



Services

The Immigrant Welcome Centre of North Vancouver Island provides specialized services for all Immigrants both English & Non-English Speaking. We provide free services and programs which offer an ongoing opportunity for individuals to navigate and adapt to Canadian society. These services cover understanding the settlement process, health care, housing and other practical issues.

Contact Us

Campbell River:

A114-740 Robron Road,
Campbell River, BC V9W 6J7
250-830-0171
info@ImmigrantWelcome.ca

Comox Valley:

Unit C - 1001 Lewis Road,
Courtenay, BC V9N 5R4
250-338-6359
admin@ImmigrantWelcome.ca

North Island:

Call toll free 1-855-805-0171
Skype by appointment

www.ImmigrantWelcome.ca



North Island Immigrant Service Report

April 2015 to September 2015

485 Clients Served

Countries of origin represented by our clients: 25

1144 Services provided

124 Volunteers

318 Volunteer hours

Top Ten Countries of Client Origin

Philippines	Great Britain
Vietnam	Mexico
China	Columbia
South Korea	Indonesia
USA	Thailand



Vision Statement

A North Island region that embraces diversity and inclusivity while actively engaging with the vibrant cultures in the region, and where newcomers feel welcome, safe and respected.

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Emerging Issues

Refugees—Myths & Facts

MYTH: Real refugees are those who wait in refugee camps overseas. Those who make a claim in Canada jump the line and are not as deserving.

FACT: Refugees are people who have been forced from their homes by human rights abuses. All refugees have a right to protection, wherever they are. Canada also has legal obligations towards refugees in Canada under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention against Torture. The Supreme Court of Canada has also confirmed that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights of asylum-seekers to fundamental justice.

MYTH: Canada does more than its share to assist refugees and asylum-seekers when compared to other countries.

FACT: Only a small minority of refugees and asylum-seekers make claims in the world's richest countries, including Canada. In 2013, developing countries hosted 86 percent of the world's refugees (which is an increase of 16 percent from 10 years ago). The least developed countries were providing asylum to 2.8 million refugees by the end of 2013.

According to UNHCR figures, more than 5.4 million refugees reside in countries where the GDP per capita is below USD 5000. Top Host countries in 2013: Pakistan (1.6 million); Iran (857,400); Lebanon (856,500); Jordan (641,900); Turkey (609,900). Other host countries include Kenya, Chad, Ethiopia, China.

According to the CIC Immigration Levels Plan for 2015: Canada will accept:

- Government Assisted Refugees: 6500 (high) -- 5800 (low)
- Privately Sponsored Refugees: 6500 (high) -- 4500 (low)

According to the UNHCR, the top 5 major source countries of refugees at the end of 2013 were:

- Afghanistan (2,556,600)
- Syria (2,468,400)
- Somalia (1,121,700)
- Sudan (649,300)
- Congo (499,500)

MYTH: Refugees are a drain on our economy.

FACT: Only a handful of the world's refugees (about .007% in 2008) receive assistance from the Canadian government usually for a very limited amount of time (one year). All refugees who resettle to Canada are expected to pay back the travel costs associated with their resettlement. Studies show that refugees and immigrants also contribute positively to the Canadian economy. Many refugees start small businesses that employ both themselves and native Canadians. In addition, immigration helps to offset the effects of our declining birth rate and aging population.

MYTH: Refugees want to abuse the system and get rich.

FACT: Refugees do not come to Canada to abuse the system or get rich. It is important to remember the cause for which they resettle to Canada. Unlike economic migrants, refugees have arrived in Canada in search of protection. The wars and conflicts that caused people to flee their countries in the first place did not discriminate between the rich or poor, and many of them led successful lives before being forced to leave everything behind in search of safety.