



Refugee Newcomers in Metro Vancouver

Changing Faces and Neighbourhoods 2010–2013
May 2014



Message from ISSofBC

ISSofBC has been at the forefront of every major refugee resettlement movement to Canada since 1968. Our work, providing temporary housing and support to refugees for close to 50 years, has given us a certain vantage point on this newcomer population to B.C. Besides our services to all Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) destined to the province. ISSofBC has also collaborated with Settlement Orientation Services (SOS) for over 20 years to provide multilingual pre-settlement support to refugee claimants seeking asylum in Canada.

The purpose of this publication is to increase the awareness of refugee newcomer populations who are settling in Metro Vancouver. We also set out to debunk myths about refugees such as the number that arrive in B.C. annually, where they come from and what level of income support and other benefits can they expect to receive.



Refugee newcomers are resilient and bring to Canada many skills and assets although some individuals will require intensive support to make a successful transition as future Canadians.

Lastly, with the assistance of UBC graduate students (Craig Jones and Laura Pfister) we have created maps both by city and ethnicity on the arrival and settlement patterns of GARs over the past four years. We hope this publication will not only help correct some of the misinformation about refugees but will also create a heightened awareness for the need to provide more targeted neighbourhood based support to help refugees reach their full potential and actively contribute to their new homeland. Their hopes and aspirations are no different to any of ours.

Patricia Woroch
Chief Executive Officer

Manchan Sonachansingh
President, Board of Directors

Table of Contents

Message from ISSofBC	3
Part 1 Refugees in the world	6
Part 2 Refugees in Canada: Past, Present and Future	9
2.1 Process for resettled refugees coming to Canada	9
2.2 Refugee claim process in Canada	11
Part 3 Refugees in British Columbia and Metro Vancouver	14
3.1 Refugees in British Columbia	14
3.2 Refugee Claimants in British Columbia	14
3.3 Government Assisted Refugees in British Columbia	17
Part 4 Settlement Patterns of GARs by Municipality	20
Part 5 Settlement Patterns of GARs by country of origin	24
Settlement patterns of GARs from Iran	26
Settlement patterns of GARs from Iraq	28
Settlement patterns of GARs from Somalia	30
Settlement patterns of GARs from Afghanistan	32
Settlement patterns of GARs from Bhutan	34
Settlement patterns of GARs from Myanmar	36
Part 6 Looking ahead, 2014 and beyond	38

Glossary of Terms

CANN	Community Airport Newcomers Network
CBSA	Canadian Border Service Agency
CIC	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
DCO	Designated Country of Origin
GAR	Government Assisted Refugee
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IFHP	Interim Federal Health Program
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRB	Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
IRPA	Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
ISSofBC	Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia
NHS	National Household Survey
PP	Protected Persons
PSR	Privately Sponsored Refugee
SAH	Sponsorship Agreement Holder
SWIS	Settlement Worker In School
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Government Assisted Refugees (GAR):

Convention Refugees selected from abroad by the Government of Canada for resettlement. GARs hold permanent resident (PR) status upon arrival and receive financial and other support from the Government of Canada for up to one year.

Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR):

Convention Refugees selected from abroad by a private sponsor who agrees to provide financial and other support for one year. PSRs hold PR status upon arrival.

Refugee Claimants (RC):

Foreign nationals who apply for refugee protection from within Canada, or at a port of entry. Once their asylum claims are approved by the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) they can apply for PR status.

Refugee Landed in Canada (RLC):

Refugee claimants who have their asylum claim approved by the IRB.

Executive Summary

Every year, millions of refugees flee their home to seek protection in another country. A small percentage of these refugees (89,000 in 2012) are given the opportunity to be resettled to a third country such as Canada.

Canada receives three categories of refugees: refugee claimants, Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) and Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs). Refugee claimants are assessed by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB), an independent administrative tribunal responsible for hearing asylum seekers and determining whether they should be accepted as refugees. GARs and PSRs are selected from abroad by Canadian Visa Post or Canadian private sponsors through the assistance of the UNHCR and resettled to Canada as permanent residents after medical and security screening. GARs receive settlement services and income support for one year through the national humanitarian Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) while PSRs are provided settlement and financial support by their private sponsor.

For the past two years, refugee related federal programs and legislation have been significantly revised by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, including a new refugee claim process, changes to Interim Federal Health (IFH) coverage, and new multi-year resettlement commitments highlighting a reduction in source countries, to name but a few.

Demographic statistics and settlement patterns of refugees are not available at the municipal level. However, as a result of the fact that ISSofBC receives all GARs destined to B.C., we are able to produce statistics on GAR settlement and arrival patterns for Metro Vancouver. From 2010 to 2013, three Metro Vancouver municipalities received two-thirds of GAR arrivals in B.C.: Surrey (28%), Coquitlam (22%) and Burnaby (16%). During the same period, the top six countries of origin for GARs were Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan, Bhutan and Myanmar.

Part 1: Refugees in the World

Geneva Convention Definition of a Refugee, 1951, 1967 (signed by Canada and 144 other countries)

A refugee is a person who “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”

Source: “Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees”, Office of UNHCR, August 2007.

In general, refugees are people who flee their homeland and seek asylum in another country for fear of persecution or life threats. States signatories to the 1951 Geneva Convention are obligated to protect refugees who are in their territory. UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) is also mandated to protect the rights and well-being of refugees worldwide.

People who cross an international border when fleeing persecution are considered asylum seekers as they seek the protection of another state. Those who do not leave their home country are called Internally Displaced Persons

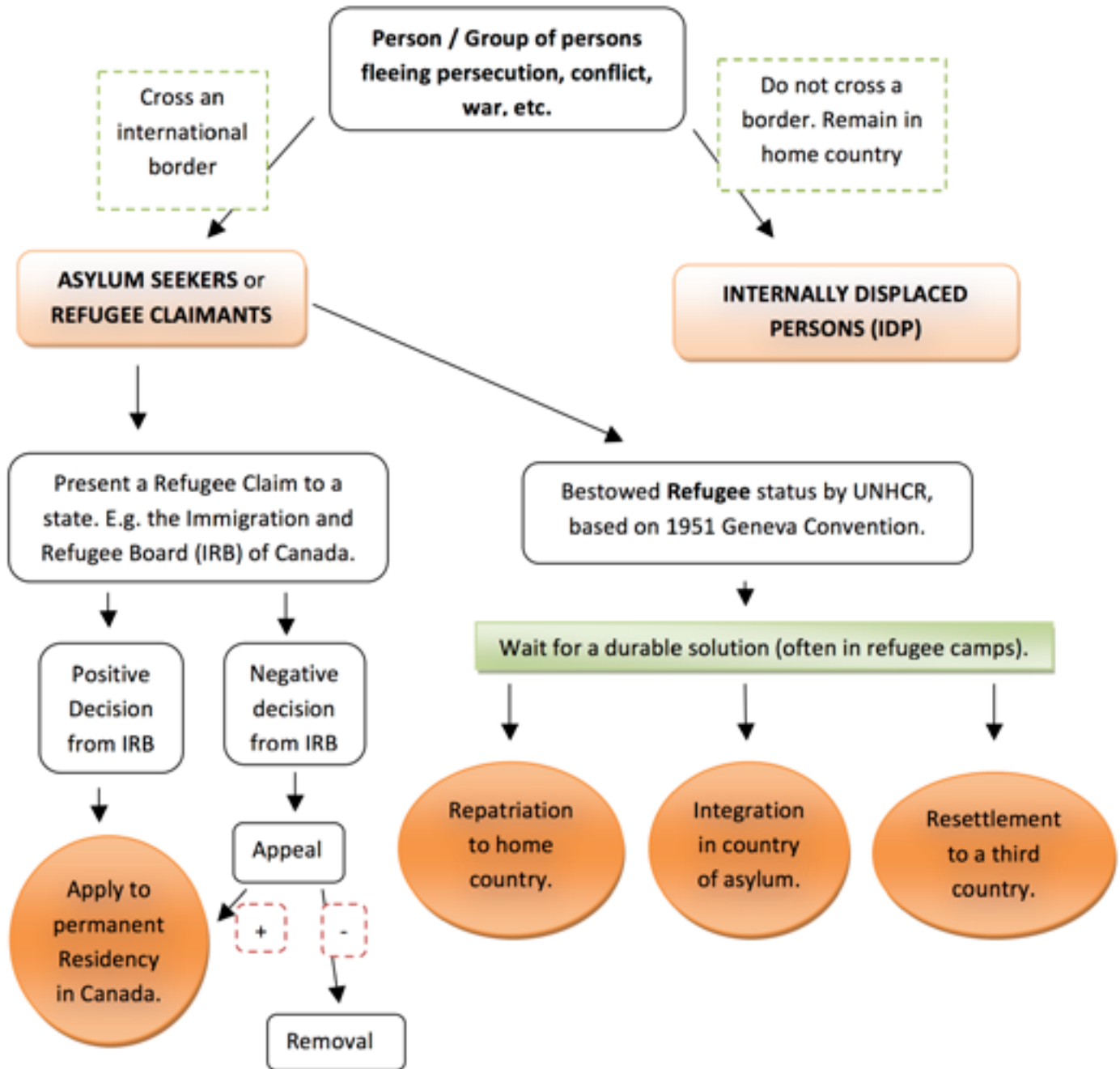
(IDP); they remain under the protection of their home state. Asylum seekers or refugee claimants are people who claim protection but whose situation has not been assessed yet (by a state or UNHCR). Once their claim has been validated (by a state or UNHCR), refugee status is officially bestowed to them. UNHCR considers three durable solutions for refugees:

- Voluntary repatriation: when conditions in home country have improved in a lasting and meaningful way and refugees are able to return safely and with dignity.
- Local integration in country of asylum: when refugees are allowed to stay in their country of asylum with rights similar to those of citizens (they can for example work, attend school and freely move in the country).
- Resettlement in a third country: when refugees cannot return to their home country or integrate locally the third durable solution is for them to resettle in another country that will guarantee their protection and civil rights.



Bhutanese of Nepali origin fled to Nepal in the early 1990s.

Fleeing Persecution, Seeking Protection and a Permanent Solution



*See Refugee Claim Process in Canada on page 11.

Refugees: The Global Phenomena

UNHCR estimated the global number of refugees under its mandate was 10.5 million in 2012².

Most refugees live in countries of asylum in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. In 2012 Pakistan hosted the largest number of refugees in the world (1.64 millions) nearly all from Afghanistan. After Pakistan came Iran, Germany, Kenya and Syria. When using the number of refugee compared to the total population of the hosting country, Jordan, Chad, Lebanon, Republic of Congo and Djibouti rank first.

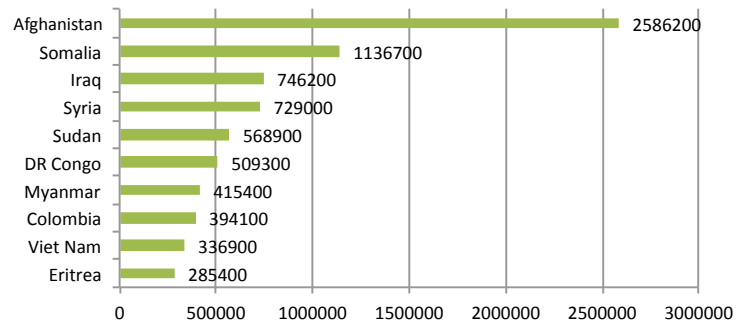
Internally Displaced Persons

In addition to refugees, UNHCR provides assistance and protection to IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) who are displaced in their own country by armed conflict, generalized violence and human rights violations. UNHCR estimated 28.8 million IDPs in 2012, the highest figure in more than two decades.

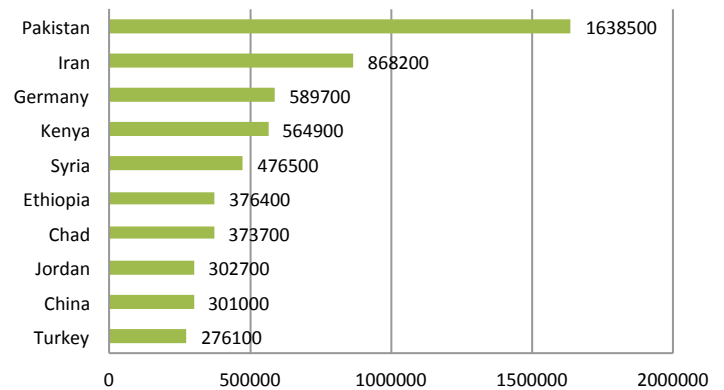
Resettlement of Refugees

Resettlement is a protection tool that provides a durable solution to refugees who cannot be repatriated or cannot integrate into their country of asylum. In 2012, 89,000 refugees were resettled into a third country, including 66,300 to the USA, 9,600 to Canada (Government Assisted Refugees and Privately Sponsored Refugees), 5,900 to Australia, 1,900 to Sweden and 1,200 to Norway.

Major Source Countries of Refugees – end 2012



Major Refugee Hosting Countries – end 2012



Za'atari Camp in Jordan.

²UNHCR, Statistical Yearbook 2012.

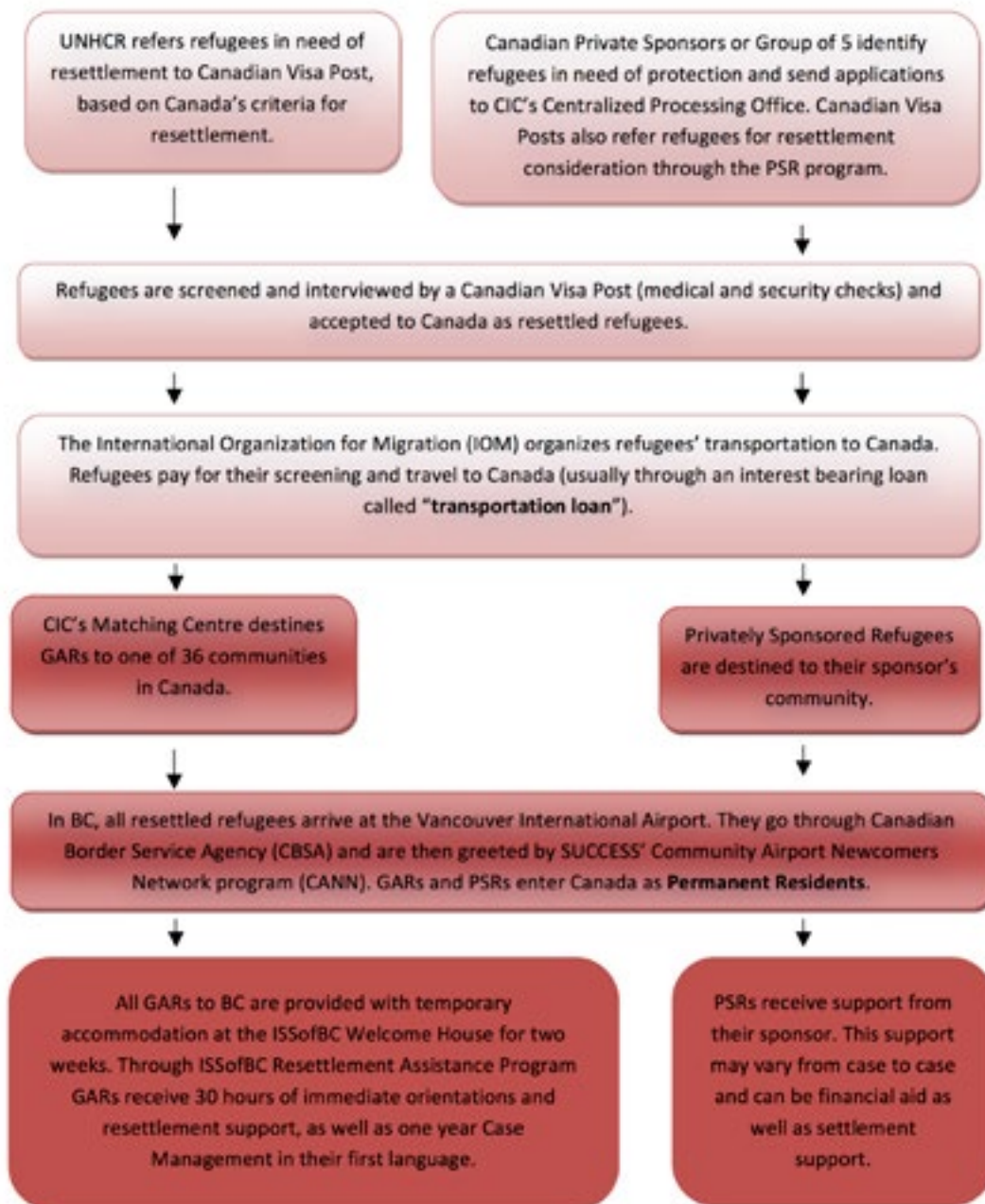
Part 2: Refugees in Canada: Past, Present and Future

There are two ways for refugees to arrive in Canada: either they are selected abroad to be resettled or they come by their own means and present a refugee claim at the Canadian border or once in Canada.

