



Helping Immigrants Build a Future in Canada

Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Bulletin – October 2011

Statistical highlights: July 1, 2011 – September 30, 2011:

- 172 individuals – 52% female / 48% male - 68 family units (plus 23 individuals-9 units who self transferred from other provinces);
- 68 individuals or 40% were children and youth under 18 years old; 14% or 24 youth were between 13 and 18 years old; 17% or 29 children were between 6 and 12 years old; 9% or 15 children were under 6 years
- 7 individuals or 4% were 65 and above;
- Top 5 destinations by municipality – Vancouver 57 (34%) - 49 of whom remain in ISSofBC Welcome House facility at this time (awaiting permanent housing), Coquitlam 49 (29%), Burnaby 38 (22%), Surrey 11 (6%), and Richmond 11 (6%)
- Out of a total of 10 different source countries, the top 5 source countries were: Iraq 65 (38%), Iran 38 (22%), Myanmar 28 (12%), Bhutan 17 (10%), and Somalia 12 (7%)
- As of September 30, 523 GARs or 65% of the annual calendar year target (800) had arrived in BC. This leaves 277 GAR arrivals for the remaining period of this year (October 1-Dec 15, 2011 period.) 67% of GARs had arrived during the same period last year so by and large similar fall arrival patterns.

(Breakdown of statistics by municipality are available upon request)

Looking ahead:

- Current trends continue to indicate that GARs will be coming from primarily, but not exclusively, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Bhutan.
- We are anticipating close to 100 school aged students to arrive over the next 2+ months.

**Chris Friesen,
Director, Settlement Services
October 4, 2011**