

“Refugees Welcome Centre in East Vancouver. The first purpose-built facility of its kind in the world”

Summary:

- A one-stop housing and support centre “Welcome Centre” is a regional service hub bringing a combination of housing and immigrant settlement services
- A 6-storey Welcome Centre, 58,000 square foot facility is built by ISS of BC, located at 2610 Victoria Drive near the Commercial-Broadway skytrain station. It has 18 housing units with up to 138 beds, offering single rooms and family rooms for up to 16 families to stay
- Around 60 staffs have been moved to the Centre in early June, the grand opening of the centre is on June 25 by inviting government officials to attend the ceremony
- The first two refugee families from Iraq and Myanmar will arrive the centre next week (week of Jun 15)
- Instead of refugees, the centre also offer other newcomers a 2-3 weeks of short stay before they find a permanent home
- The centre offers fully-integrated services including primary health care clinic, trauma support and treatment centre, day-care center, community kitchen, legal support, language learning center, ATM etc
- To support the immediate needs of refugees and immigrants in Metro Vancouver, the centre also has multilingual settlement support and 8 English language learning classrooms, offering a one-stop support for the refugees and immigrants to integrate into our community in smoother and easier way
- ISS of BC has been leading the services and program for refugees, immigrants and youth since 1972. The organization serves over 23,000 clients every year in B.C. offering settlement, education and employment support services
- The organization is one of the largest immigrant service agents in West Coast Canada

Source: [Singtao Chinese newspaper 2016-06-18](#) “溫東設全球首家 難民安居中心”