2.1 Process for Resettled refugees coming to Canada

In 2012, of the more than 10 million refugees in the world, UNHCR estimated that 800,000 were in need of resettlement. UNHCR refers cases for selection to various resettlement countries based on the refugees' need for protection and the targets and criteria set by each country. For Canada a visa officer will establish whether the refugee is eligible for resettlement in Canada.

Selected refugees have to undergo medical and security checks before being admitted to Canada, the costs of which become part of their interest bearing transportation loan. They can be sponsored through the Government Assisted Refugee program (GAR) or through the Privately Sponsored Refugee program (PSR). 9,624 persons arrived to Canada in 2012 as sponsored refugees.

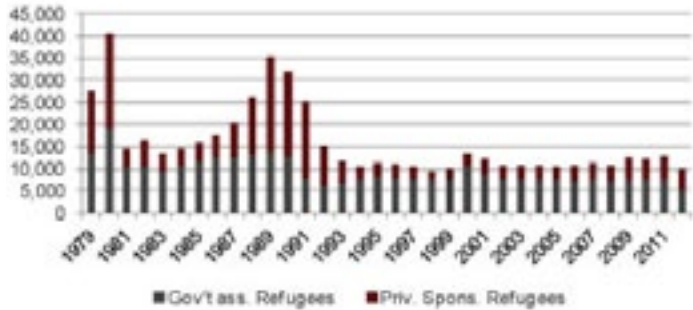


In 2012, 23,056 refugees settled in Canada with their family. The following breakdown provides further insight:

- Out of the 23,056 refugees who arrived in Canada, 9,624 were refugees selected abroad (5,412 GARs and 4,212 PSRs) and 13,432 were refugee claimants and their dependants.
- In 2012, Canada resettled 26% fewer refugees than in 2011.
- The three top countries of origin were Colombia (24,454 refugees), Afghanistan (20,403 refugees) and Iraq (15,409 refugees). But there are significant variations between the three refugee categories — see table below:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
GARs	Afghanistan (12,052)	Colombia (11,967)	Iraq (6,701)	Iran (4,546)	DR Congo (4,334)
PSRs	Iraq (8,708)	Afghanistan (8,351)	Ethiopia (4,891)	Sudan (1,731)	Somalia (1,731)
RLCs	Sri Lanka (14,718)	Colombia (12,487)	Pakistan (9,766)	China (8,504)	Mexico (5,022)

The highs and lows of refugee resettlement to Canada



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada



Colombian refugees receiving humanitarian assistance.

In 2013 the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada announced it will implement multi-year resettlement commitments in the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, running in parallel with existing commitments for the Bhutanese in Nepal and Iraqi refugees in Turkey. These multi-year resettlement commitments are as follows:

- 4,000 Iraqis out of the Middle East by 2015, toward an overall commitment of 20,000 Iraqis
- 1,000 Bhutanese out of Nepal by 2015, toward an overall commitment of 6,500 Bhutanese
- 5,000 refugees out of Turkey between 2013 and 2018 (mostly Iraqis and Iranians in the short term, although Syrians might arrive later on)
- 200 Syrian GARs out of Lebanon and Jordan in 2013 and 2014
- 900 Colombians out of Ecuador between 2014 and 2017
- 4,000 Eritreans out of Eastern Sudan and Ethiopia between 2014 and 2019
- 2,500 Congolese out of Tanzania and Burundi between 2015 and 2018

CIC also announced that on going Privately Sponsored Refugee population will include refugees from:

- East Africa (Somalis, Eritreans, Ethiopians and Congolese in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda)
- South Africa (Congolese, Somalis, Eritreans and Ethiopians)
- Pakistan (Afghans)
- Egypt (Eritreans and Sudanese)
- Middle East (Iraqis in Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan)

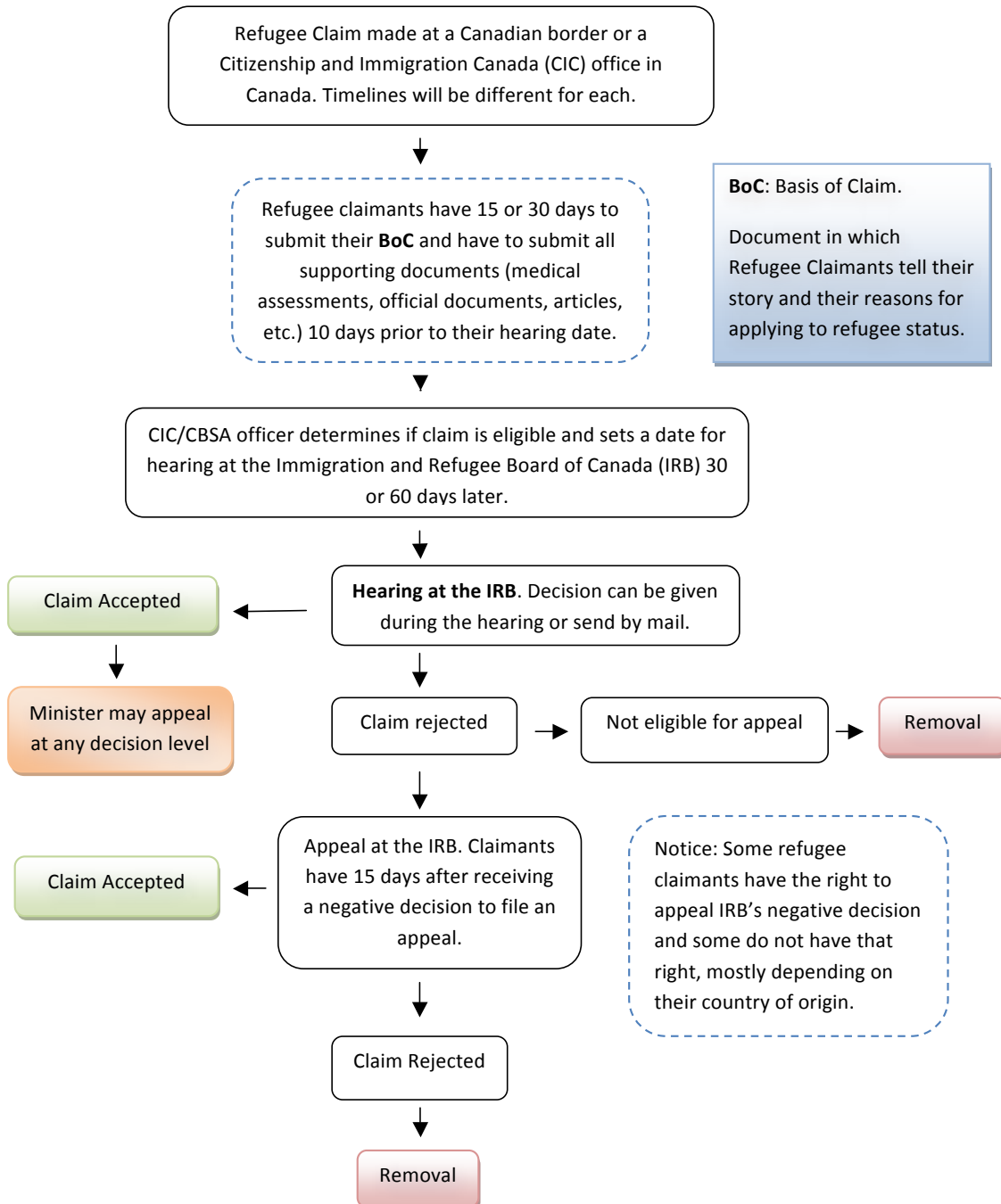
Additionally CIC announced a commitment to take up to 1,100 Syrians through the Privately Sponsored Refugee program in 2014 (in addition to 200 GARs) as an initial response to the Syrian crisis.

2.2 Refugee Claim Process in Canada

(after Refugee Reform, 15 December 2012)

Some people manage to come directly to a Canadian border point and claim asylum there. Their claim will be assessed by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB), an independent administrative tribunal responsible for hearing asylum seekers and determining whether individuals should be accepted as refugees. When accepted, refugees are usually referred to as

Refugees Landed in Canada. If their claim is rejected, refugee claimants may have the possibility to appeal the decision (depending on whether their country has been considered as “safe” by CIC or not). Those who receive a finale negative decision will usually be asked to return to their home country. In 2012 13,432 refugee claimants and their dependents were landed in Canada.



Adapted from CCR document – December 2012

New Refugee Claim System in Canada

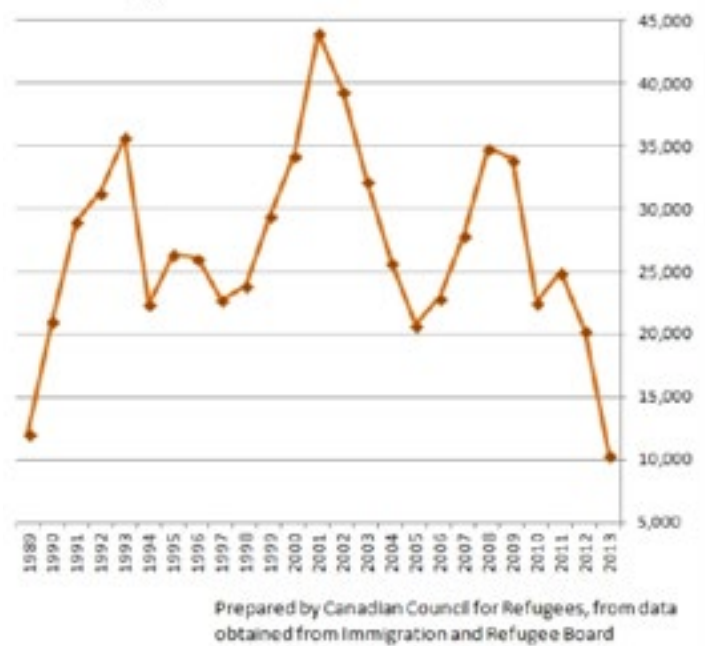
Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) introduced a new refugee claim system on December 15, 2012. This reform was meant to significantly reduce the claims' processing time. The reform also created two systems based on the country of origin of the claimant. At the end of 2013, a list of 37 Designated Countries of Origin (DCO) had been released by CIC. DCO are considered 'safe countries' by CIC and their nationals have shorter timelines for their claim and are not allowed to appeal a negative decision of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB). The DCO list is comprised of countries such as Mexico, the USA and most countries of EU – including Hungary and Czech Republic (two countries of origin of most Roma refugee claimants).

Since the introduction of the new refugee claim process, referrals to the IRB have drastically dropped, from 20,000 in 2012 to 9,700 in 2013.* Refugee claims referred to the IRB on an annual basis have varied between 20,000 and 34,000 in the past decade, however, numbers referred in 2013 are the lowest since 1989, the first year of the IRB. According to CIC, claims from DCO have declined by 87% in 2013.

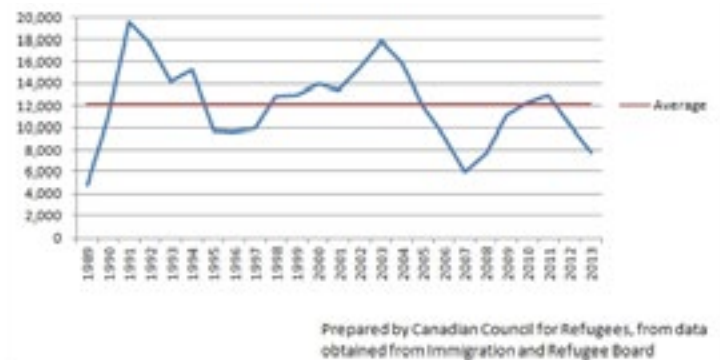
The three charts on the right provide a general overview on refugee claims in Canada from the beginning of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) in 1989 to 2013. For the three types of data collected (number of refugee claims referred, number of refugee claimants accepted and acceptance rate), 2013 shows results at the bottom of those 25 years.

*Refugee claim related data provided in this paragraph is derived from the IRB and CIC websites and is rounded to the nearest hundred or thousand.

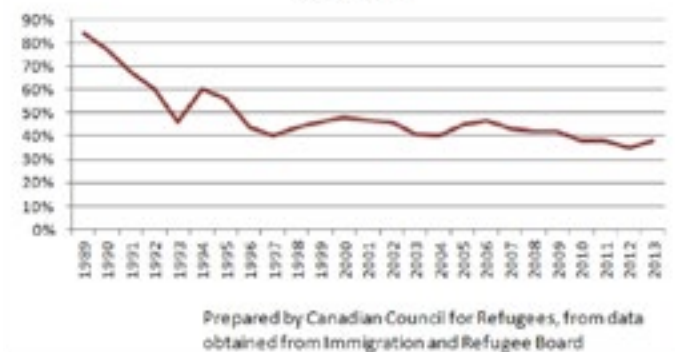
Refugee Claims referred to the IRB 1989–2013



Number of refugee claimants accepted in Canada 1989–2013



Acceptance rate refugee claims 1989–2013



Global Asylum Claims versus claims in Canada in 2013³

The UN refugee agency reports a sharp rise in asylum claims in 44 industrialized countries in 2013, driven primarily by the crisis in Syria. While asylum claims rose 28% (133,000) in 2013 over 2012 levels, refugee claimants to Canada declined almost 50%, from 20,500 in 2012 to 10,380 in 2013 (UNHCR, 2014).

In 2008 and 2009, Canada was the second and third highest destination country for refugee claimants among the group of 44 industrialized countries. In 2013, Canada dropped to 16th place as a destination for refugee claimants. Canada's share of applications thus fell from 10% of the total in 2008 to just 2% in 2013.

Since 2009, Canada's asylum applications fell by two-thirds, from 33,250 in 2009 to 10,380 in 2013. The US, in contrast, ranked second in 2013, after being the top destination for refugee claimants in 2009, 2011 and 2012.

These statistics correlate and substantiate the point that Canada's preclusion measures may be obstructing access to asylum for refugee claimants. With a 28% rise in asylum applications worldwide and a decline of almost 50% in Canada, it is clear that access to the refugee determination process in Canada is difficult for those who seek protection.

UNHCR (2014) *Asylum Trends 2013: Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries*. March 2014.



³Information extracted from UNHCR Asylum Trends 2013, by Jennifer Hyndman -Director, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University.

Part 3: Refugees in British Columbia and Metro Vancouver

3.1 Refugees in British Columbia

All three categories of refugees are represented in British Columbia. GARs destined to the province receive services at ISSo/BC, including resettlement support and temporary accommodation at the Welcome House facility.

