



Helping Immigrants Build a Future in Canada

Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Bulletin – July 2011

Statistical highlights: April 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011:

- 228 individuals – 44% female / 56% male - 93 family units;
- 105 individuals or 46% were children and youth under 18 years old; 15% or 34 youth were between 13 and 18 years old; 20% or 47 children were between 6 and 12 years old; 10% or 24 children were under 6 years
- 4 individuals or 2% were 65 and above;
- Top 5 destinations by municipality – Vancouver 61 (27%) - 12 of whom remain in Welcome House at this time, Surrey 44 (19%), Burnaby 35 (15%) Coquitlam 34 (15%), and Richmond 10 (4%)
- Out of a total of 14 different source countries, the top 5 source countries were: Iraq 52 (23%), Iran 45 (20%), Myanmar 28 (12%), Bhutan 23 (10%), and Ethiopia 20 (9%)
- As of June 30, 351 GARs or 44% of the annual calendar year target (800) had arrived in BC. This is in comparison for the same period last year where 30% of GARs had arrived.

(Breakdown of statistics by municipality are available upon request)

Looking ahead:

- CIC, Vancity Credit Union and ISSofBC are moving ahead with the introduction of direct deposit for RAP income support payments. This process should be in place beginning August 2011. The vision is to have all GARs currently on federal income support using the direct deposit process.
- Current trends indicate that GARs will be coming from primarily, but not exclusively, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Bhutan.
- CIC and the BC Government are in final negotiations on increasing the numbers of GARs coming to BC. This is as a result of Minister Kenney's refugee reform announcement whereby Canada will increase the number of refugees resettled from abroad by 2,500 (500 GARs and 2,000 Privately sponsored). BC's target will likely increase by an additional 70+ GARs (870+), phased in over the next couple of years.

**Chris Friesen,
Director, Settlement Services
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