



NEW  
CANADIANS  
CENTRE  
PETERBOROUGH

# NEW CANADIANS CENTRE

Refugee Resettlement

# Brief history of immigration in Peterborough

- Peterborough sits on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe (Ojibway) and was originally named and known as Nogojiwanong ("place at the end of rapids").
- In 1825, Irish immigrants arrived from the city of Cork, led by Peter Robinson
- Until the second World War, immigrants were primarily from Western Europe (especially UK), in part due to racially biased immigration laws
- Following World War II an influx of Dutch, German, Italian, and Scandinavian immigrants
- Currently Trent and Fleming attract students from many countries including Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, China, India and Brazil (Fleming college has currently around 2100 international students)



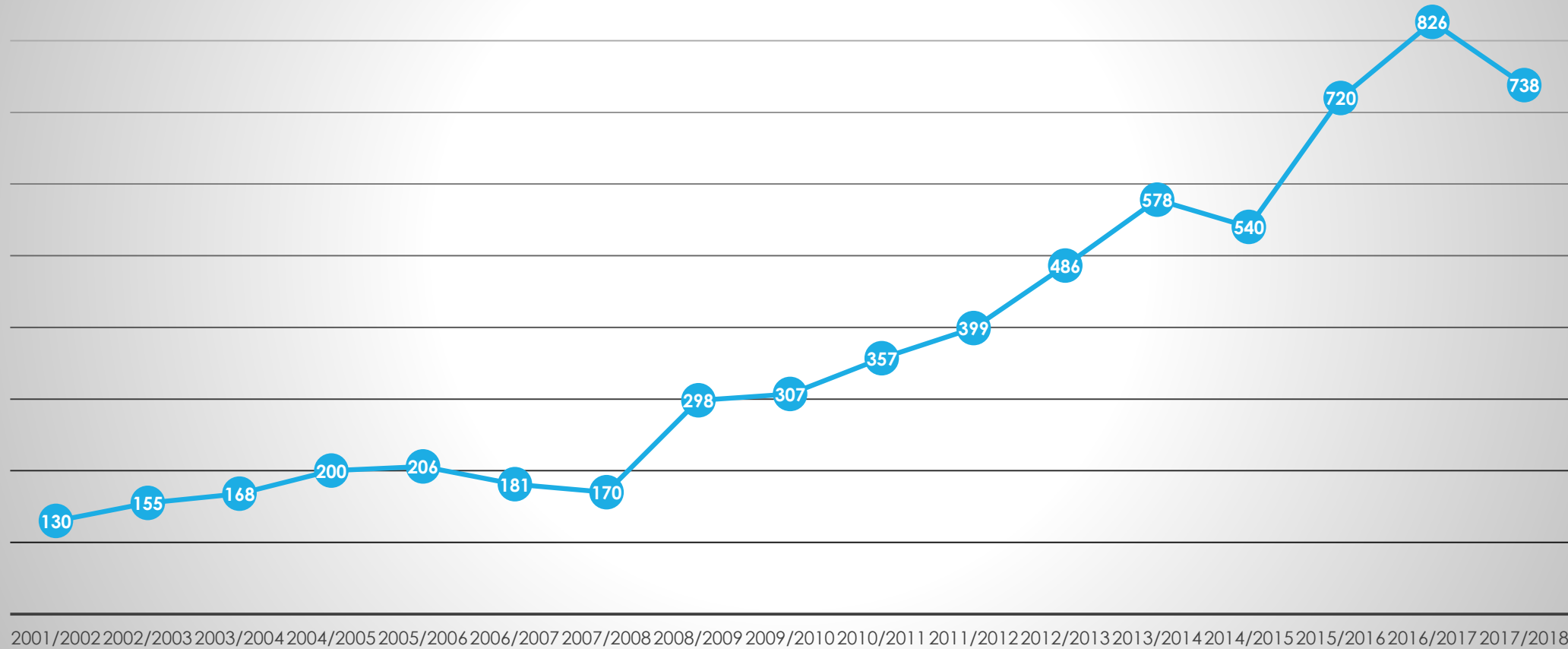
<http://www.biographi.ca/bioimages/original.8360.jpg>

# Our clients

- In last 10 years, we welcomed people from over 125 different countries – which means more than 50% of the world's countries are represented in Peterborough
- In 2016-2017, we welcomed people from **79 different countries**
- The number of clients the New Canadians Centre has grown substantially over the years



## New NCC Clients from 2000/2001 to 2017/2018





# Refugees in Peterborough

- In the 1970's a wave of refugees from Southeast Asia arrived in Peterborough and was the catalyst for the start of the NCC
- In the 1980's a large number of the arrival of Polish refugees
- In the late 1990's, Peterborough welcomed 7 families from Kosovo
- Main groups of refugees from 2000-2015 were from Colombia, Somalia and Afghanistan – however, there were individuals from many countries including Senegal, Nepal, Rwanda, and Hungary



# Refugees in Peterborough

In 2016 and 2017, **350 Syrian refugees** resettled to Peterborough

We thank the City for it`s significant support!

Due to our joint efforts, refugee resettlement is very successful in our community.





# Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)

- Jan 2016 Federal government CFP for new RAP Centres – NCC applies
- Feb 2016 – Peterborough first small city to be approved
- First family arrives May 2016
- First Canadian baby born 😊 from Syrian Refugee parents: June 2016
- Today: 250 Individual Government Assisted Refugees (approximately 45 families) and 100 Privately sponsored refugees in Peterborough
- Average family size: 4-6 children
- 50% adults, 50% children



# Top needs of refugee clients

## RAP (Refugees)

Dental Services

Requests for Doctors

Vaccinations

Important documents (OHIP, SIN, etc.)

Affordable Housing Search

Improve English

Money Management

Employment Search

Immigration Options

Driver's Licence





# Challenges

- Many individuals had no **English** and no high school education, so learning English (on top of other life challenges) is slow – this also delays employment for some
- Need for **interpretation** is still high due to low English levels and complicated needs; lack of interpretation capacity in city
- Many families have at least one individual with high and complex **health needs** – e.g. we have 5 special needs children
- **Cultural Differences / Expectations** have led to some difficulties with employers and others
- There have been cases of **discrimination and hate** against families

# Success Stories

- **Community Support** – over 600 volunteers helped with refugee resettlement. Compared to other communities like Montreal, families are much less isolated and much more integrated with broader community. Little secondary migration.
- **Families feel safe** because they are aware of Canadian system and know where to get help – Housing Resource Centre, Women's Health Centre, Hospital, YWCA, Family Resource Centre, Legal Centre, etc.



# Success Stories

- Unless prevented by major health or family issues, all adults are either **working** or in school or **learning English**.
- Higher than national average **employment rates** among adult men: 35-40% (national average is 10% at the one year mark)
- Most families have a **car** and have visited other cities
- Refugees **volunteering** to help new refugees, with Habitat for Humanity, and will be participating in blood drive





# Future

- We expect Peterborough to continue as a RAP Centre until at least June 2019 (not confirmed yet, current funding secured until June 30, 2018)
- We would aim for a target of 75 individuals in 2018 – number may be lower but not higher
- Expect to see refugees from countries other than Syria – 3 families arrived from Eritrea in January (this poses new but manageable challenges)

# Omar`s story

<https://youtu.be/2XAjbc0TwUM>



# Questions?

Merci



**Maraming salamat**

Thank You شکرا

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Muchas Gracias

Mahad Sanid

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