

Refugee Population Working Group - Definitions

United Nations Convention relating to the status of Refugees

A key legal document signed in 1951 that defines who is a refugee, sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum, and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum.

United Nations High Commission on Refugees

An agency of the United Nations General Assembly mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.

Convention refugee

Convention" refers to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Convention defines refugees as a person who is outside of his or her country of nationality or habitual residence and who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, political opinion, nationality or membership in a particular social group.

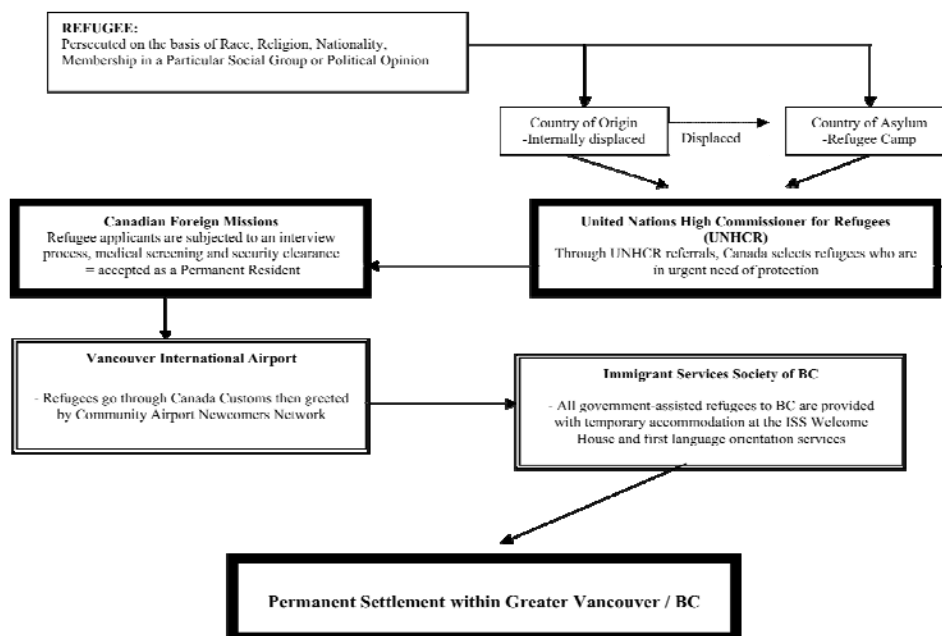
Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)

The Act sets out the core principles and concepts that govern Canada's immigration and refugee protection programs, including provisions relating to refugees, sponsorships and removals, detention reviews and admissibility hearings, and the jurisdiction and powers of tribunals. There were revisions made to IRPA In 2002 that shifted the emphasis of government sponsorship from the provision of aid to GARs for settling in Canada to the protection of GARs in urgent need. As a result, the medical and social conditions of GARs, previously a barrier to entry in Canada, were removed. Since this policy change, Canada has been admitting "high-needs" GARs who require additional health care and face more challenges in adapting to Canadian culture and health systems than did refugees in the past."

Government-assisted refugee (GAR)

Convention Refugees Abroad and members of the Source Country Class whose initial resettlement in Canada is entirely supported by the Government of Canada. Government-assisted refugees are defined as refugees that are selected from abroad and arrive in Canada as Permanent Residents. Approximately 800 GAR arrive annually and are seen at Bridge Clinic for initial public health screening and management of their acute health problems.

