

Minutes from October Syrian Refugee Resettlement Conference Call:

Overview:

- The Syrian Refugee Resettlement Secretariat provided an update on Syrian refugee arrivals based on federal information available here:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/milestones.asp>
 - **30,371** Syrian refugees have resettled in Canada as of September 5, 2016. Of this number over 40% have come to Ontario = over 12,000
 - Overall, approximately 55% are Government Assisted Refugees (GARs), 35% are Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) and 10% are Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees (BVORs)
- SRRS reported the following stats on provincial services to the Syrian refugee cohort who have already arrived in Ontario:
 - 12,202 OHIP cards issued to members of this cohort @ August 21, 2016
 - 4,082 school children registered in Ontario schools from this cohort @ May 2016 (* current school year stats not yet available)
 - Over 4,900 adults from this cohort have received language assessments at CLARS Language Assessment Centres (@ June 30, 2016)
 - § Language capacity in either English or French is reported to be low, on average, for this cohort.
- In terms of forward planning of arrivals anticipated for the period September – December 2016:
 - IRCC issued a news release on September 6, 2016 indicating that approximately 6,000 more BVORs and GARs will arrive to the end of December. This will fulfill the federal government's commitment to resettle 25,000 GARs and BVORs in Canada by the end of the 2016. As of September 5, 19,240 GARs and BVORs had already resettled to Canada from the Syrian conflict.
http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/commitment.asp?_ga=1.150430321.674254842.1470154289
 - Ontario is anticipating approximately 40% of this cohort (~ 2,400) will be destined to RAP centres in Ontario communities (Windsor, London, Kitchener/Waterloo Region, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Leamington, Kingston, Mississauga, Peterborough, Thunder Bay/ Sault Ste. Marie)
 - It is also anticipated that additional PSRs will arrive before the end of 2016, though no clear estimates have been received to date.
 - Overall, for planning purposes, Ontario is estimating that a total of 15,700 – 16,000 Syrian refugees will have settled in Ontario by year end. This does not include refugees from other source countries who also continue to arrive in Canada.

- The IRCC website includes an infographic that may be a useful tool to provide to people who have questions about the processing steps and times associated with PSR applications.

- Infographic on processing timeline for Privately Sponsored Refugees.

This may

http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/pdf/PSR-Welcoming_Refugee_Process-eng.pdf

Other supporting material:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/media/notices/2016-06-22.asp>