In B.C. Privately Sponsored Refugees are sponsored by nine Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH); one located in Victoria, two in the Interior and six in Metro Vancouver. SAH are organizations that sign an agreement with CIC to sponsor and support refugees for their first year in Canada.

Refugees can also be sponsored by groups of five individuals who commit to provide them with financial and social support.

Very little data is available for PSRs and Refugee Claimants / Refugees Landed in Canada, other than the general CIC statistics for the province. The following table provides data for B.C. that shows that Protected Persons (all categories of refugees) constitute a smaller portion of immigration to B.C. than generally in Canada.

	2010			2011			2012			2010 to 2012		
	BC	Canada	%	BC	Canada	%	BC	Canada	%	BC	Canada	%
Government Assisted Refugees*	743	7,264	10.2%	672	7,364	9.1%	530	5,430	9.8%	1,945	20,058	9.7%
Privately Sponsored Refugees	485	4,833	10.0%	496	5,582	8.9%	355	4,220	8.4%	1,336	14,635	9.1%
Protected Persons in Canada	296	9,041	3.3%	494	10,743	4.6%	366	8,586	4.3%	1,156	28,370	4.1%
Dependants Abroad	143	3,558	4.0%	148	4,183	3.5%	187	4,858	3.8%	478	12,599	3.8%
Total Protected Persons	1,667	24,696	6.8%	1,810	27,872	6.5%	1,438	23,094	6.2%	4,915	75,662	6.5%
Total Economic Class	30,874	186,913	16.5%	21,904	156,121	14.0%	22,115	160,819	13.8%	74,893	503,853	14.9%
Total Family Class	10,865	60,220	18.0%	10,127	56,446	17.9%	11,855	65,008	18.2%	32,847	181,674	18.1%
Total Immigration	44,183	280,681	15.7%	34,785	248,748	14.0%	36,241	257,887	14.1%	112,655	761,189	14.8%
% of GARs in total Immigration	1.7%	2.6%		1.9%	3.0%		1.5%	2.1%		1.7%	2.6%	
% of Protected Persons in Immigration	3.8%	8.8%		5.2%	11.2%		4.0%	9.0%		4.4%	9.9%	

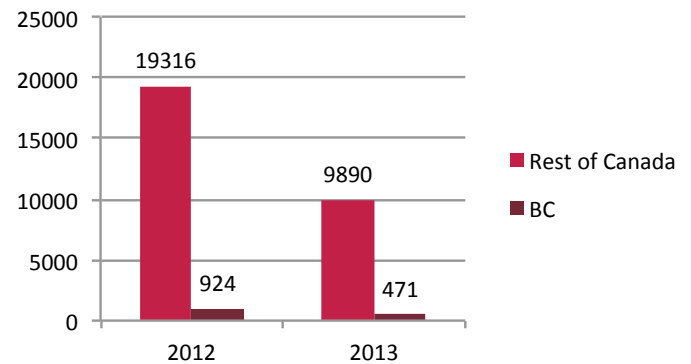
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Facts and Figures 2010, 2011 and 2012*.

* Please note that CIC statistics for GARs in B.C. do not match ISSo/BC statistics, which are as follow: 763 GARs in 2010, 711 GARs in 2011 and 655 GARs in 2012.

3.2 Refugee Claimants in British Columbia

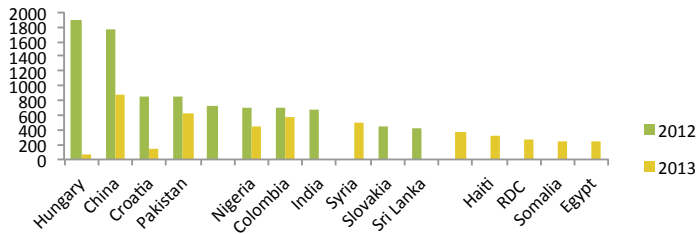
Since the new refugee claim system was introduced in December 2012, claims made in British Columbia have been substantially lower than in the previous years, as observed in the rest of the country. The chart on the right shows that in Canada and in British Columbia, the number of claims made in 2013 was about half of the number of claims made in 2012. Claims made in British Columbia represent only 5% of the claims made nationally during that period.

Number of Claims made in Canada & B.C.

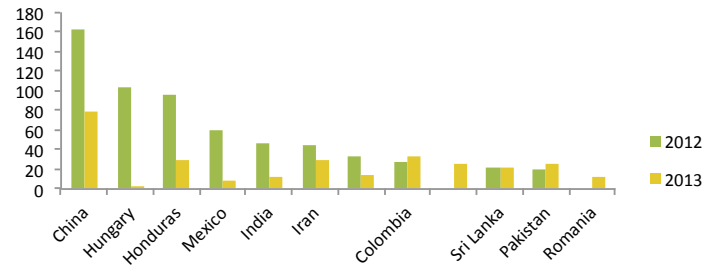


The following two charts, indicating the number of claims referred to the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) in Canada and B.C., in 2012 and 2013, show that most claims were made by nationals of non Designated Countries of Origin (non DCO) after the new system was introduced. Claims from countries such as Hungary and Croatia (or Mexico in B.C.) significantly dropped after December 2012.

Top 10 Countries of Origin of Claims in Canada



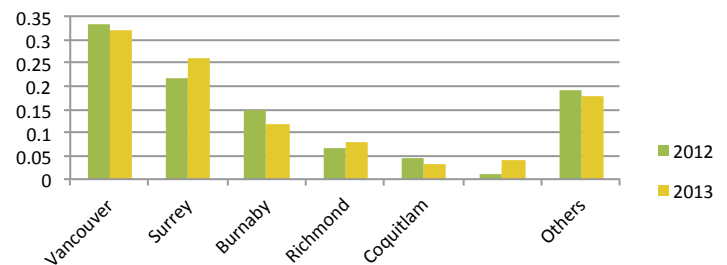
Top 10 Countries of Origin of Claims in B.C.



Refugee claimants in British Columbia mostly live in the Metro Vancouver area (94% of claims referred in 2013) and more specifically in Vancouver, Surrey and Burnaby: 70% of the claims referred to the Vancouver Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) in 2012 and 2013.

This is a significant difference with other categories of refugees who tend to live more outside of Vancouver (the top three cities for GARs' settlement in 2013 were Surrey, Coquitlam and Burnaby). Vancouver is the number one destination for refugee claimants, but this data likely reflects the fact that many refugee claimants live in temporary accommodation (in shelter or with relatives) until they receive a decision on their claim. Data about the settlement of refugees landed in Canada (refugee claimants whose claim has been accepted) is not available.

Top 6 B.C. Municipalities for Claims Referred to Vancouver IRB – 2012–2013



It is also important to note that, effective April 1, 2014, CIC has repatriated the funding of settlement services in B.C. Refugee claimants do not fall within CIC client eligibility criteria. The B.C. government has contracted settlement agencies to provide services to CIC non eligible clients, including refugee claimants, from April 2014 to March 2015 but at this time, it is unknown if these funds will continue in future years. As a result, refugee claimants, as well as other "non CIC eligible clients", may not have access to settlement services after March 2015.

With these two major reforms, and the cuts in the health coverage for refugee claimants introduced by CIC in June 2012, the situation of refugee claimants in Canada has been dramatically reshaped in less than two years.

June 2012 Amendments to the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)

The Interim Federal Health is a federally administered program originally introduced to provide health care coverage for all refugees, particularly those who were not covered by a provincial health insurance program. Until June 2012, the IFH covered all categories of refugees, including refugee claimants. On June 30, 2012, the federal government introduced amendments to the IFH program resulting in tiered and unequal health care coverage for refugees. The revised IFH program created three different streams of health coverage. Each stream

caters to different refugee categories and the level of coverage varies accordingly. The Expanded Health Care stream covers GARs, the Health Care stream provides support for accepted refugee claimants and Privately Sponsored Refugees and the Public Health and Safety Health Care coverage is for refugee claimants from Designated Countries of Origin (DCO) list and rejected claimants.

Streams of health care coverage after amendments to IFHP in June 2012

	Expanded Health Care	Health Care	Public Health and Safety Health
	Government Assisted Refugees	Privately Sponsored Refugees and accepted refugee claimants	refugee claimants from DCO list and rejected claimants
Hospital services	covered	covered	covered only if there is a risk to public health
Doctor and nurse services	covered	covered	covered only if there is a risk to public health
Laboratory	covered	covered	covered only if there is a risk to public health
Ambulance	covered	covered	
Prescribed medication & vaccines	covered	covered only if there is a risk to public health	covered only if there is a risk to public health
Limited vision and dental care	covered		

3.3 Government Assisted Refugees in British Columbia

As statistics on settlement patterns and demographic characteristics are not available for Refugee Claimants or Refugees Landed in Canada, nor for Privately Sponsored Refugees in B.C., the information provided in the rest of this document is based on data collected by ISSoBC Resettlement Assistance Program and relates only to Government Assisted Refugees.

Because Government Assisted Refugees arrive in Canada as permanent residents, they are free to settle anywhere in the country regardless of where they were destined. Vancouver is one of thirty six communities across Canada where GARs can be destined to. Of the 2,744 GARs destined to B.C. between 2010 and 2013, 2,495 (91%) settled in Metro Vancouver. The chart to the right shows the settlement patterns of Government Assisted Refugees in Metro Vancouver by municipality.

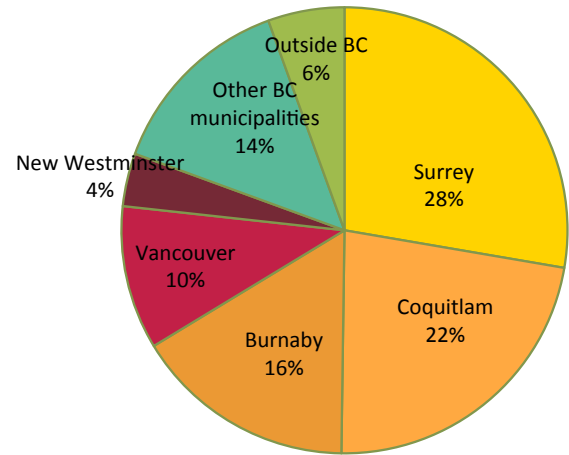
Although GARs to B.C. originally land in Vancouver, between 2010 and 2013, the majority settled in Surrey (28%), Coquitlam (22%) and Burnaby (16%).

GARs' settlement in the different Metro Vancouver municipalities varies with different refugee communities that are destined to B.C. Newly arrived GARs usually choose municipalities or neighbourhoods where their own community is already represented. As a result, settlement patterns vary from one year to another.

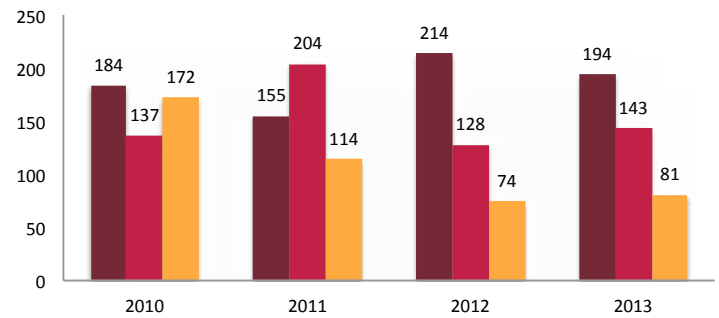
For instance, Somali and Iraqi communities that are already present in Surrey will likely "attract" new arrivals from these communities. Conversely, newly arrived Iranian GARs are more likely to settle in Burnaby and Coquitlam than other communities as they will want to join an already well established Iranian community in these municipalities.

For newly arrived refugees with no pre-existing communities, affordable housing and proximity to public transit and faith communities are key factors in where they will live.

GARs destined to B.C. by Municipalities, 2010 to 2013



GARs Yearly Arrivals in Top 3 Receiving Municipalities in B.C.

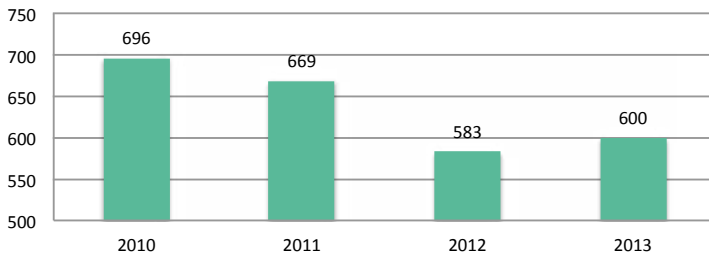


Settlement Patterns of Government Assisted Refugees in Metro Vancouver

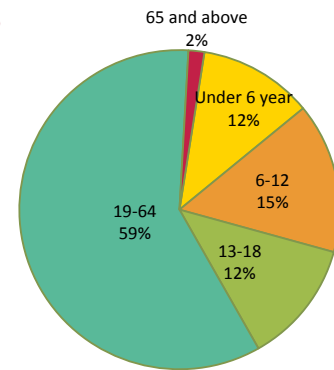
Settlement patterns, refugee characteristics and the provision of adequate support and housing have been proven to have a significant impact on the settlement outcomes of the refugee population. Data compiled by ISSoBC over four years provides a broader picture of the make-up of newly arrived GARs in Metro Vancouver. The following charts provide an overview of some of their characteristics.

³Statistics Canada 2011 Census & NHS data.

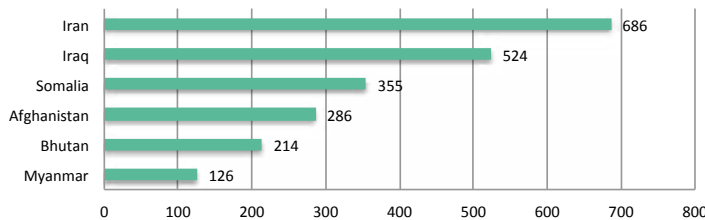
Total GARs Arrivals in B.C. 2010 to 2013



Age Breakdown for GARs Destined to B.C. - 2010 to 2013

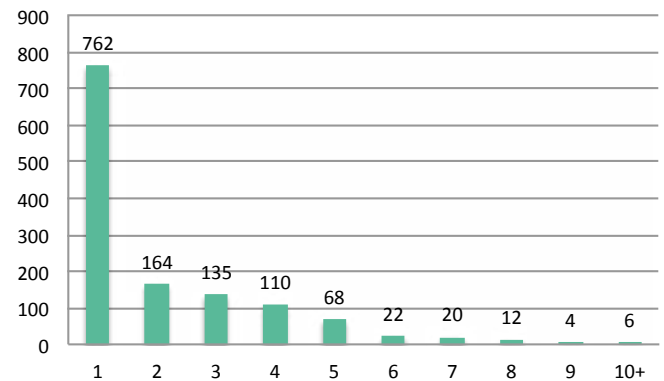


Six Top Source Countries of GARs Destined to B.C. 2010 to 2013



Source: ISSofBC

Family Size of GARs destined to B.C. 2010 to 2013



Settlement service providers in Metro Vancouver face new challenges as the characteristics and settlement patterns of GARs change. In 2002 the implementation of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) shifted the focus of Canada's refugee resettlement program away from those with an "ability to establish" in Canada to those "most in need of protection" as determined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As a result Canada's GAR population was significantly altered to include more high-needs individuals facing multi-barriers to settlement, such as:

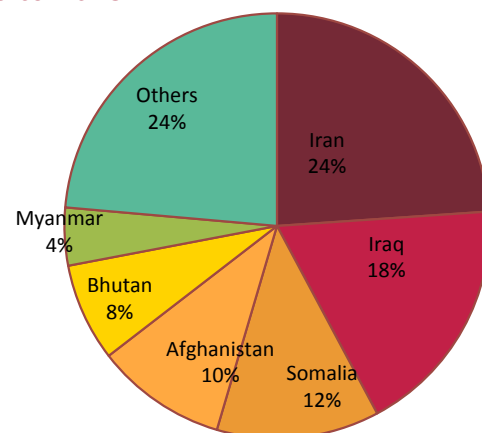
- Low literacy levels in their original languages
- Increased physical and mental health issues
- Larger households
- More households with single parents, mostly led by women
- Youth with limited exposure to formal education

IRPA also indicated a shift of GAR source countries, bringing newcomers on this humanitarian program from drastically different political, economic and social contexts.

