


ISSU@BC



SYRIAN REFUGEES: A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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RCMP-GRC
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

Police Situational Awareness Syrian Newcomers




Photo: RCMP

Royal Canadian Mounted Police • Gendarmes royales du Canada

Canada

Syria: Country Overview

- **Area:** 185,180 sq km
- **Population:** 21,987,000
- **Official language:** Arabic
- **Literacy rate:** 77%
- **Religion:** multidimensional with a Muslim majority
- **Industry:** Petroleum, textiles, food processing and beverages
- **Agriculture:** Wheat, barley, cotton, lentils and beef
- **Exports:** Crude oil, petroleum products, fruits and vegetables, cotton fiber and clothing.


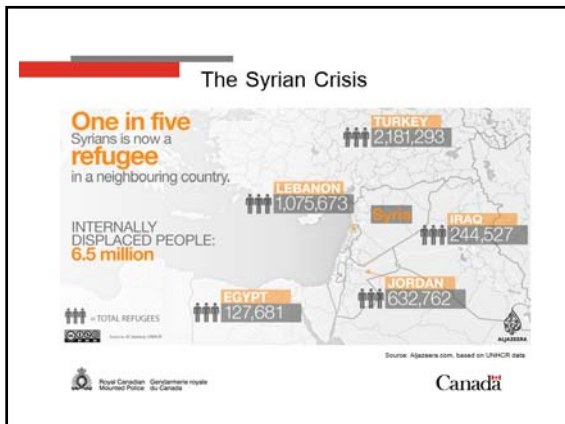
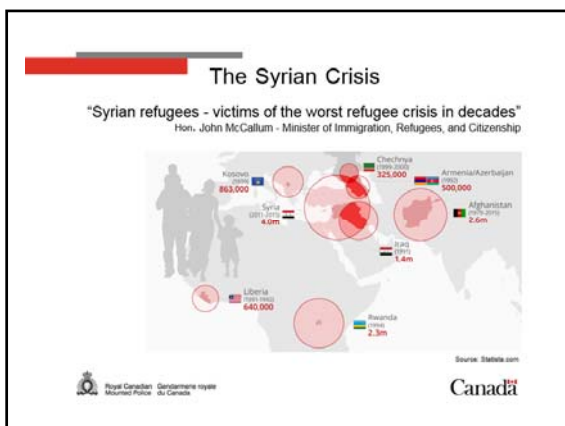


Photo: National Geographic

Royal Canadian Mounted Police • Gendarmes royales du Canada

Canada





Who are the Syrian Newcomers?

- Victims of war in need of protection.
- Women, children, the elderly and complete families.
- Undergone robust and multi-layered security and health screening before coming to Canada.

#WelcomeRefugees

Photo: Government of Canada

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

Who are the Syrian Newcomers?

- Experienced traumatic events in Syria and harsh living conditions as refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Fearful of the unknown in Canada and saddened by having to abandon relatives and the familiarity of their life back in Syria.



Photo: RCMP

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmes royales du Canada

Canada

Who are the Syrian Newcomers?

- Intend to work hard and become productive members of society.
- Hopeful for a safe life and a better future for their children in a country that does not discriminate against them.
- Once in Canada, their priority are basic needs: food, shelter, health care, finding work and schooling for children.




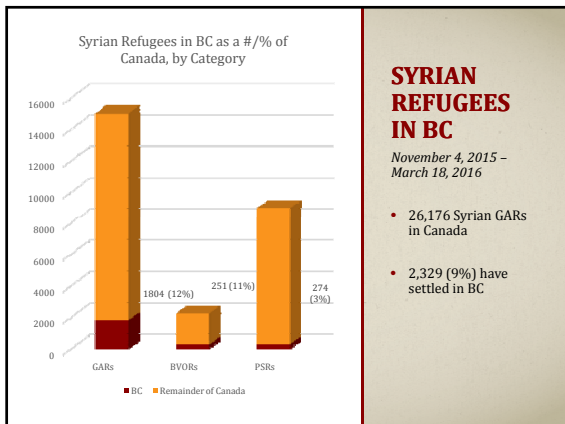
Photo: RCMP

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmes royales du Canada

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SYRIAN REFUGEES ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

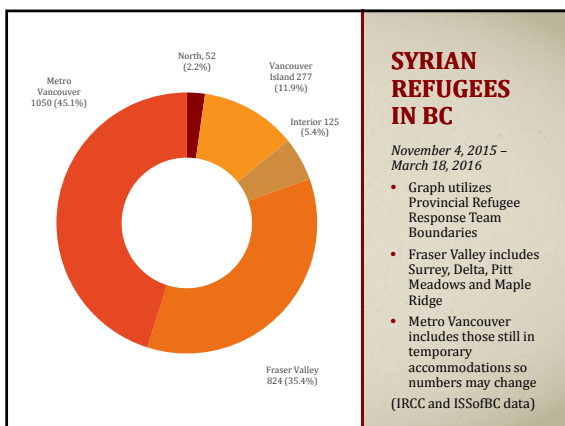
A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS



SYRIAN REFUGEES IN BC

November 4, 2015 – March 18, 2016

- 26,176 Syrian GARs in Canada
- 2,329 (9%) have settled in BC



SYRIAN REFUGEES IN BC

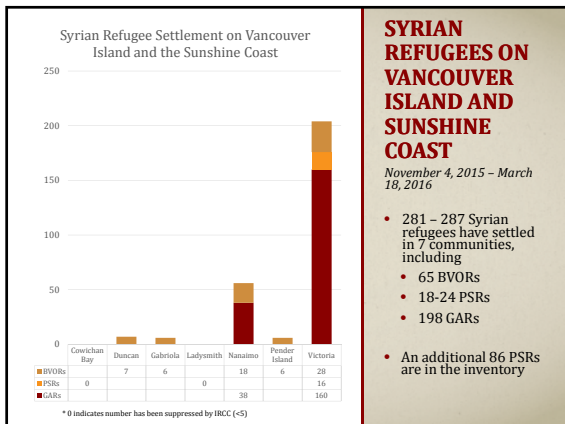
November 4, 2015 – March 18, 2016

- Graph utilizes Provincial Refugee Response Team Boundaries
- Fraser Valley includes Surrey, Delta, Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge
- Metro Vancouver includes those still in temporary accommodations so numbers may change (IRCC and ISSofBC data)

- 1804 Syrian GARs / 419 family units
- 60% age 18 and younger
 - 24% (427) ages 0-6
 - 26% (462) ages 6-12
 - 11% (197) ages 13-18
- Characteristics:
 - Large family sizes (avg 6, up to 13)
 - Most Syrian GAR adults have not completed high school (avg G 5-7)
 - Many adults literate in Arabic
 - Limited English/French (<5%)
 - Past Training/Work Experience
 - Farmers, drivers, labourers, construction hands
 - Physical / visible impairments

SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTED REFUGEES IN BC

November 4, 2015 – March 18, 2016



SYRIAN REFUGEES ON VANCOUVER ISLAND AND SUNSHINE COAST

November 4, 2015 - March 18, 2016

- 281 - 287 Syrian refugees have settled in 7 communities, including
 - 65 BVORs
 - 18-24 PSRs
 - 198 GARs
- An additional 86 PSRs are in the inventory
