the RRF at UBCM, the Ministry contracted the Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Services Agencies (AMSSA) – the umbrella agency for settlement services in BC – to support with the coordination and facilitation of two province-wide stakeholder consultations to inform the design and delivery of the RRF.

Key Stakeholder Consultation – Sept 30th

- The first consultation consisted of a half-day, in-person meeting for key stakeholders in Richmond which was jointly facilitated by AMSSA and JTST staff. The objectives of the consultation were to:
 - Establish a common understanding of the objectives, themes, and guiding principles of the Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF)
 - Provide space for participants (and facilitators) to learn from one another's experience/expertise in refugee (re)settlement
 - Identify potential approaches for utilizing the \$1 million RRF that are aligned with the fund's five themes and guiding principles
- 27 individuals participated in the consultation, of whom:
 - 10 represented settlement agencies
 - 8 represented private sponsorship groups, including churches
 - 3 represented refugee health & trauma services
 - 2 represented higher education institutions
 - 2 represented international non-profits
 - 1 represented a cultural association
 - 1 worked in refugee law
 - 1 was a representative of CIC(you will note from these numbers that some individuals had more than 1 affiliation)

Broader Stakeholder Consultation – Oct 5th

- The second consultation consisted of a 1 hour webinar for a broader stakeholder group.
- 185 contacts (both individuals and organizations) were invited to participate in the webinar including municipalities.
- The Webinar provided an overview of the RRF, BC's Actions to Date, and information on next steps.
- Of those invited, 59 participated in the webinar. However, as many agencies only used one participant code for a group of staff within the same office, it can be assumed that the number of individuals on the call was much higher. s.13

s.13

Q&A for BC Service Centres

OFFERS TO ASSIST

Where can I learn more about refugees from Syria?

- You can learn more about how refugees from Syria are being resettled in Canada on the federal government's *#WelcomeRefugees: Updates on the Journey* website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/latest.asp>
- For the latest milestones and key figures for the Syrian resettlement program, visit: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/milestones.asp>
- The federal government has recently published an online population profile for Syrian Refugees which provides an overview of demographic characteristics, countries of asylum, health characteristics, and cultural considerations. You can find the online profile at: <http://lifelinesyria.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/EN-Syrian-Population-Profile.pdf>

How can I sponsor a refugee?

- Groups of Canadian Citizens or permanent residents can privately sponsor a refugee by establishing a Group of Five or Community Sponsorship Group.
- Refugee sponsors must commit to supporting refugees emotionally and financially for at least one year.
- Please refer to the following online resources for specific guidance on how to sponsor a refugee, as well as information on the roles and responsibilities of refugee sponsors:
 - The federal government's website on How to Sponsor a Refugee: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/index.asp>
 - The federal government's Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/index.asp>
 - The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program's (RSTP) Handbook for Sponsoring Groups: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/resources/handbook-for-sponsoring-groups/>
 - The application guide for privately sponsoring refugees: Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Application Guide (IMM 5413)
 - A list of existing sponsorship groups in BC can be found at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/list-sponsors.asp>.

What training is available to refugee sponsors?

- The federal government provides training assistance for refugee sponsors to address information and ongoing training needs. Please refer to the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP) website for more details: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/>

What does it cost to support a refugee?

- The estimated cost of sponsoring a single refugee is \$12,600. For a family of four, the estimated cost is \$27,000. More details are available at:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5413ETOC.asp#appa>

What percentage of the money required to sponsor a refugee must I have on hand before I can submit an application to be processed?

- You will need to show proof of funds at the time of filling out a sponsorship application (see IRC's document checklist:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5437E.pdf>).
- However, using in-kind donations can reduce the amount of money you are required to have on hand. For example, if you have a free place to shelter the refugees, you will not need to show any funds to pay for rent – you should, however, be able to provide detailed information such as the address and number of rooms available for the refugees when you submit your application. The same is true for other in-kind deductions.

How can I make a donation?

- As a province we are proud of the generosity shown by British Columbians in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. Making a donation is a personal choice and, as such, we cannot provide advice on how or where to donate your time, money and/or resources. To help you research options for supporting Syrian refugees, we have compiled the following resources for your review:
 - The federal government has launched a new website and social media campaign *#WelcomeRefugees* to support Canadians looking to donate, volunteer, and sponsor refugees. You can find the website at:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/help.asp>
 - As part of the \$1 million Refugee Readiness Fund, the province is working with the Immigrant Services Society of B.C. (ISSofBC) to develop a new online hub to track volunteer offers, in-kind donations, and housing and employment leads. You can learn more on their website at:
<http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-crisis/how-can-i-help-refugees>.
 - If you are looking to join or support an existing refugee sponsoring group, you can find a list of Sponsorship Agreement Holders in BC at:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/list-sponsors.asp>

Where can I volunteer?