Many arrived with special requirements after years of trauma, sometimes survivors of torture and, in many cases, protracted time in refugee camps.

The chart below indicates the source countries for GARs settled in Metro Vancouver from 2010 to 2013. These refugee communities typically present the post-IRPA barriers to settlement (protracted refugee situations, large households and physical and mental health issues are recurring characteristics within the top three communities).

Source Countries of GARs Destined to B.C. - 2010 to 2013



Government Assisted Refugees: Income Support

Government Assisted Refugees (GARs), upon their arrival to British Columbia, receive Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) income benefits under national humanitarian objectives, that follow the same rates as provincial income support rates for up to one year or until an individual is able to sustain themselves, whichever comes first. RAP benefits include monthly contributions towards shelter,

transportation and food. In addition, CIC provides a onetime start up allowance for such things as clothing, telephone installation and toiletries and other household staples. The following table provides different examples of income support provided to varying size GAR families in B.C.

RAP Benefits to GARs - March 2014

Family Size	Shelter Allowance	Transportation Allowance	Food Allowance	Total RAP Monthly Allowance	One time start up allowance
Single	\$375.00	\$124.00	\$235.00	\$734.00	\$735.00
Couple	\$570.00	\$248.00	\$307.00	\$1,125.00	\$975.00
Couple and 2 children under 19	\$700.00	\$248.00	\$401.00	\$1,349.00	\$1,667.00
Single parent and 2 children under 19	\$660.00	\$124.00	\$376.00	\$1,160.00	\$1,252.00
Couple and 4 children under 19	\$785.00	\$248.00	\$401.00	\$1,434.00	\$2,443.00
Single parent and 4 children under 19	\$750.00	\$124.00	\$376.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,661.00



Host Volunteer welcomes new refugees.

Part 4: Settlement Patterns of GARs by Municipality

The next four maps represent cumulative GAR arrivals between 2010 and 2013 by city.

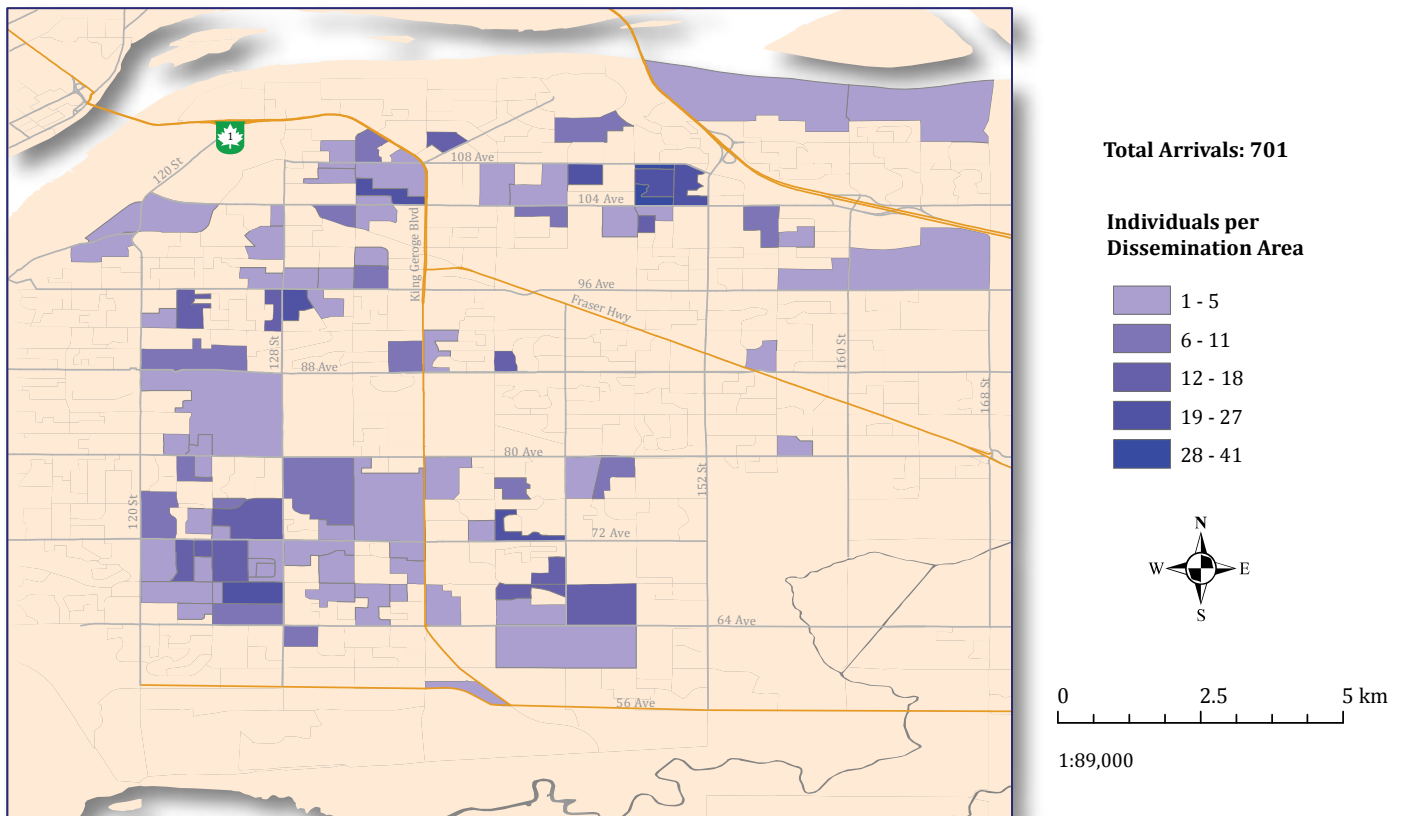
Data used for these maps include self-transfer GARs from other provinces. This explains why percentages are slightly different from those provided in previous parts of the publication, on GAR arrivals to B.C.

Surrey

The City of Surrey received 701 GARs from 2010 to 2013 or 28.1% of all GARs settled in Metro Vancouver.

Surrey remains the number one destination for GARs in B.C. As this map shows, GARs tend to settle in Strawberry Hills and Newton, South Surrey Centre, as well as Whalley and Guildford areas.

The top source nationalities for GARs in Surrey are Somalis, who mainly settled in the Newton area and Iraqis, mainly choosing the Guildford area. GARs from Afghanistan also moved to the Whalley and Strawberry Hill areas and Burmese GARs mainly moved to North Whalley during the 2010 to 2013 period.



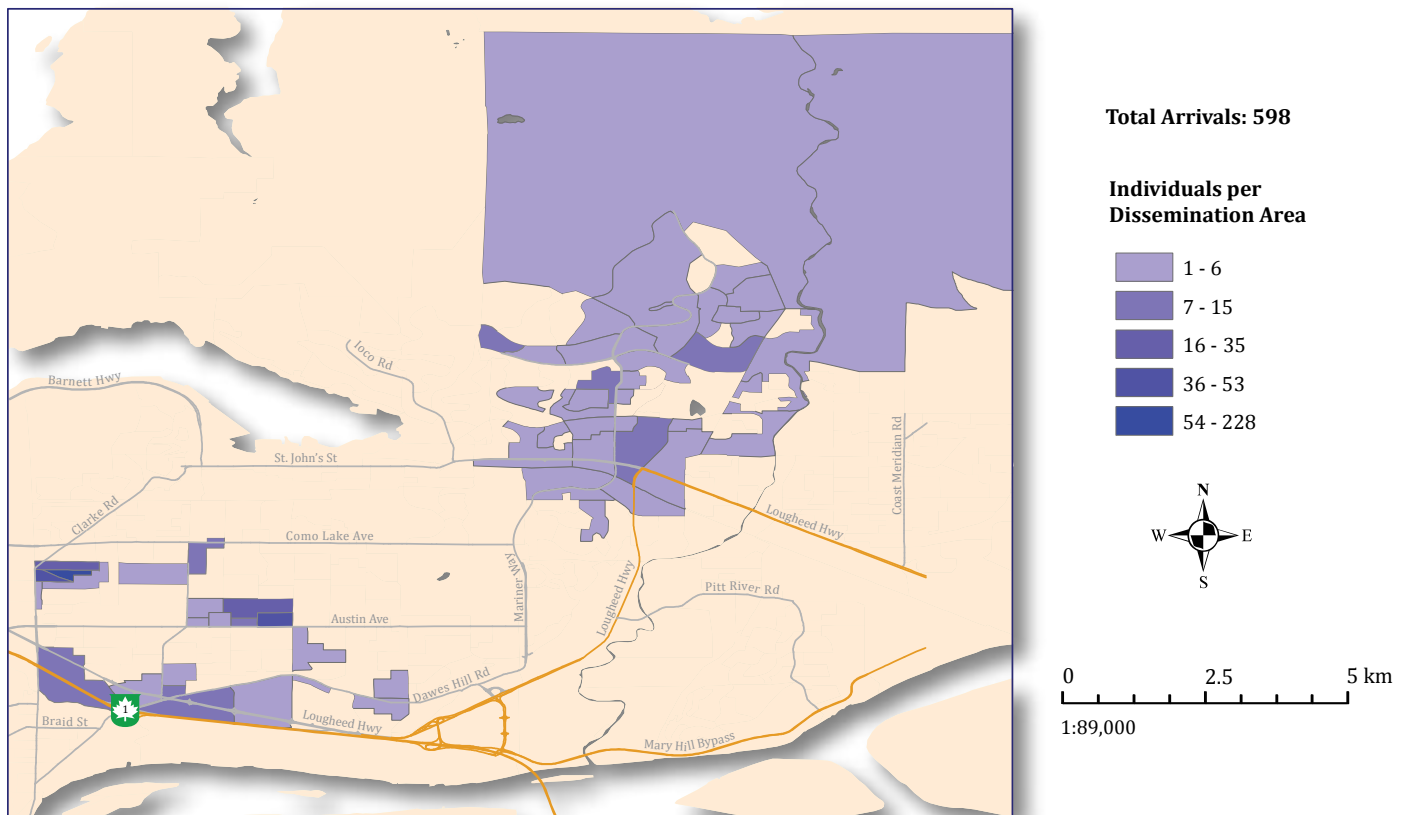
Maps, Design, and Data Analysis by Craig E. Jones and Laura Pfister

Coquitlam

The City of Coquitlam received 598 GARs from 2010 to 2013, or 23.9% of GARs settled in Metro Vancouver. The number of GARs opting for Coquitlam has significantly increased from the preceding five year period (with 12% of Metro Vancouver GAR arrivals settled in Coquitlam). Coquitlam jumped from being the fourth to the second destination municipality for GARs in Metro Vancouver for the 2010 to 2013 period

Almost all Bhutanese GARs arrived in B.C. settled in the Cariboo Burquitlam area. However, many of them self-transferred to Alberta in the years following their arrival to seek better employment opportunities. Iran and Afghanistan are the other two main source countries for GARs in Coquitlam.

GARs in Coquitlam have historically settled in the Cariboo Burquitlam and Austin Heights areas. During the 2010 to 2013 period, a significant number also settled in the Maillardville and City Center neighbourhoods, as well as in Northeast Coquitlam.



Maps, Design, and Data Analysis by Craig E. Jones and Laura Pfister

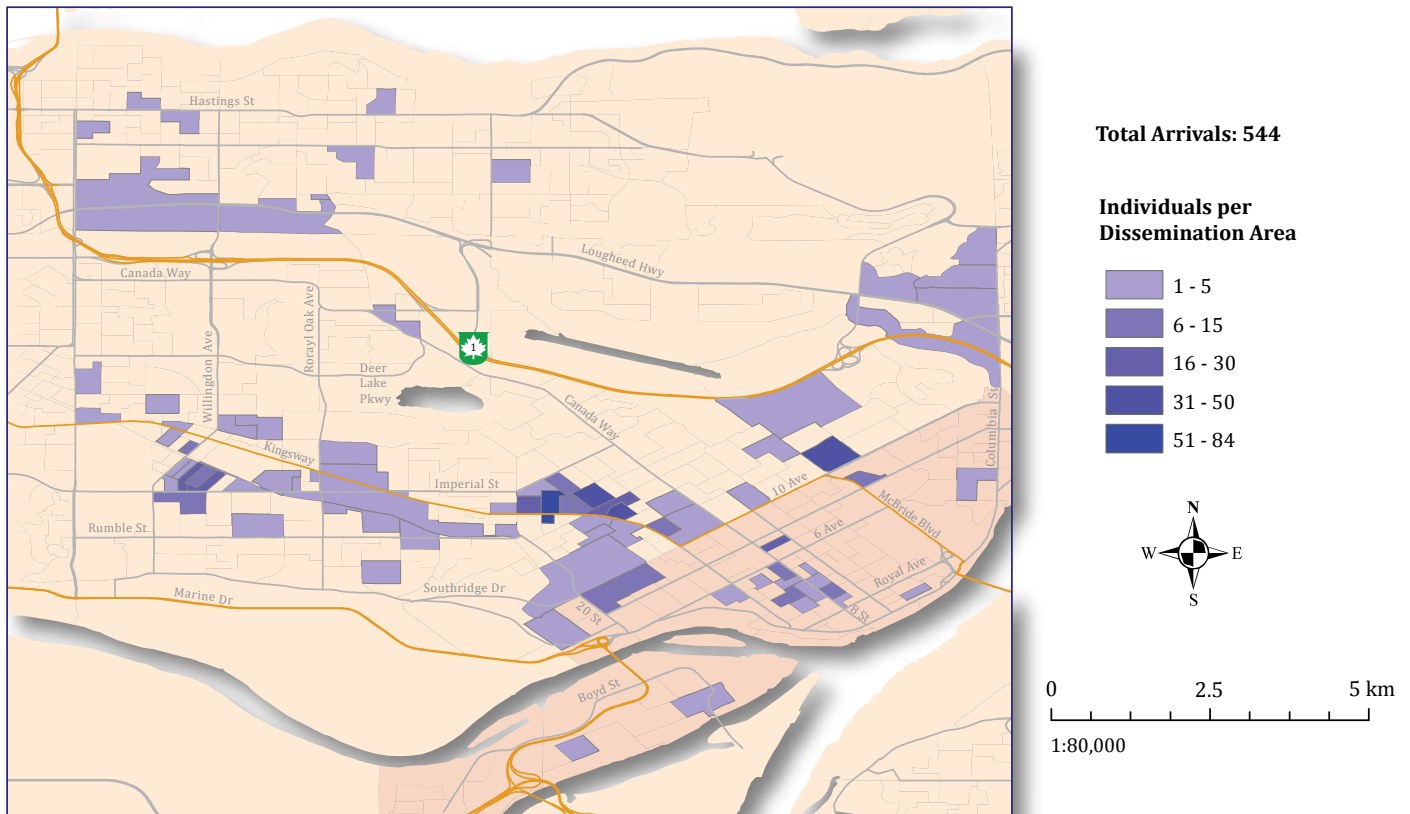
Burnaby – New Westminster

The Cities of Burnaby and New Westminster received 544 GARs from 2010 to 2013, or 21.8% of GARs settled in Metro Vancouver.

The share of GAR settlement for these cities has decreased compared to the 2005 to 2009 period, when it was at 26%. We are showing both Burnaby and New Westminster together on this map, as many GARs in these cities established themselves near their border.

Most GARs settled in the Edmonds, Cariboo Hill and Metro Town areas in Burnaby, as well as the Uptown area in New Westminster. Some GARs also moved to North Burnaby area, which was new compared to the previous five-year period.

