



**Helping Immigrants Build a Future in Canada**

**Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Bulletin – 2010 Calendar Year**

***Statistical highlights (4th quarter) - October 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010:***

- 237 individuals – 99 family units (31% of GARs arrived during this period)
- Top 5 source countries – Somalia 56 (23%), Iraq 47 (20%), Iran 34 (14%), Laos 27 (11%) and Afghanistan 23 (10%);
- Refugees arriving from Laos (Hmong) was a one time only initiative and were settled with other Hmong people from earlier arrivals in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge;
- 107 individuals or 45% were children and youth under 18 years old; 15% or 37 youth were between 13 and 18 years old; 19% or 46 children were between 6 and 12 years old; 10% or 24 children were under 6 years;
- 2 individuals / 1% were 65 and above;
- Top 5 destinations by municipality – Surrey 63 (27%), Burnaby 46 (19%), Tri-Cities 39 (16%), Vancouver 20 (8%), and New Westminster 15 (6%).

***Statistical highlights – January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010:***

- 763 individuals – 47% female / 53% male - 335 family units;
- 19 individuals (12 units) self-transferred from other provinces to BC;
- 23 different source countries - top 5 source countries – Iraq 188 (24%), Iran 103 (13%), Somalia 97 (12.5%), Afghanistan 76 (10%), and Bhutan 64 (8%);
- 327 individuals or 43% were children and youth under 18 years old; 14% or 109 youth were between 13 and 18 years old; 17% or 134 children were between 6 and 12 years old; 11% or 84 children were under 6 years.
- 11 individuals / 1% were 65 and above;
- Top 5 destinations by municipality – Surrey 213 (28%), Burnaby 179 (23%), Tri-Cities 152 (20%), Vancouver 62 (8%), and New Westminster 40 (5%).

***(Breakdown of statistics by municipality is available upon request)***

- 681 individuals (89%) settled in the Fraser Region.



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- GAR Source regions: Middle East –380 individuals (50%), Africa – 205 individuals (27%), Asia – 158 individuals (21%), and South America – 14 individuals (2%).

### **Looking ahead to 2011**

- Iraqi Arabic speaking refugees are anticipated to be the main source country until 2013;
- Bhutanese refugee resettlement movement will continue until 2012 but there are no fixed target numbers for BC;
- Karen GARs from Myanmar which were the number one source country in 2009 have essentially stopped; and,
- The City of Surrey is likely to continue to see the majority of GARs due to the availability of affordable housing.

**Chris Friesen,  
Director, Settlement Services  
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