

# Canada

August 2019

**55,040 \***

New refugee applications recorded in Canada during 2018, i.e. a **9.81%** increase in comparison with 2017 (50,395).

\* subject to change

**28,076 \***

Refugees admitted to Canada in 2018 under its resettlement program, one-third of which are UNHCR identified and the remaining privately-sponsored.

\* subject to change

**72**

Million Canadian dollars donated in 2018 by the Government of Canada to UNHCR, i.e. an **11%** decrease in comparison with 2017 (81.26M).

## HIGHLIGHTS

**OVER 700,000** Refugees resettled to Canada since 1959.

**881,000 PEOPLE** have claimed asylum in Canada over the past **30** years.

**10.7 MILLION** Canadian dollars from private donors in 2018.

**715%** Rate of increase over the last six years for funds raised through private sector partnerships.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

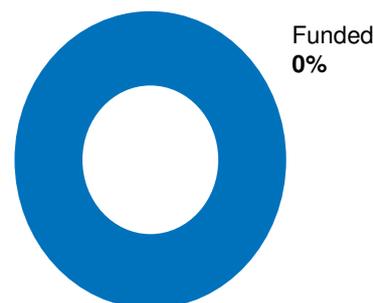
Refugees (recognized in 2018)	16,359
Asylum Seekers (pending decisions)	79,502

Source: Immigration and Refugee Board

## FUNDING (AS OF MAY 2018)

**USD 2 M**

requested for the Canada situation



Unfunded 100%  
**2 M**

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

**32** National Staff

**1** International Staff

### Offices:

**1** Branch Office in Ottawa

**3** Offices in Montreal and Toronto (Field Unit and Private Sector Partnerships)



Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Printing date: 03 Mar 2017

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with various departments and agencies of the Canadian federal government, primarily Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB). In addition, UNHCR also liaises with provincial and municipal governments, as well as with both national and local civil society organisations.
- The Office participates in regular government and civil society consultations as well as public events on issues pertaining to the improvement of the asylum system, alternatives to detention (particularly for minors), and global displacement and refugee issues.
- UNHCR Canada and Paramount Fine Foods CEO Mohamad Fakih have launched a partnership to promote the role of the private sector in supporting refugee integration in Canada and the work of UNHCR more broadly.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- Support the Canadian government in aligning changes to its asylum and detention system to international standards. Notably, the Government is taking measures, including through financial support, to strengthen its reception, processing and integration capacities to address an increase of asylum seekers over the last two years. The measures also seek to address public concerns over irregular arrival of asylum-seekers. UNHCR is providing technical advice on how to streamline asylum processes in line with international best practices and norms.
- Observe and respond to increasing politicization of asylum seekers, who are often scapegoated for being a strain on housing and provincial economies. This is being felt across the country, but particularly in Quebec and Ontario where conservative provincial Governments have made changes impacting persons of concern.
- Observe border processing of asylum seekers, with emphasis on the influx of those who enter irregularly to improve access to Canada for persons in need of international protection.
- Support the Canadian government to standardize its data collection of persons of concern in a regular/ timely manner.

- Support the Canadian government by providing technical assistance to build asylum capacities in other countries, in particular in the Americas region.

### **Durable Solutions**

- Advocate for increased resettlement of UNHCR identified needs.
- Promote the resettlement of refugees with urgent protection or special needs.
- Promote the expansion of durable solutions opportunities through technical support.
- Support and develop additional immigration pathways for refugees to Canada such as scholarships and labour mobility in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and the private sector.
- Notably, UNHCR recently partnered with IRCC and the private sector to promote the story of Canada's first refugee resettled through an innovative labour mobility pathway pilot project.

### **External Relations**

- Build political support for refugees and UNHCR operations globally by maintaining and extending strong relationships with the Government of Canada, particularly Parliament/Senate as well as key ministries such as Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and central agencies such as the Prime Minister's Office and Department of Finance.
- Leverage political and public support for UNHCR to mobilise additional financial resources for global operations.

### **Communications**

- Improve public awareness of and support for refugees in Canada and globally, particularly among youth, and promote the social and economic contributions of refugees in Canadian society.
- Work with civil society and media, as well as political stakeholders, to ensure the narrative around refugees and migration remains objective and positive at a time when increased polarization on these issues is being felt ahead of the Fall 2019 federal elections.
- With polls showing an increasing number of Canadians believing that the volume of non-white immigration and refugees coming to Canada is too high, as well as increasing divides along political affiliations, socio-economic and education levels, and provincial lines, we are striving to reassure Canadians about the integrity, fairness and robustness of the asylum and immigration systems.
- Produce and distribute public information products on refugees and IDPs, through traditional and social media, and at public events and speaking engagements.

## Donor Relations

### Special thanks to major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018:

Morneau Shepell | Premium Uniforms | IKEA Foundation | Giselle Foundation | Fondation familiale Trottier Family Foundation | The William Birchall Foundation

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### LINKS

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Unlocking the Power of Refugees: Software Developer Starts New Life as Canadian Skilled Worker