



# REFINTEG BULLETIN

A SIX-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

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## CANADA'S PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Canada's private sponsorship program (PSR) was formalized by the 1976 Immigration Act, drawing on the will of private individuals to identify and support refugees financially and emotionally for one year by taking responsibility for their resettlement and integration. Within this program, refugees could be sponsored through four ways: 1. The Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), 2. The Constituent Group, i.e. a local community group authorized by a SAH to provide support to refugees. 3. The Group of Five (G5), i.e. five or more Canadian citizens (or permanent residents) ensuring the necessary support to one or more refugees for the up to 12 months. 4. The Community Sponsor (CS), i.e. an organization located in the community where the refugees are expected to resettle, but that does not have a formal agreement with IRCC (accordingly, an assessment of the financial and settlement plan is done each time it decides to sponsor).

## PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP FACTSHEET

- 1979-2020: 350,000 refugees welcomed by private sponsors
- 1979-1980: 34,000 Indochinese refugees privately sponsored to settle in Canada
- 1980-1996: 49,000 Polish refugees arrived through PSR
- 1982-2018: 9,000 refugees from Iran privately sponsored
- 1988-2018: 63,000 Iraqi, Afghani and Somali refugees arrived through sponsors help
- 2004-2018: 17,000 Eritrean privately sponsored welcomed in Canada
- 2015-2019: 71,000 Syrian refugees resettled, more than half of them through PSR
- 2015-2019: 2 million Canadians personally involved in helping resettlement of Syrians
- 2020-2022: 60,000 refugees are planned to be welcomed through PSR program

## ABOUT REFINTEG

"The Canadian model of the public-private sponsorship for the integration of refugees: the case of Syrians and its possible application in EU countries" - REFINTEG is a project led by the University of Genoa (Italy), in partnership with the Institut national de la recherche scientifique, INRS (Canada). This research, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 835466, has as overall objective a comprehensive analysis of the Canadian private sponsorship model to integrate refugees, of its impact in providing to Syrian refugees a safe and legal way to resettlement and socio-economic integration, and an exploration of its possible modalities of application in some countries of the European Union.

## LATEST PUBLICATIONS ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

The resettlement and integration of refugees is increasingly attracting the attention of researchers worldwide. Below is a non-exhaustive list of books and articles on the subject recently published.

- Abdelhady, D., Gren, N., & Joormann, M. (Eds.). (2020). Refugees and the violence of welfare bureaucracies in Northern Europe. Manchester, England: Manchester University Press.
- Agrawal, S., & Sangapala, P. (2020). Does Community Size Matter in the Settlement Process? The Experience of Syrian Refugees in Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.
- Amuedo-Dorantes, C., Bansak, C., & Pozo, S. (2020). Refugee Admissions and Public Safety: Are Refugee Settlement Areas More Prone to Crime? *International Migration Review*.
- Bevelander, P. (2020). Integrating refugees into labor markets. *IZA World of Labor*.
- Bose, P. S. (2020). The Shifting Landscape of International Resettlement: Canada, the US and Syrian Refugees, *Geopolitics*.
- Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. (Ed.) (2020). *Refuge in a Moving World: Tracing refugee and migrant journeys across disciplines*, UCL Press.
- Hamilton, L., Veronis, L., & Walton-Roberts, M. (2020). *A National Project: Syrian Refugee Resettlement in Canada*. McGill-Queen's Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Series.
- Labman, S., Cameron, G. (eds) (2020). *Strangers to Neighbours: Refugee Sponsorship in Context*. McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Macklin, A., Goldring, L., Hyndman, J., Korteweg, A., Barber, K., & Zyfi, J. (2020). The Kinship between Refugee and Family Sponsorship. Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement and the CERC in Migration and Integration. Working paper no. 2020/4
- Martani, E. (2020). Rebalancing and improving refugee resettlement in Canada. *Policy Options* (November 2, 2020).
- Pohlmann, V., Schwiertz, H. (2020). Private sponsorship in refugee admission: Standard in Canada, trend in Germany? Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement and the CERC in Migration and Integration. Research brief no. 2020/1.
- Wilkinson, L., and Petrovic, L., (eds.) (2020). Comparing the German and Canadian experiences of resettling refugees: A 21st century response. *Canadian Diversity* 17(2).

## WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS

**How does the coronavirus outbreak affect refugees?**

Refugees belong to the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society. They are particularly at risk during this coronavirus disease outbreak because they often have limited access to water, sanitation systems and health facilities. Refugees frequently face specific challenges and vulnerabilities that must be taken into consideration in COVID-19 readiness and response operations.

**Canada is the world leader in refugee resettlement**

In 2018 Canada took the lead in refugee resettlement, by offering protection to 28,100 persons (USA resettled 22,900). Canada confirmed its leadership in 2019 by resettling 30,100 refugees (USA and Australia resettled 27,500 and 18,200 respectively).

**Canadian court finds the U.S. is unsafe for refugees**

Canada's Federal Court ruled that the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) is unconstitutional. The judge concluded that the provisions enacting the Safe Third Country Agreement infringe the guarantees in section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and this infringement is not justified under section 1 of the Charter. However, the government of Canada decided to appeal the decision.

**Quebec suspends PSR by organizations**

Quebec suspends PSR by organizations because it says it has serious concerns with the integrity of the program. Until November 2021, only groups of two to five people can privately sponsor a refugee.

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