- As a province we are proud of the generosity shown by British Columbians in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. Volunteering is a personal choice and, as such, we cannot provide advice on how or where to donate your time. However, to help you research options for supporting Syrian refugees, we have compiled the following resources for your review:
 - The federal government has launched new website and social media campaign *#WelcomeRefugees* to support Canadians looking to donate,

volunteer, and sponsor refugees. You can find the website at:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/help.asp>

- As part of the \$1 million Refugee Readiness Fund, the province is working with the Immigrant Services Society of B.C. (ISSofBC) to develop a new online hub to track volunteer offers, in-kind donations, and housing and employment leads. You can learn more on their website at:
<http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-crisis/how-can-i-help-refugees>.
- If you are looking to join or support an existing refugee sponsoring group, you can find a list of Sponsorship Agreement Holders in BC at:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/list-sponsors.asp>
- BC's new Refugee Readiness Fund will support Refugee Response Teams across BC to proactively plan for the settlement of refugees. These teams will have representatives from the refugee service provider community as well as local employers. Teams are anticipated in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Okanagan and Cariboo – although locations are contingent on where refugees ultimately settle. If you are interested in applying for funding through BC's new Refugee Readiness Fund, information is available on BC Bid at:
www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

What is the federal government doing to support Syrian refugees?

- The new federal government has committed to resettling 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada and has provided \$100 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
- A new website and social media campaign *#WelcomeRefugees* has been launched to support Canadians looking to donate, volunteer, and sponsor refugees. You can find the website at:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/help.asp>
- The *#WelcomeRefugees* website also provides stories, videos and updates on the Syrian resettlement program, at:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/latest.asp>
- The website also tracks the latest milestones for Canada's response to the Syrian Crisis and can be viewed here:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/milestones.asp>.
- In addition, there is also an online interactive map tracking the destination communities for privately sponsored Syrian refugees at:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/map.asp>
- A list of federal government-supported settlement services for refugees in BC is available online at: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/map/bc.asp>.

What is the BC government doing to support refugees?

- The province has provided \$1M in funding through a new Refugee Readiness Fund to ensure BC is ready to welcome and support newly arriving refugees.

- As part of the \$1 million Refugee Readiness Fund, the province is working with the Immigrant Services Society of B.C. (ISSoBC) to develop a new online hub to track volunteer offers, in-kind donations, and housing and employment leads. You can learn more on their website at: <http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-crisis/how-can-i-help-refugees>
- BC's new Refugee Readiness Fund will support Refugee Response Teams across BC to proactively plan for the settlement of refugees. These teams will have representatives from the refugee service provider community as well as local employers. Teams are anticipated in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Okanagan and Cariboo – although locations are contingent on where refugees ultimately settle. Further information is available on BC Bid at: <http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca>
- The Refugee Readiness Fund will also fund ISSoBC to:
 - Provide workshops and support to Refugee Response Teams to ensure that organizations serving refugees outside of the Lower Mainland have the knowledge and expertise in place in advance of the bulk of the refugees arriving in BC by February 2016; and
 - Set up a range of supports for clinicians caring for traumatized refugees, including a new telephone consultation line and a trauma needs assessment tool.
- In addition to this funding:
 - Wait periods and premiums for Medical Service Plan coverage are waived for all refugees.
 - Each refugee student in public school in B.C. is funded from the Province's pupil funding formula.
 - All refugees are able to access the Employment Program of BC
- All refugees are eligible to receive:
 - Child Care Subsidy
 - BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit - up to \$55 per month per child under age 6.
 - BC Basic Family Bonus - up to \$111 per child per month when combined with the National Child Benefit Supplement
 - Student Aid
- All government-assisted refugees are eligible to apply for housing through the Housing Registry managed by BC Housing.

How does the province plan to meet the potentially large need for temporary and permanent housing for incoming refugees?

- We are waiting for the federal government to release its final plans on how many refugees will come to BC and where in the province they will settle.
- Government-Assisted Refugees will receive income support and assistance for finding accommodation through a federally-funded service provider. Privately Sponsored Refugees will have their housing arranged by their sponsors prior to arrival.