GARs settled in Burnaby and New Westminster were mostly from Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. As well, some Somali settled in the Edmonds area in 2010 and in 2013.



Maps, Design, and Data Analysis by Craig E. Jones and Laura Pfeister

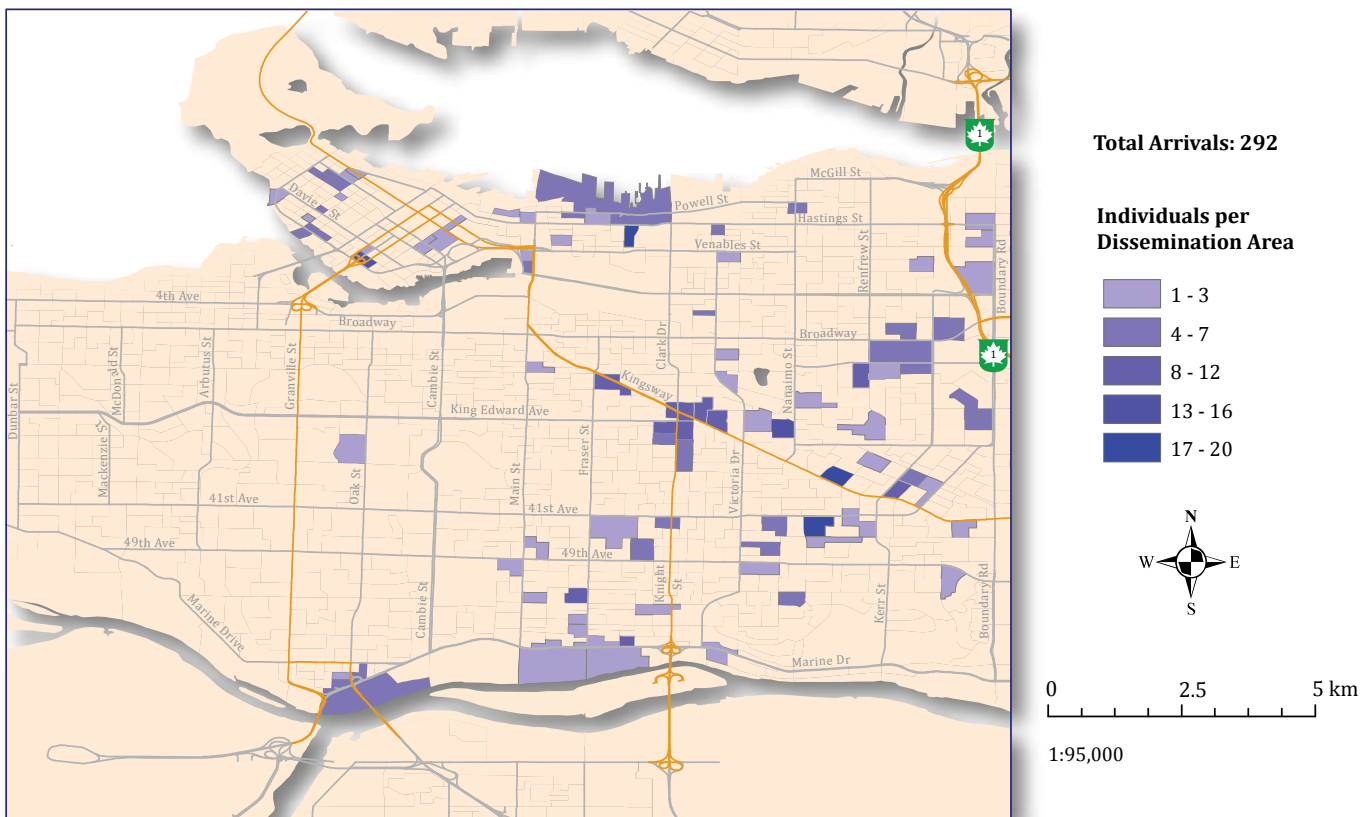
Vancouver

Although all GARs to B.C. are originally destined to Vancouver only, 292 GARs from 2010 to 2013, or 11.7% remained in the city.

The number of GARs remaining in Vancouver has constantly decreased (it was 16% of GAR arrivals in Metro Vancouver from 2005 to 2009) due to the lack of affordable housing.

GARs in Vancouver mainly settled in East Vancouver, on the Kingsway corridor, the Renfrew-Collinwood area, South Vancouver and the Downtown Eastside.

GARs from all top source countries settled in Vancouver, except for Bhutanese. Burmese GARs mainly chose the Kensington-Cedar Cottage area, where their community has historically been settled.

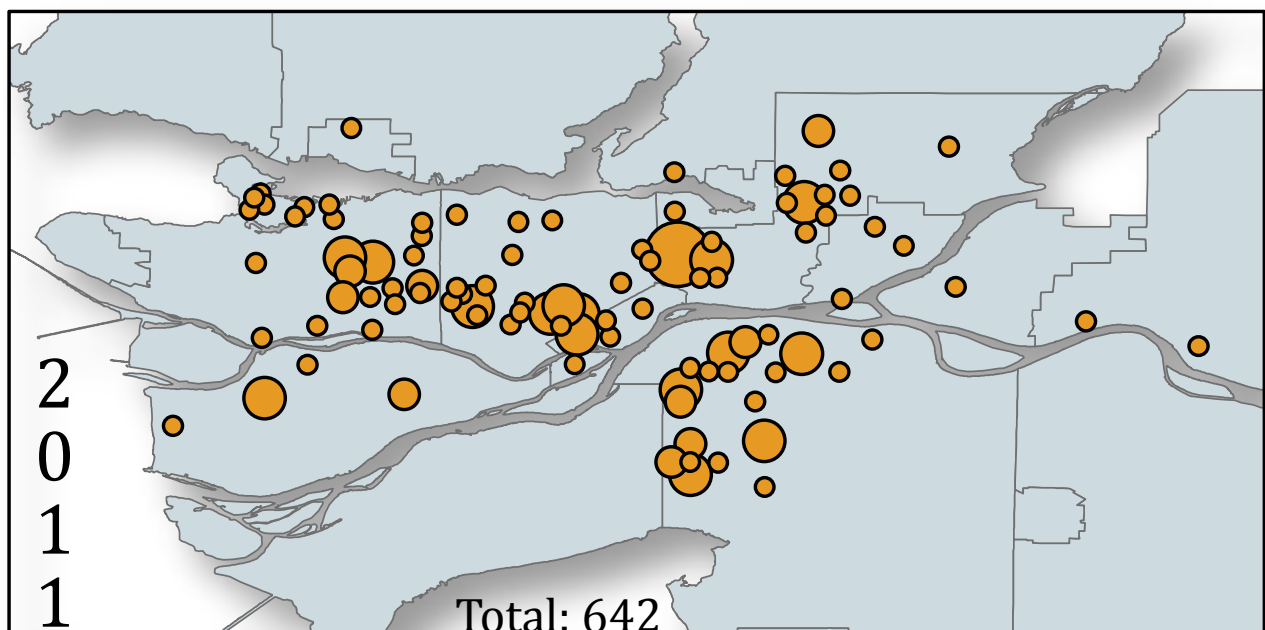
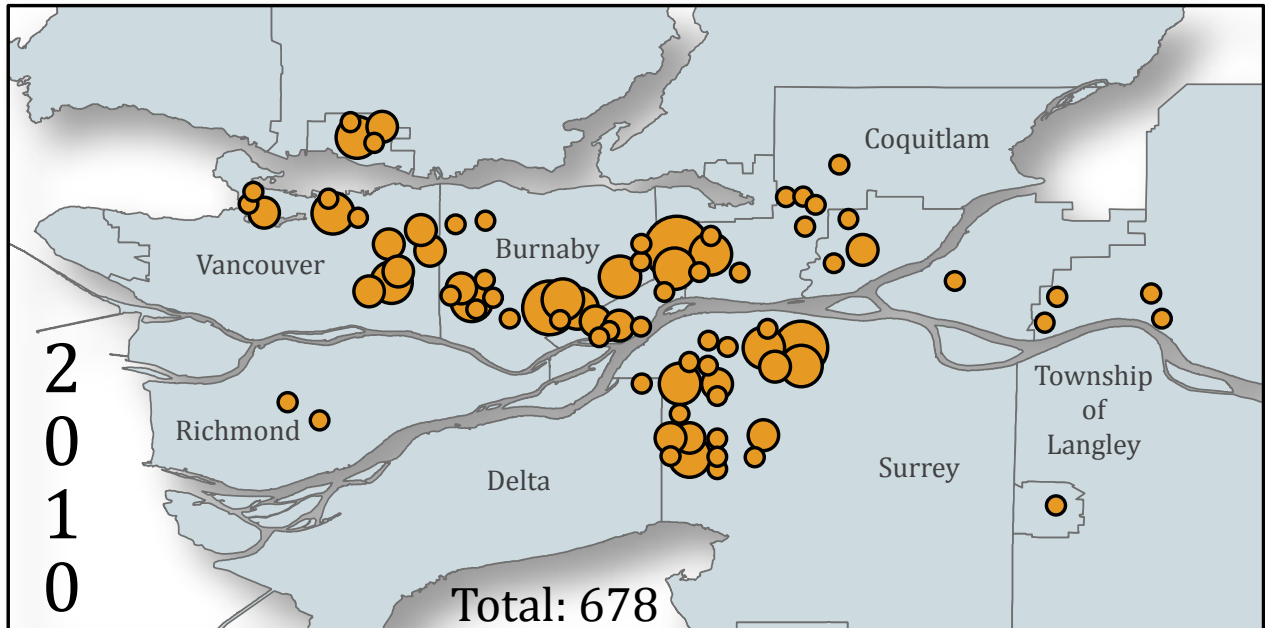


Maps, Design, and Data Analysis by Craig E. Jones and Laura Pfister

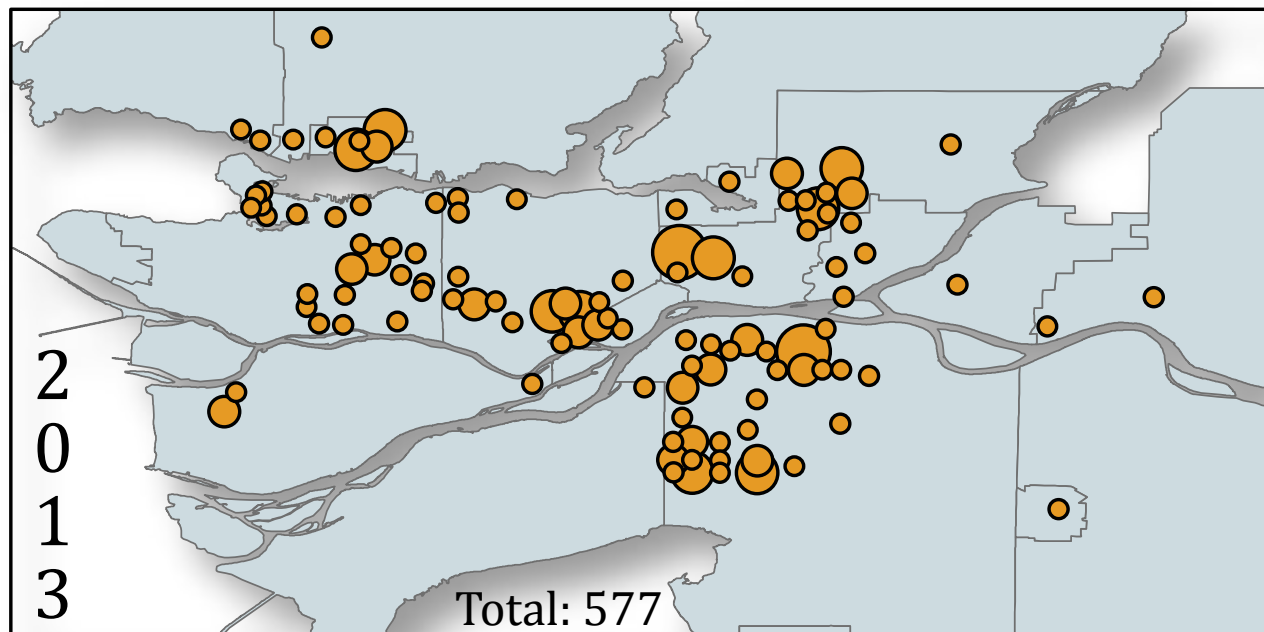
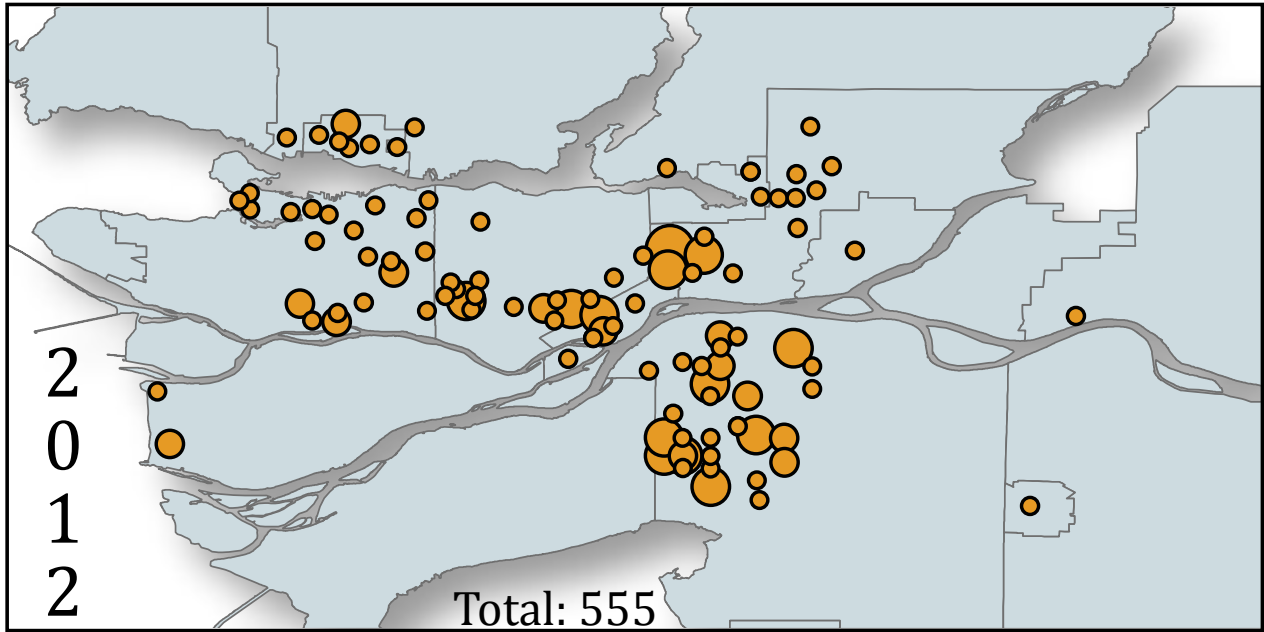
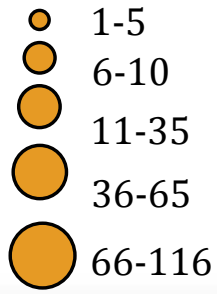
Part 5: Settlement Patterns of GARs by country of origin

During the 2010 to 2013 period, the top 6 countries of origin for GARs settling in Metro Vancouver were Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Afghanistan, Bhutan and Myanmar. This part of the report will focus on the settlement patterns of each of these communities, as well as an overview of the general situation of their respective country.

The four maps below show settlement patterns of all GARs who moved to a Metro Vancouver municipality between 2010 and 2013. The three top destining municipalities appear clearly on these maps: Surrey, Coquitlam and Burnaby.



