



Helping Immigrants Build a Future in Canada

Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Bulletin – October 2012

Statistical highlights: July 1, 2012 – September 30, 2012:

- 196 individuals – 47% female / 53% male - 79 family units including 7 units or 18 individuals who self transferred to BC from other provinces;
- 55 individuals or 37% were children and youth under 18 years old; 8% or 12 youth were between 13 and 18 years old; 12% or 18 children were between 6 and 12 years old; 17% or 25 children were under 6 years;
- Top 5 destinations by municipality: Coquitlam 35 (24%), Burnaby 33 (23%), Surrey 20 (14%), New Westminster 28 (11%) and Vancouver 15 (10%) –please note we had 32 individuals (22%) who arrived in late September and are still living in ISSofBC's Welcome House facility, awaiting permanent housing;
- Out of a total of 9 different source countries, the top 5 source countries were: Iran 56 (38%), Afghanistan 37 (25%), Somalia 23 (15%), Iraq 14 (9%), and Cote d'Ivoire 6 (4%);
- As of June 30, 2012 53% of the annual calendar year target (844) had arrived in BC. This is in comparison for the same period last year where 65% of GARs had arrived.

(Breakdown of statistics by municipality is available upon request)

Looking ahead:

- Overall, the number of GARs is anticipated to be down in the last quarter of 2012 due to the situation in Syria. The Canadian Embassy in Syria processed a large number of refugees in that region for resettlement to Canada. With the closing of Canada's Embassy in Damascus and moving immigration related matters to Turkey and Jordan there has been a delay in immigration processing hence reduced numbers.

**Chris Friesen,
Director, Settlement Services
October 1, 2012**