- BC Housing is currently engaging with settlement service providers to better understand and address housing needs/gaps.

When will the numbers of incoming refugees and arrival timelines be confirmed?

- The Federal Government is still working out the number of Government-Assisted Refugees to be allocated to the provinces and have assured BC that it will share this information as soon as it becomes available.
- For Privately Sponsored Refugees, the Federal Government now has a website which provides information on communities where private sponsorship applications are currently in process. BC is expected to receive 213 privately sponsored refugees across 12 communities by the end of December 2015.

Where will these refugees be settled?

- Where the refugees will go once they arrive in B.C. is still being worked out.
- BC is exploring options across the province for resettlement.
- The province has tremendous economic opportunities in B.C. and that is why we want people to settle across the province, not just the Lower Mainland.

How many refugees does BC typically receive and where do they usually settle?

- BC typically receives 10% of refugee arrivals to Canada.
- Over the past five years, 98% Government-Assisted Refugees have been destined to the Lower Mainland where they receive settlement support through the federal Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) delivered by the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSo/BC).
- For more information on the support provided by ISSo/BC, please visit: <http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/issobc-refugee-programs-services>
- Approximately 94% of all Privately Sponsored Refugees are typically destined for the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.
- Of the 213 Privately-Sponsored Refugees expected to arrive in BC between now and by the end of 2015, the majority are destined for the lower Mainland:
 - Vancouver (54)
 - New Westminster (49)
 - Burnaby (27)
 - Coquitlam (20)
 - Surrey (20)
 - Victoria (10)
 - Richmond (10)
 - Kelowna (9)
 - Delta (6)
 - Prince George (5)
 - Langley (less than 5)
 - North Vancouver (less than 5)

- For the most up-to-date figures on privately-sponsored refugees, please visit:
http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/map.asp?_ga=1.266075727.1755002769.1423087176

Who are the Resettlement Assistant Program (RAP) providers in B.C?

- Immigration Services Society of BC (ISSo/BC) is the primary RAP provider in our province while S.U.C.C.E.S.S provides airport reception services to refugees.
- For more information on the support provided by ISSo/BC, please visit:
<http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/issobc-refugee-programs-services>
- You can find the contact information for an ISSo/BC office near you at:
<http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/contact-locations>

PUBLIC CONCERNS

How is Canada selecting and screening refugees overseas?

- This work is already underway and will continue for the next couple of months.
- Privately Sponsored Refugees are selected by the sponsoring group.
- To select Government-Assisted Refugees, the UN Refugee Agency and visa officers from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada will identify refugees.
- Vulnerable refugees, including women, children and families, will be prioritized.
- Overseas processing includes a full medical examination and security screening.
- Individuals who pass the screening will be issued a permanent resident visa and arrangements will be made for transportation to Canada.

Can refugees pose a threat to Canadian security?

- Under international and Canadian law, anyone who has committed a serious crime is excluded from refugee protection.
- All security screening will take place overseas following the usual screening protocols for refugees.
- Refugees are first screened by the UN before undergoing a series of rigorous security clearances by the Canadian government, which are carried out by Canadian visa officers, the Canada Border Services Agency, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
- This includes selecting the most vulnerable, conducting in-depth interviews, collecting biometrics, verifying identity, and checking individuals against international security databases.

- Canada has a strong record of conducting swift and comprehensive security screening for emergency evacuations.
- I am satisfied that the federal systems in place for security are robust and we can have the utmost confidence in the process.

Why is BC sponsoring refugees when there are many people already in BC who need our help?

- BC wants to help alleviate the suffering of refugees. It is clear from what we are seeing on the news that there is a crisis requiring assistance from around the world to solve.
- The federal government, which controls the number of refugees entering Canada, has announced that it will increase the number of refugees from Syria. These refugees are going to arrive and BC must be ready to provide assistance.
- Once refugees arrive, they become permanent residents of British Columbia, and are on the path to citizenship. Refugees possess knowledge and skills that will benefit BC. Support for refugees is essential for them to settle in BC and realize their potential as new Canadians.

Have a question that isn't answered here?

**Please contact the Government of British Columbia Call Centre at:
1-877-952-6914 (toll free)**

OR

**The Immigrant Services Society of BC at:
1-844-447-9742 (toll-free)
refugee.crisis@issbc.org**