Individuals per Census Tract



Settlement patterns of GARs from Iran

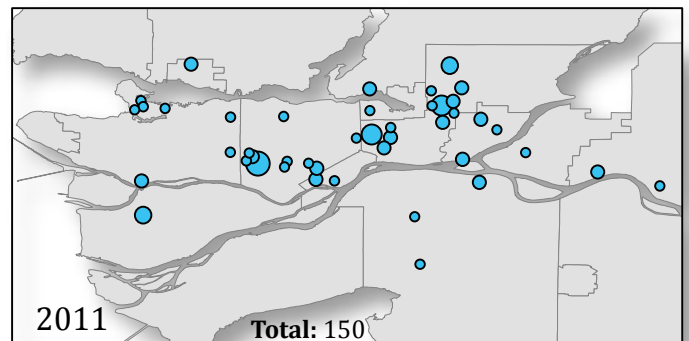
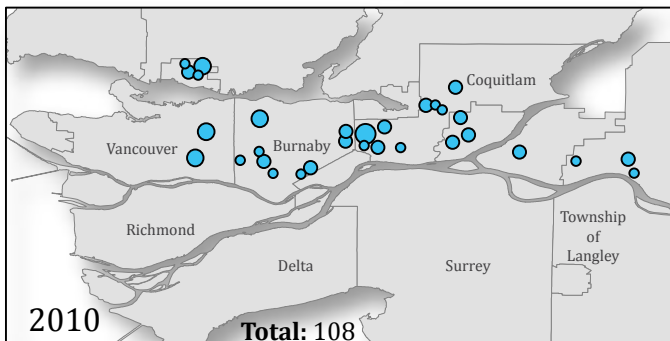
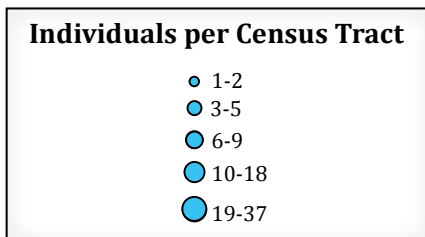
Iranian GARs leave their home country for a variety of reasons, the most common being:

1. Political activity deemed as subversive by the government
2. Pursuing rights by religious minorities such as Baha'is, or converting to a different religion by a person who is born to Muslim parents
3. Advocating cultural and linguistic rights by ethnic minorities such as Kurdish, Arab or Turkish speaking Iranians
4. Identifying as a trans-gender or any sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, etc.) which is not sanctioned by religious or civil law

Iranian GARs typically reside in Turkey while their application for refugee status is being processed abroad. During this time, their mobility is monitored and restricted by the Turkish authorities. The average application processing time is between three to five years but can take up to eight years, during which they are not entitled to work. The financial shortages and difficult life conditions in Turkey affect many Iranian GARs with physical and mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.

Unlike most GARs, people of Iranian heritage are well represented in Metro Vancouver through other streams of immigration such as the "skilled worker" or "independent immigrant" class. Iranian GARs settled in areas with previously established co-ethnic communities such as Coquitlam (46% of Iranian GARs arrived in B.C. between 2010 and 2013), Burnaby (18%) and North Vancouver (11.5%).

A regular flow of Iranian GARs have been resettled to Metro Vancouver since 2006 (between 100 and 170 annually), with a very high increase in their number in 2013 (239). The settlement patterns of **660 individuals, or 27% of GARs settled in Metro Vancouver between 2010 and 2013**, are displayed on these maps.





Arad

Due to his family's religion, Arad wasn't free to study at university in Iran. He remembers the pressure at school and feeling that he didn't belong. At 21, he decided to leave his family to pursue his studies in India. After 3 years studying commerce, he realized he had no future in his home country or in India and travelled to Turkey.

Arad was resettled to Canada in October 2012. He joined his younger brother living in Burnaby and extended family on the North Shore.

"It was hard to start over and the first thing I needed to do was earn money," Arad said.

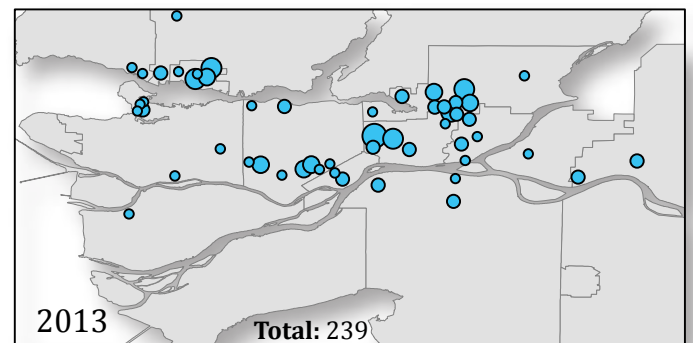
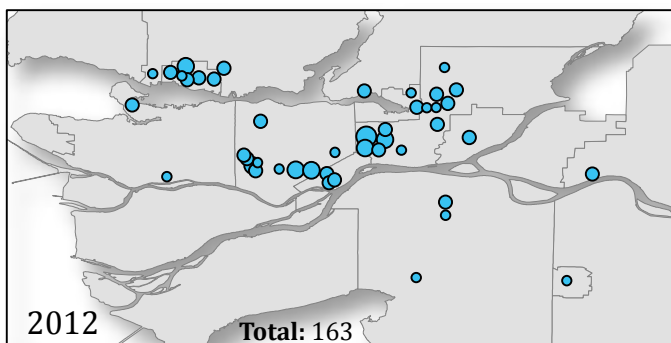
A few months after he arrived in Vancouver, Arad found a cashier position in a restaurant. But his goals of building a better life for himself didn't stop there. In April he plans to return to school to study IT at Brighton College.

Looking back on his first months in Canada, Arad recalled how difficult it was to communicate with Canadians. He said speaking English was a barrier to overcome. In addition, there were many cultural differences to adapt to.

"People here do not talk as much as in my country," He explained. "I felt depressed for the first six months as I couldn't communicate."

However, now things are different for Arad. He has made Canadian friends and appreciates that people do not ask him about his religion. He considers Canada to be the best place he's lived in and a country that offers many opportunities to its residents.

Arad's name has been changed to protect his identity at his request.



Settlement patterns of GARs from Iraq

The United Nations estimate that 2.2 million Iraqis fled their country as a result of 2003 Iraq war and subsequent conflicts. Another two million were internally displaced. Many Iraqis sought asylum in neighbouring Jordan and Syria. When the civil war intensified in Syria in 2012, a majority of the million Iraqi refugees in the country had to flee from violence once again. Many returned to Iraq at that time, others crossed the Turkish or Lebanese border with Syrian refugees.

Iraqi GAR resettlement to Canada dates back to 1996, but a recent decision by the Canadian government to prioritize Iraqi refugees has sharply increased resettlement from 2008 to 2011. There was a decrease in the number of arrivals in B.C. in 2012 (87) and 2013 (74) due to the civil war in Syria and the closure of the Canadian Embassy in Damascus, but the Canadian government has reiterated in 2013 its commitment to sponsor a total of 20,000 Iraqis out of the Middle East, with 4,000 more individuals by 2015.

Most Iraqi GARs have come to Canada from camps in Syria, Jordan, Turkey and to a lesser extent Egypt after fleeing the Sunni-Shi'a conflict in Iraq. Although their dominant language is Arabic, some also speak Kurdish or Chaldean Neo-Aramaic. Most Iraqi GARs are Muslims and are divided between Sunni and Shi'as, but some are Christian. Although the level of education varies among Iraqi GARs, most of them are literate in their first language and some

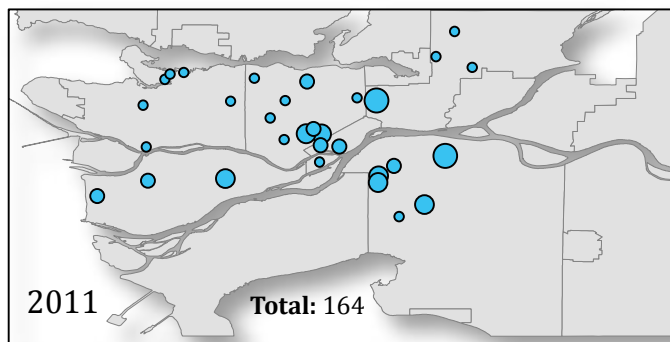
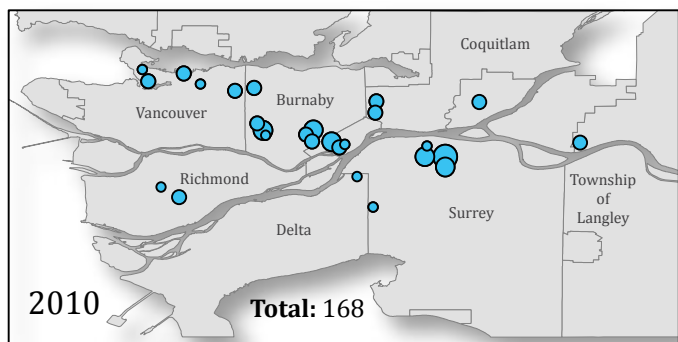
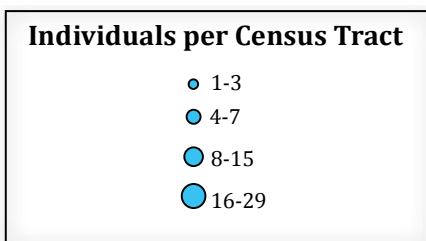
hold university degrees. Still, even among those who are well educated, few Iraqi GARs can communicate well in English.

Many Iraqi GARs come to B.C. with recent emotional and physical scars as a result of the Iraqi war. ISSofBC has observed an increase number of single men and women as well as families arriving that are not intact. Some Iraqis have arrived with significant mental health issues including depression and trauma as well as chronic physical health conditions. ISSofBC has recently observed a sharp increase in the number of Iraqi GARs who have arrived requiring special supports e.g. deaf – Arabic sign language interpreters, blind, etc.

Iraqi GARs are also arriving to B.C. with limited pre-existing community support and as such are part of a new and growing community.

Most Iraqis settled in Surrey (26% of Iraqi GARs arrived in B.C. between 2010 and 2013) – particularly in Guildford – and Burnaby (24%) with smaller groups in New Westminister, Coquitlam and Richmond.

The settlement patterns of **525 individuals, or 21% of GARs settled in Metro Vancouver between 2010 and 2013**, are displayed on these maps.





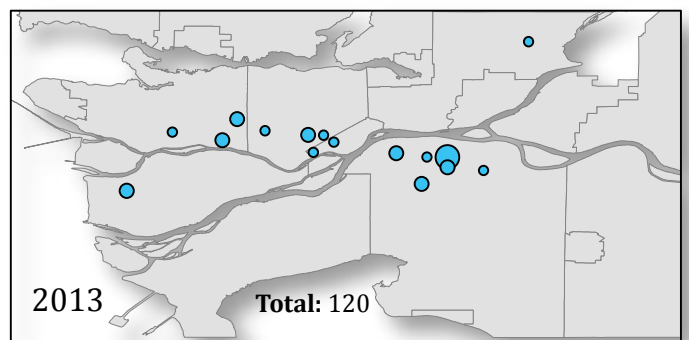
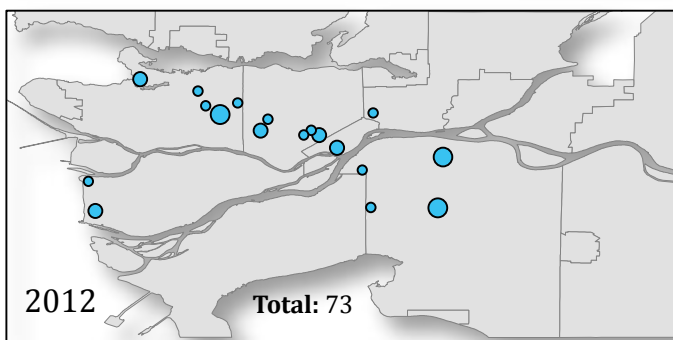
Kanar Barinj

After a long journey that took her to Jordan, Thailand and Cambodia, Kanar Barinj arrived in Canada in April 2004. She fled Iraq, her war-torn country, with her husband and three sons in 1998. While they were trapped in Cambodia with no money to continue their journey, cousins who had already settled in B.C. managed to sponsor them to come to Canada as Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs).

The Barinj family was in the service industry in Iraq so it is very natural Kanar started working in a Vancouver based restaurant as a cook. Through her hard work and determination she is now in the second year of running her family owned restaurant in Guilford called Ishtar Donair. Recently her second son entirely renovated the

establishment and everyone in the family lends a hand for busy events such as the Surrey Fusion Festival. However, like any small business owners in their first years, Kanar worries about paying the bills and attracting more customers.

But she remains hopeful of her life in Surrey and she is happy her three sons are all working and studying in Canada “where they have a future and they can do anything,” she said.



Settlement patterns of GARs from Somalia

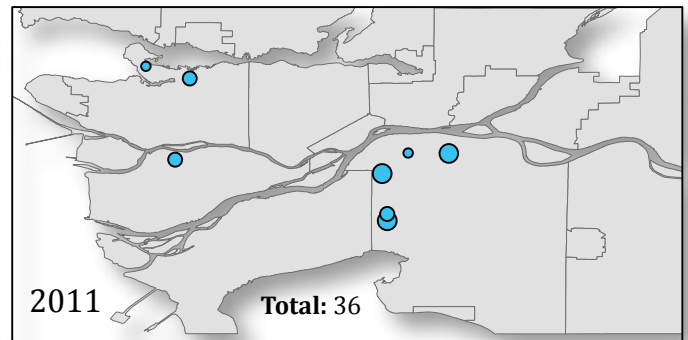
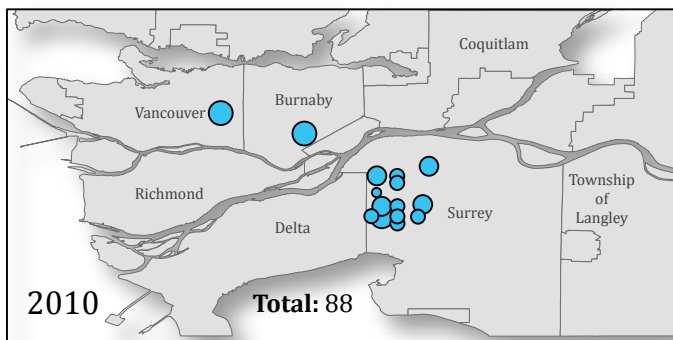
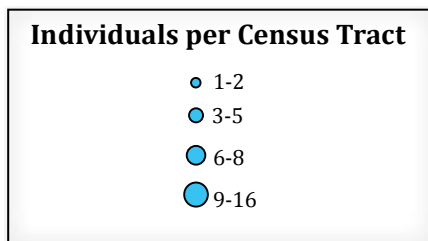
Following the fall of the Somali President, Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991 and the subsequent power struggle in south and central Somalia, an estimated one million Somalis remain displaced outside Somalia. Among them are over 450,000 refugees in Dadaab camp out of which some 10,000 represent the second generation born in exile. However, since 2012 Somalia has experienced possibly the most decisive, even if still fragile, improvement in its political and security situation in 23 years. As a result, the UNHCR has been facilitating an ongoing tripartite dialogue with the Government of Kenya (where most Somali refugees live) and the newly established Somali Federal Government. Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons have been spontaneously returning to their home since 2013 and the UNHCR is hoping to intensify repatriation operations in 2014.

Ethnically and culturally, Somalia is one of the most homogeneous countries in Africa. Although there are minority groups of Bantu descent and Arab enclaves in the coastal cities, the majority are ethnic Somalis who speak dialects of the same language, Somali, and who practice the same religion, Islam. In Metro Vancouver, many Somali GAR households are headed by single parents –

particularly women – with an average of 4 to 9 children in each household unit.

