



**Helping Immigrants Build a Future in Canada**

## **Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Bulletin – January 2010**

### ***Statistical highlights - January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2010:***

- 885 individuals – 47% female / 53% male - 427 family units (includes 71 individuals who self transferred from other provinces to BC);
- 49 single parents – 94% led by single mothers, 6% led by single fathers
- 330 individuals or 37% were children and youth under 18 years old; 12% or 109 youth were between 13 and 18 years old; 15% or 135 children were between 6 and 12 years old; 10% or 86 children were under 6 years.
- 26 individuals / 3% were 65 and above;
- Top 5 destinations by municipality – Surrey 360 (41%), Burnaby 144 (16%), Tri-Cities 112 (13%), Vancouver 98 (11%), and New Westminster 51 (6%).

### ***(Breakdown of statistics by municipality are available upon request)***

- 699 individuals (79%) settled in the Fraser Region.
- 27 different source countries – top 5 – Myanmar 163 (19%), Iraq 154 (17%), Iran 125 (14%), Somalia 86 (10%), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 76 (9%).
- GAR Source regions: Middle East –345 individuals (39%), Africa – 293 individuals (33%), Asia – 229 individuals (26%), and South America – 17 individuals (2%).

### **Looking ahead to 2010**

- Due to the Olympics refugee arrivals will be minimal during the first quarter of the calendar year between January and March 2010. As a result, arrival patterns will be similar to previous years where the majority of arrivals will likely occur between September and December 2010.
- Top refugee source countries are expected to remain similar to 2008 and 2009 – Iraqi, Myanmar. Previous high arrivals from Afghanistan and Sudan are expected to continue to drop.
- 1,600 Bhutanese are expected to arrive in Canada this year but we have no update of how many may arrive in BC.
- ISSofBC is in discussion with BC Housing (Vancouver Region) to provide GARs access to BC Housing units in Vancouver. As a starting point, on March 1 we will



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likely be moving 10 refugee families with young children from Burnaby and Surrey to Vancouver.

**Chris Friesen,  
Director, Settlement Services  
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