

Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Bulletin – April 2013

Statistical highlights: January 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013:

- 91 individuals – 48% female / 52% male - 55 family units plus 2 units or 4 individuals who self transferred to BC from Ontario;
- 24 individuals or 26% were children and youth under 18 years old; 3% or 3 youth were between 13 and 18 years old; 14% or 13 children were between 6 and 12 years old; 9% or 8 children were under 6 years
- 1 individuals or 1% were 65 and above;
- Top 5 destinations by municipality – Coquitlam 27 (30%), Surrey 26 (29%), Burnaby 10 (11%), North Vancouver 9 (10%), and New Westminister 8 (9%);
- Out of a total of 7 different source countries, the top 5 source countries were: Iran 45 (49%), Iraq 22 (24%), DRC 10 (11%), Syria 7 (8%), and Ethiopia 4 (4%);
- As of March 31, 2013 11% of the annual calendar year target (800) had arrived in BC – the same arrival pattern as in 2012.

(Breakdown of statistics by municipality are available upon request)

Looking ahead in 2013

- The vast majority of government assisted refugees this year will be Iraqis through the Canadian Embassy in Beirut; Somali, Ethiopians and Eritreans out of the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi; and, Iraqis and Iranians processed by the Canadian Embassy in Ankara.
- CIC Minister Kenney announced in June 2012 and March 2013 1,500 additional Bhutanese refugees for resettlement to Canada from Nepal in 2013 and 2014. It is too early to predict how many may come to BC.
- We are waiting to hear announcements from Minister Kenney later this year on several possible multi-year, multi-lateral refugee resettlement commitments as part of CIC's new overall direction in refugee resettlement eg less source countries and more multi-year planning opportunities.

**Chris Friesen,
Director, Settlement Services
April 8, 2013**