Between 2005 and 2012, a high percentage (between 62% and 70% depending on the years) of all Somali GARs settled in the City of Surrey (323). Other Somali GARs mainly settled in Burnaby, Vancouver and Richmond or outside of the Lower Mainland (18 Somali GARs self-transferred to Alberta in 2012). In Surrey, Somalis GARs mostly settled in the Newton area. In its new multiyear resettlement commitment, CIC has not identified Somali refugees as a target population. So it is likely that their number will start decreasing as Canada enters its new resettlement priorities. However Somalis are still on the list of refugees that can be privately sponsored.

The settlement patterns of **270 individuals, or 11% of GARs settled in Metro Vancouver between 2010 and 2013**, are displayed on these maps.





Abdirashid Jamal

Abdirashid Jamal’s memories of fleeing Somalia to a refugee camp in Northeast Africa still haunt him today. But the past experience of the 24-year old hasn’t deterred him building a better life for himself and his family in Surrey.

Life was very difficult for Abdirashid as a Somalian high school student living in Mogadishu, “the most violent city in Africa”. Finally at the age of 19, he and his family fled to a refugee camp in Massawa, Eritrea.

“The life in the camp was really hard. You cannot find everything you need. Life was tough both inside and outside the camp,” recalled Abdirashid.

After five years struggling in the camp to make ends meet, the Canadian Government accepted him and his wife as Government Assisted Refugees (GARs). With the help of a friend from the refugee camp already living in Surrey, he and his wife resettled to the community in December 2012 determined to build a better life.

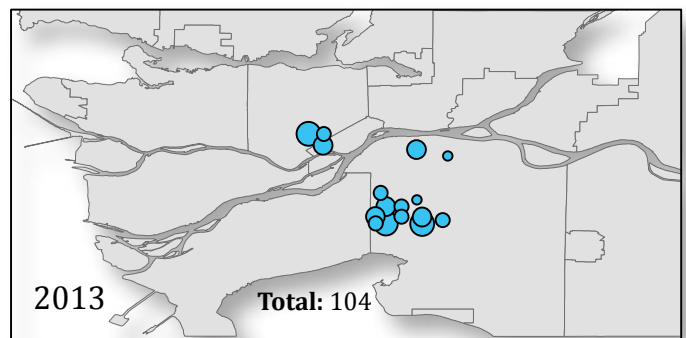
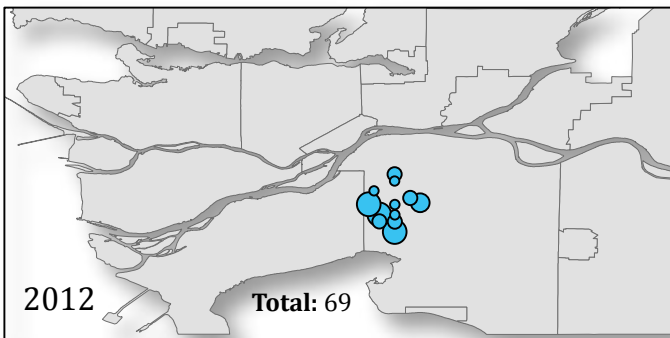
“The refugee experience was one of the worst in my life. I came here and have an excellent life,” Abdirashid said.

He said there are many more opportunities for him and his family to live comfortably.

“If you take advantage of the opportunities you can achieve a high level of happiness.”

One opportunity Abdirashid seized was going back to school. He recently completed a pipefitting program at UA Piping Industry College of B.C. with the hopes of working in the oil and gas industry.

But Abdirashid hasn’t stopped there. He is also determined to give something back. In his spare time between work and family, he volunteers assisting other young refugees to land on their feet through an organization called Somali Youth of B.C..



Settlement patterns of GARs from Afghanistan

Afghans are the largest refugee population in the world. In 2012, UNHCR estimated the total number of Afghan refugees at 2.5 million, which represented 24% of the total number of registered refugees that year. They have fled from armed conflict, finding sanctuary in neighbouring countries such as Iran, Pakistan, Russia, India, and elsewhere. Another 600,000 were displaced inside Afghanistan.

Most Afghan refugees have waited since 1992 in camps and/or urban areas of neighbouring countries, where the capacity of the UNHCR is inadequate due to the ongoing regional conflict and safety concerns. As a result, generations of children are born and grow up in camps, deprived of access to health care, education, income earning opportunities and other basic needs. Despite the unstable security situation, 5.7 million Afghans have voluntarily returned home since 2002, the world's largest repatriation operation. However, the returnees face many challenges when reintegrating in the Afghan society and often don't access basic services.

The Afghan families that settle in B.C. tend to be large by Canadian standards. Single parents, mostly mothers who have lost husbands in the war, are commonly the breadwinners for large families with an average of six children. Low literacy as a result of little or no formal education in war zones and inconsistent and inadequate education in refugee camps makes learning a new language and the overall settlement process slower for a number of Afghans over other newcomers. For some, living for decades in an environment of war and refugee camps has also created low self-esteem, low motivation, and

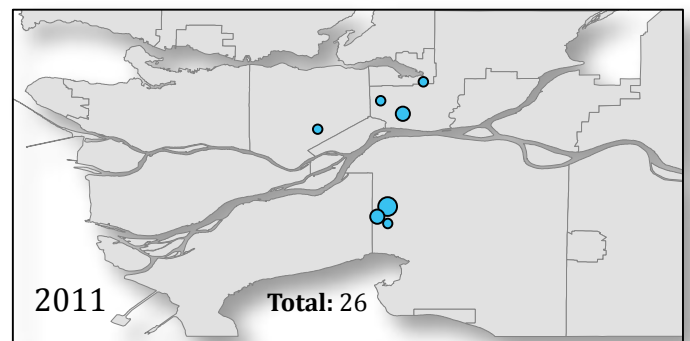
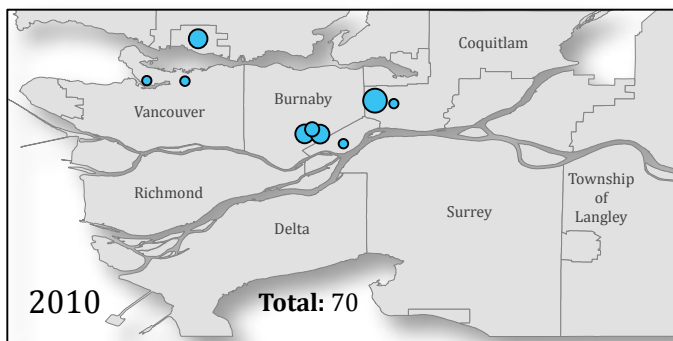
extremely limited opportunities for utilizing previous skills or acquiring new ones. Racial profiling of Middle Eastern communities since September 11, 2001 has left a strong impact on new immigrants, including Afghan children.

Despite these challenges, Afghan GARs sustain close-knit family relations and depend on each other for cooperation and mutual support. The two main Afghan languages (Dari and Pashto) are in the same language family as that in Iran (Farsi).

Afghanistan has been a top GAR source country in B.C. since 2003. However, the number of individuals arriving in Canada is slowly decreasing. Afghans settled mainly in the cities of Coquitlam and Surrey where until 2009 they made up the largest proportion of GARs in both municipalities. They have also been one of the largest GAR groups to settle in Burnaby, New Westminster and Vancouver.

Fewer Afghan GARs were resettled in B.C. in 2010 (74), 2011 (39) and 2013 (6). However, a large number of Afghan GARs arrived in B.C. in 2012 (165), mainly through the Canadian Task Force Sponsorship program, for Afghans who worked with the Canadian forces in the Kandahar Province. Most of the Afghan GARs arrived in B.C. between 2010 and 2013 settled in Coquitlam (29%), Surrey (26%) and Burnaby (22%).

The settlement patterns of **227 individuals, or 9% of GARs settled in Metro Vancouver between 2010 and 2013**, are displayed on these maps.





Wagma and Zarifa Ahmedzai

Wagma Ahmedzai, her mother and five siblings left Takhar, in Northern Afghanistan in 2004 because of safety concerns and for the girls in the family to be able to pursue formal education. The family spent the next seven years in neighbouring Pakistan until they resettled in Canada in 2012.

“We arrived in Vancouver in March, 2012 and I still remember knowing that our dream had come true. When we arrived here, it was my first time seeing so many people happy,” said Zarifa, Wagma’s mother.

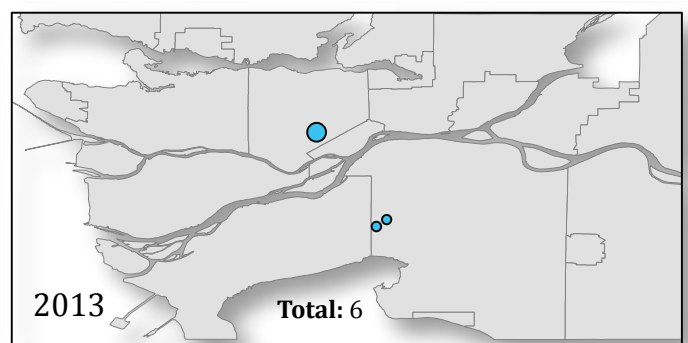
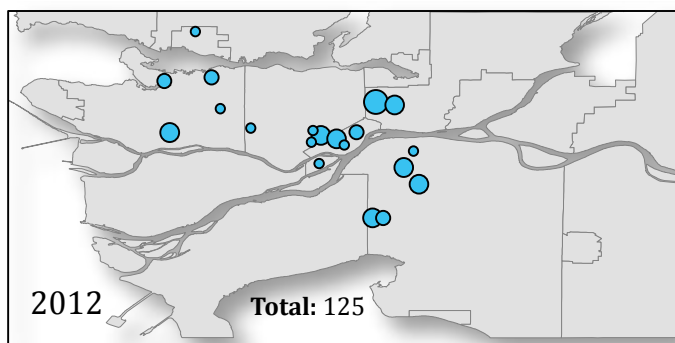
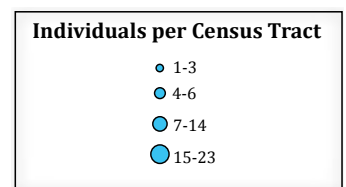
Wagma remembers when she arrived how sad she felt for leaving all she knew behind, but also feeling free and empowered in her new country.

Wagma and her sister were immediately hired as interpreters and quickly became facilitators for ISSofBC. They helped Afghan families to settle, understand Canadian society and navigate the system.

Zarifa, who was illiterate and didn’t speak a word of English when she arrived, is now in English Intermediate class and wants to become a nurse. Her six children are each on their way to pursuing their dream careers in social work, medicine and architecture.

Because of their new experiences, connections and enthusiasm, each family member is now following his or her own dream only after two years of setting foot in Canada.

Zarifa said she now knows she made the right decision when she left her home town in Afghanistan ten years ago.



Settlement patterns of GARs from Bhutan

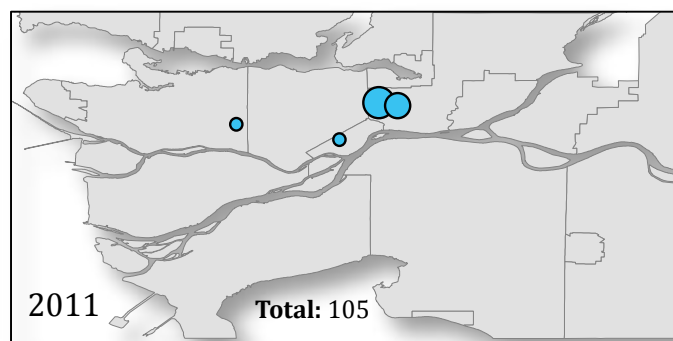
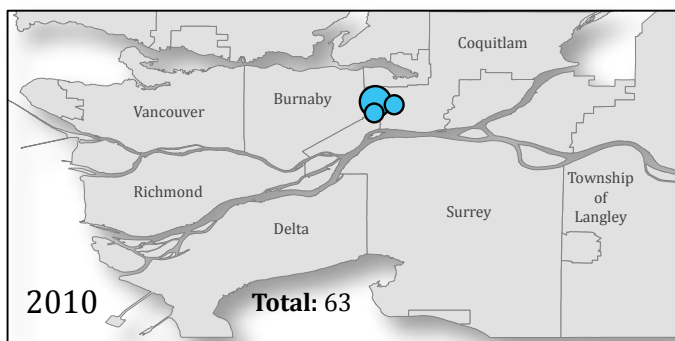
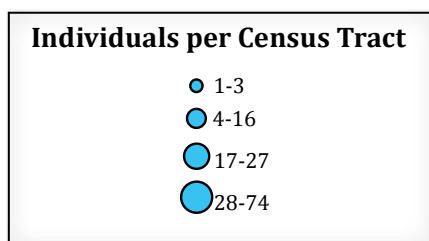
Bhutan is a Himalayan kingdom, nestled between north-eastern India and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The majority of the population is composed of ethnic Drukpas, who are Buddhist and speak Dzongkha. The Bhutanese refugees are descendants of Nepalese migrants, called Lhotsampas that settled in Southern Bhutan in the late 1890's. They speak Nepalese and are mostly Hindus. In 1985, the Royal Government of Bhutan introduced the Bhutanese Citizenship Act. The Act, which is sometimes referred to as the "One Nation, One People Act", modified the definition of a Bhutanese citizen. This led to political tensions and protests and the eventual displacement of over 100,000 ethnic Nepalese from Bhutan to Nepal between 1988 and 1993. These refugees, estimated at 108,000 in 2007, have resided in camps in eastern Nepal since the early 1990s.

Canada has been part of a group of eight countries that committed in 2007, to resettling up to 70,000 Bhutanese refugees over a period of five years. This coordinated plan eventually made it possible for the government of Nepal, with the support of the UNHCR, to reduce the number of refugee camps from seven to two. From 2009 to 2013, over 5,500 Bhutanese refugees came to Canada and settled in more than 21 communities across Canada, including Vancouver.

In British Columbia, ISSoBC led operation Swaagatem (Welcome in Nepalese) for the resettlement of Bhutanese GARs in Coquitlam. For the first time in our province, representatives from the three levels of government, the health authority and the school board coordinated their efforts to plan for the resettlement of a group of refugees with no local pre-existing community.

Although Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) indicated in 2008 that up to 800 Bhutanese GARs would be destined to B.C., only about 240 actually resettled in Metro Vancouver. The vast majority moved to the Cottonwood area in Coquitlam. However, many families subsequently relocated to Alberta, particularly to Lethbridge, where members of the community have been more successful in finding employment than in B.C.

The settlement patterns of **210 individuals, or 8% of GARs settled in Metro Vancouver between 2010 and 2013**, are displayed on these maps.





Gokarna Baniya

Gokarna Baniya was 15 when he left the refugee camp in Nepal where he was born and spent his entire life. His parents, both Bhutanese, met, got married and had their four children during their time in the camp. Gokarna doesn't really know why his family spent over a decade living in Nepal. His parents only say they fled for political reasons.

It took two years for the Baniya family to move to Canada after the UNHCR announced a massive resettlement operation for the Bhutanese living in Nepal. However for Gokarna's younger brother, it was too late as he suffered from asthma and passed away shortly before the family arrived in Canada.

Finally in the summer of 2010, Gokarna and his family moved to Coquitlam.