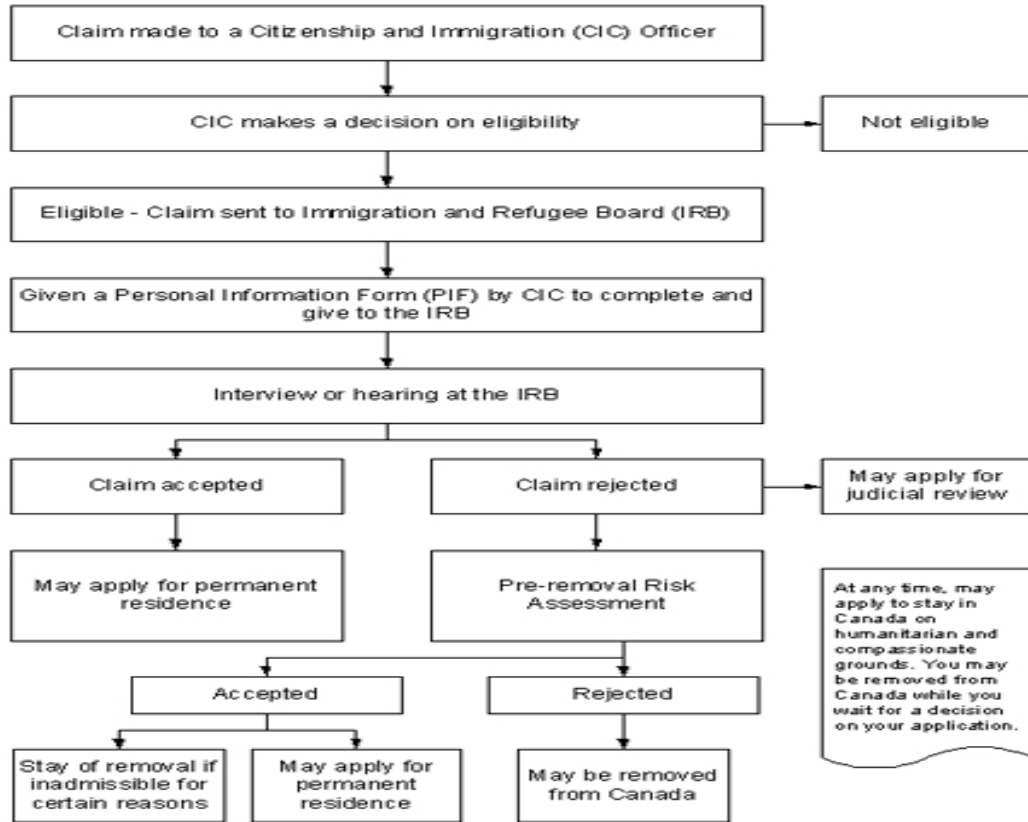
GAR Process:



Refugee Claimant

Un-sponsored individual that seeks asylum in Canada or a person who claims refugee protection/asylum upon or after arrival in Canada (claim still in process). Approximately 800-1000 annually are referred from immigration officials and community agencies in Vancouver and other lower mainland cities to address health care needs.

Refugee claimant process:



Migrant workers

*(1.) The **Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program** matches workers from Mexico and the Caribbean countries with Canadian farmers who need temporary support during planting and harvesting seasons, when qualified Canadians or permanent residents are not available. This program is authorized by the federal government through the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSDC) and administered by privately run user-fee agencies. For more information: http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign_workers/ei_tfw/sawp_tfw.shtml*

*(2.) The **Temporary Foreign Workers Program** permits Canadian employers to hire foreign workers to fill immediate skills and labour shortages. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) work to ensure that the employment of foreign workers supports economic growth and helps create more opportunities for all Canadians. For more information: http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign_workers/index.shtml*

Interim Federal Health Program (IFH)

A Citizenship and Immigration Canada program that provides temporary health insurance to refugees, protected persons and refugee claimants, as well as to their dependants, in Canada who are not yet covered by a provincial or territorial health insurance plan.

Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia (ISSBC)

A Vancouver based non-profit organization that serves the settlement, training and integration needs of immigrants and refugees in the Lower Mainland.

Immigrant Service Society Welcome House

A facility directed by ISSBC that provides temporary accommodation to immigrants, in particular government-assisted refugees. ISSBC Welcome House also provides services in the areas of orientation, housing, public education, legal aid, interpreting services and translation.

Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)

ISSBC program funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada that provides income support and a range of other services to government-assisted refugees who arrive in Canada following an overseas identification and selection process.

Bridge Community Health Clinic

Established in September 1994 as a partnership between the BC Multi-cultural Health Services Society, Immigrant Services Society of BC, Providence Healthcare and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to address the primary health care needs of refugees, with or without legal status. Their Mandate is “to provide access to short-term primary and preventative health services (0-12 months) for Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) and Refugee Claimants (RC) facing barriers to care and to provide a bridge for them to access available health services within their community”

New Canadian Clinics – Burnaby (BNCC) and Surrey(SNCC)

Initially established in Burnaby in 2007. Sister clinic in Surrey was established January 2008. Mandate is to provide continuance of primary care to Government Assisted Refugees (GARS). Patients are accepted to NCC by referral from Bridge Clinic and will continue with the care that was initiated by Bridge clinic. NCC will stabilize and maintain health, provide preventive services and to transition to a permanent Primary Care Provider in their community. Language and health literacy are key criteria to discharge from NCC's.

Primary Care Provider

Is a practitioner who is the first point of entry to the medical system. The PCP will provide primary care (medical) services such as identification, assessment, diagnosis, treatment of illness or disability, referral and followup as required. Primary care providers may be a Family Practice Physician, General Practitioner (GP), Nurse Practitioner (NP)

Healthy Kids Program

The BC Healthy Kids Program helps middle and low income families with the costs of basic dental care and prescription eyewear for their children. Eligible clients include dependent children under 19 years of age who receive Medical Service Plan premium assistance through the Ministry of Health Services.