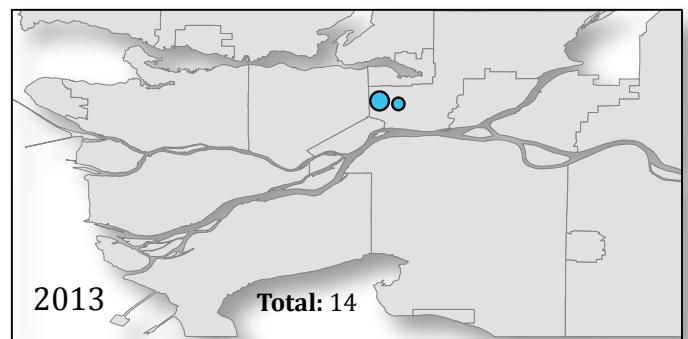
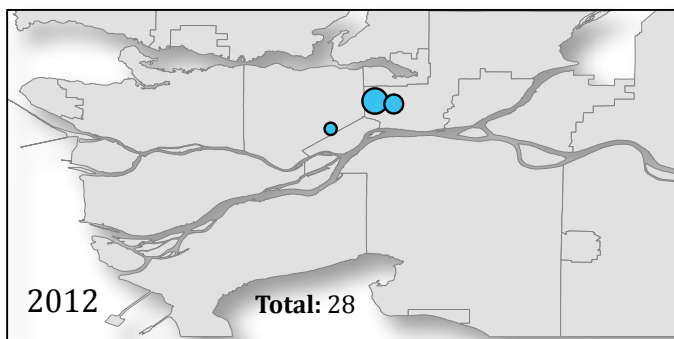
"We were not the first family here, so we got a lot of help from our community," Gokarna said.

Gokarna said learning English was one of most difficult challenges to overcome in his move to Canada.

"Learning English was hard especially to catch the speed. And everything was different, the health system, transportation and school," he said.

Because of the language and cultural differences in Canada, it took time for Gokarna to make friends. He said he didn't speak to anyone at school for the first two to three months. However after the first year, everything became easier.

Gokarna is starting a diploma at BCIT in Electrical Engineering in September 2014, for which he received the ISSofBC Jim Siemens bursary for refugee youth education and the BC TEAL TCF Refugee Award. He is determined to work hard and be a good role model for his sister and younger brother.



Settlement patterns of GARs from Myanmar

The majority of GARs from Myanmar belong to a minority ethnic group called Karen. They are a relatively new group to settle in B.C., arriving after the UNHCR recognized Karen refugees as a distinct group with particular protection needs and called upon the international community to assist in their resettlement. For over 3 decades, Myanmar adopted a policy of forced relocation and assimilation so that the Karen and territories dominated by insurgent groups could be monitored and controlled by the central government. As a result of the subsequent human rights abuses, many Karens fled to the borders of Thailand and were confined to remote jungle refugee camps by the Thai authorities. Approximately 140,000 Karen refugees have lived in the camps for the past 20 years. Literacy among both adults and children is relatively low due to years spent evading the army to reach the Thai border and the lack of educational opportunities in the camps. Most Karen speak S'gaw or Pwo while a few speak Burmese as an additional language. The vast majority in B.C. are Baptist Christian, while a minority are Seventh Day Adventists or Buddhists.

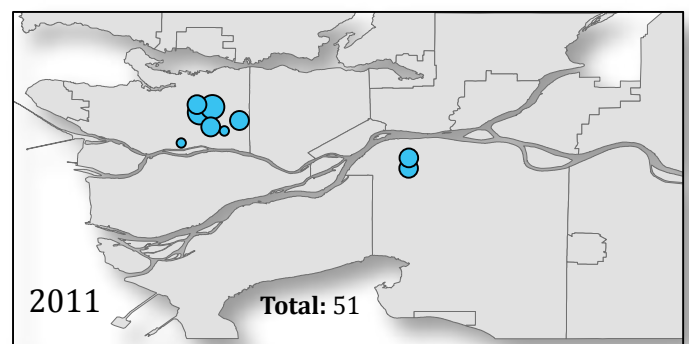
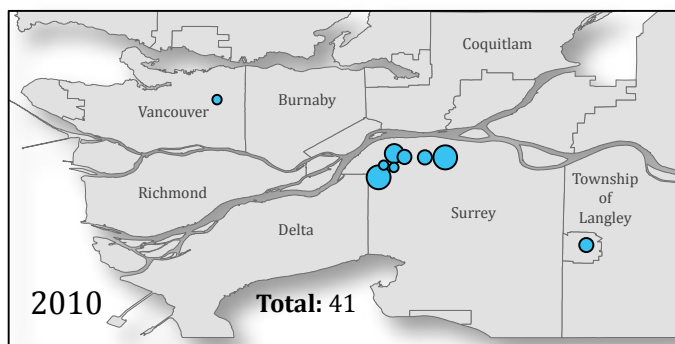
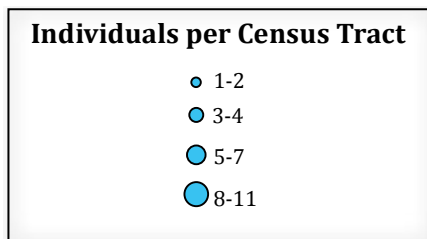
Karen resettlement to Canada began in 2006, but a coup in Thailand in 2008 disrupted the process. Those selected for resettlement in 2007 and 2008 mainly arrived between 2009 and 2011.

GARs from Myanmar tend to live in a few concentrated areas to support each other and depend heavily on the extended family structures developed previously in the camps. Gaining employment and access to health care needs are two of the many challenges they face due to language barriers and unfamiliarity with the Canadian system. Because of their limited income and the high cost of housing in Metro Vancouver, many of the Karen live in crowded apartment suites. It is common for 6 people to live in a 2 bedroom apartment or 4 people to live in a 1 bedroom apartment; teenagers and children often have to share a bedroom with their parents.

CIC has not yet indicated if a refugee community from Asia will be part of future multiyear resettlement commitment, but it is unlikely that more Karen refugee will come to B.C. in the next future.

From the 118 GARs from Myanmar arrived in B.C. between 2010 and 2013, 44% settled in Vancouver, 37% in Surrey and 15% in Langley.

The settlement patterns of **118 individuals, or 5% of GARs settled in Metro Vancouver between 2010 and 2013**, are displayed on the these maps.





Esther Mang

Esther Mang fled her home village on foot through the jungle in West Myanmar to India in 2006 leaving behind her seven-year-old son who was too young for the long and difficult journey. Her decision to run was out of fear of arrest by the military regime after her husband deserted the army to avoid fighting.

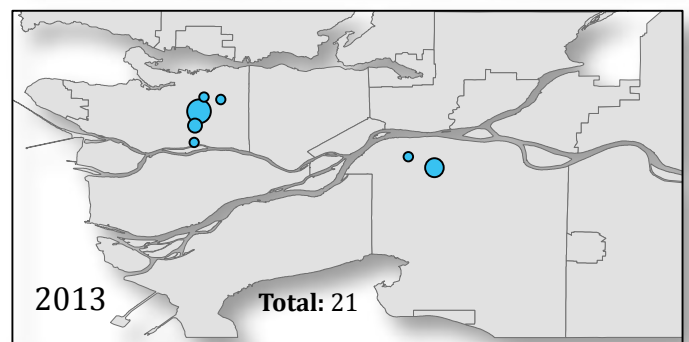
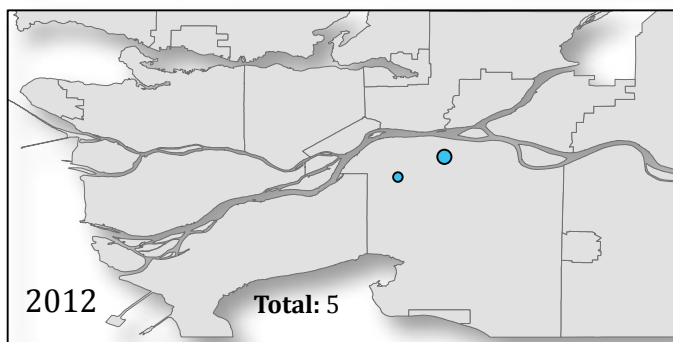
Esther hasn't seen her son since. When she arrived in New Delhi, she started working for the UNHCR as an interpreter. For two years she had no communication with her husband. Finally in 2008 they were reunited. They eventually had a second son, David who was born in India. Even though Esther was earning enough money to cover the family's basic needs, people were often rude and disrespectful to them. Esther didn't want to stay in New Delhi as she constantly felt discriminated against.

Finally in December 2011, Esther and her family resettled to Canada.

"We were very well taken care of when we arrived and I am very happy to live freely in Canada," she said.

Esther's husband is now working in construction and taking English classes in the evening. Esther studied theology and sociology in India where she also worked part-time as a teacher for three years. But in Canada she cannot afford going back to school. She currently stays with her son and hopes she can find employment once he starts kindergarten in September.

When she arrived in Canada, Esther was finally able to connect with her oldest son and sister in Myanmar. She hopes he can one day come to Canada. But she recognizes the whole family will have to make that decision together, as her son has been living with his aunt for eight years supporting each other through difficult times.



Part 6: Looking ahead, 2014 and beyond

Refugees escaping war, famine and persecution will soon have help from a new regional services hub in Vancouver — a one-stop housing and support centre.

ISSofBC, Henriquez Partners Architects and Terra Housing are working together to develop the new, first of its kind in the world, 58,000 square foot facility that will address the immediate needs of refugees, with or without legal status, and immigrants in Metro Vancouver.

The New Welcome House will be a regional service hub bringing together a unique combination of transitional housing and targeted services under one roof to streamline access to care.

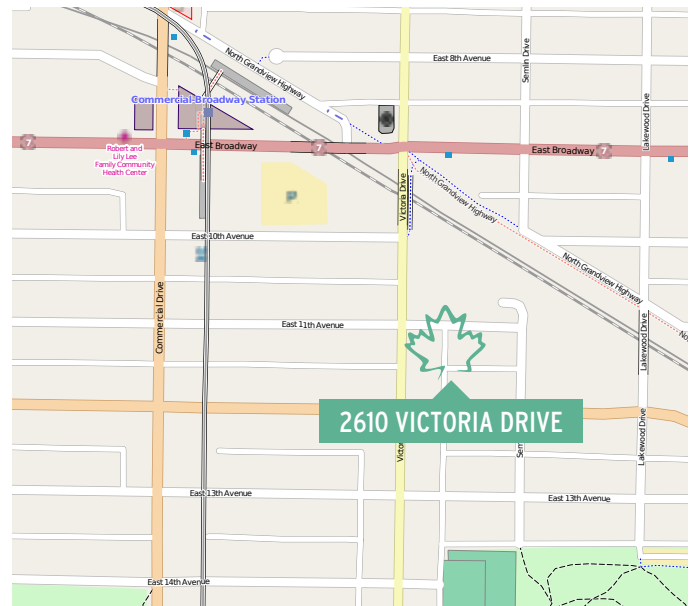
The Gold LEED facility includes:

- 16 units (up to 138 beds) housing units
- Primary health care clinic
- Multilingual trauma support and treatment centre
- Newcomer youth drop-in and resource space
- Child minding spaces, including outdoor playground and family area
- Seven classrooms and computer lab for English language learners
- Law clinic
- Multilingual settlement support staff including settlement, employment and volunteer services
- Food bank and second hand clothing room
- Community kitchen
- Multiple meeting spaces
- Roof to urban garden plots
- ISSofBC corporate service offices



Location

The new facility will be located on Victoria Drive, close to the Commercial-Broadway SkyTrain station with access to the Millennium Line, the Expo Line, and several major bus routes.



Project Timeline

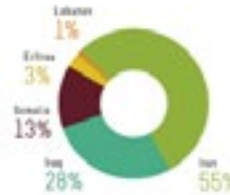
Construction begins	June 20, 2014
Opening	Winter 2016
Grand Opening	June 20, 2016

97 GAR individuals
 52 family units

33 individuals
 or 17 units
 were self transfers from
 other provinces to BC

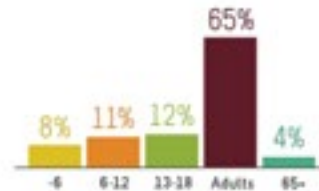


Top 5 source countries



31 individuals or 32% were children and youth under 18 years old; 12% or 12 youth were between 13 and 18 years old; 11% or 11 children were between 6 and 12 years old; 8% or 8 children were under 6 years;

4 individuals / 4% were 65 and above;



Top 5 destinations by municipality



Looking ahead
 to **2014**

GAR
 TARGET = 800
 for 2014

84 are projected to arrive in **April** primarily from **Iran** and **Iraq**

This page represents the recent quarterly report which tracks GARs to B.C. ISSofBC has been compiling these reports for several years. If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the quarterly GAR bulletin, please contact settlement@issbc.org.

Our Locations

Vancouver - ISSofBC Head Office - Terminal

#501 – 333 Terminal Ave.
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 4C1
Phone: 604-684-2561 (Reception)
Phone: 604-684-3599 (Settlement)
Fax: 604-684-2266
iss@issbc.org
settlement@issbc.org

Vancouver - Welcome House and Settlement Services

530 Drake St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2H3
Phone: 604-684-7498
Fax: 604-684-5683
settlement@issbc.org

Richmond - LINC

#150– 8400 Alexandra Rd.
Richmond, B.C. V6X 3L4
Phone: 604-233-7077
Fax: 604-233-7040
linc.richmond@issbc.org

Richmond - LINC and Settlement Services

#110 – 5751 Cedarbridge Way
Richmond, B.C. V6X 2A8
Phone: 604-637-1307 (Settlement)
Phone: 604-233-7077 (LINC)
Fax: 604-303-8711
linc.richmond@issbc.org
settlement@issbc.org

Burnaby - Settlement Services

#207-7355 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C. V3N 4Z6
Phone: 604-395-8000
Fax: 604-395-8003
settlement@issbc.org

New Westminster - LINC and Settlement Services

#200– 620 Royal Ave.
New Westminster, B.C. V3M 1J2
Phone: 604-522-5902
Fax: 604-522-5908
linc.nw@issbc.org
settlement@issbc.org

Coquitlam (Cottonwood) Career and Settlement Services

#200-504 Cottonwood Ave.
Coquitlam B.C. V3J 2P5
Phone: 778-383-1438
Fax: 604-931-8558
settlement@issbc.org

Coquitlam (Lincoln) Career and Settlement Services

#240A– 3020 Lincoln Ave.
Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 6B4
Phone: 778-284-7026
Fax: 604-942-1730
skillsconnect@issbc.org
settlement@issbc.org

Coquitlam - LINC

#136– 3030 Lincoln Ave.
Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 6B4
Phone: 604-942-1777
Fax: 604-942-1780
linc.tricities@issbc.org

Port Coquitlam - LINC and Career Services

#204 – 3242 Westwood St.
Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3C 3L8
Phone: 604-942-1777 (LINC)
Phone: 604-468-6262 (Job Options)
Fax: 604-942-1780
linc.tricities@issbc.org
joboptions@issbc.org

Surrey - Career Services

#303– 7337 137th St.
Surrey, B.C. V3W 1A4
Phone: 604-598-8545 (Job Options)
Phone: 604-590-4021 (Skills Connect)
Fax: 604-595-4028
joboptions@issbc.org
skillsconnect@issbc.org

Langley - Settlement Services

#204-20621 Logan Ave.
Langley, B.C. V3A 3Y9
Phone: 604-510-5136
Fax: 604-530-5519
settlement@issbc.org

Maple Ridge - LINC and Settlement Services

#320-22470 Dewdney Trunk Rd.
Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 5Z6
Phone: 778-284-7026 (Settlement)
Phone: 604-942-1777 (LINC)
Fax: 604-477-1154
settlement@issbc.org
linc.mr@issbc.org

Squamish - LINC

First floor, 38085 Second Ave.
Squamish, B.C. V8B 0C3
Phone: 604-567-4490
tara.ramsey@issbc.org



Produced by Chris Friesen (Director of Settlement Services) and Caroline Dailly (Manager, Resettlement Assistance Program).

If you are interested in learning more about refugees in B.C., you can find several reports and publications on ISSofBC website at www.issbc.org.

ISSofBC is solely responsible for the content of this report. All statistics provided are based on data collected by ISSofBC between 2010 and 2013. Minor discrepancies may exist due to data collection / entry errors.

© Immigrant Services Society of B.C., 2014. Any reproduction of this report must be referenced accordingly.