



A Measured Response to an Urgent Crisis



Government
of Canada

Ragini Prabhakar: ADM for
Immigration

Bianca Jamal: ADM for Innovation,
Science and Economic Development

Jared Dunitz: Clerk of the Privy
Council

Aaron Hertes: ADM for Finance

The Problem Statement

How Do We Integrate Yemeni Refugees While Addressing The Existing Issues?



Background

- Yemen Crisis
- Refugees in Canada
- Existing Issues
- Public Opinion
- Provincial/Regional: Prairie Provinces

The Yemen Crisis

- 80% of the population in need of humanitarian aid
- 3.2 million people suffering from acute malnutrition
- 17.8 million people lack access to safe water and sanitation
- 19.7 million people lack access to adequate health care
- 3.3 million people displaced



“It’s a living hell for its citizens and their children.”

– Sherin Varkey, Deputy Representative for the U.N. Children’s Fund in Yemen



Hungarian Refugees
37,000



Vietnamese Refugees
60,000

Yemeni Refugees?



Ugandan Asian Refugees
7,000



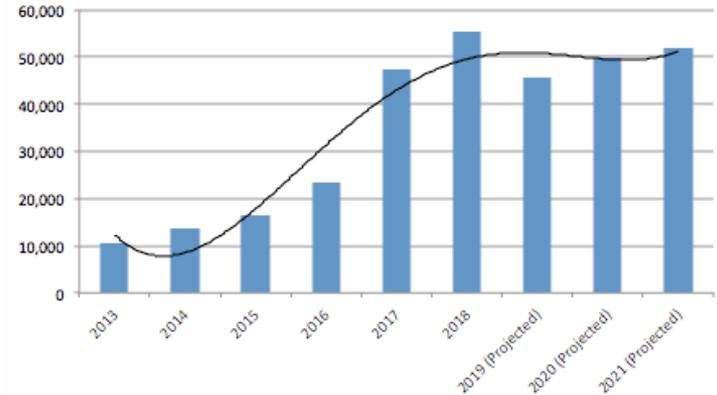
Syrian Refugees
46,000

Existing Issues: Backlog & Border Crossing

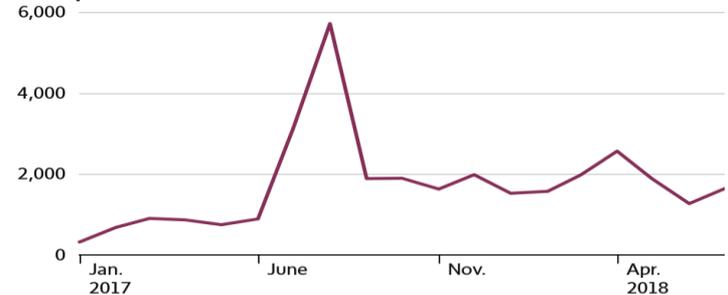
- Immigration & Refugee Board (IRB) experiencing an increase in backlog
- Increase in irregular border crossings from the USA in 2017
- About 71,000 pending claim
- A major provincial concern, particularly for Quebec and Ontario



Refugee Claims Referred



Asylum seekers apprehended between ports of entry by the RCMP, 2017-2018



THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SOURCE: IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA

Existing Issues: Integration

- Learning from the Syrian refugee experience, four key challenges have been identified in integrating refugees into Canada:
 - Lack of settlement service capacity
 - Housing
 - Lack of access for language training
 - Employment barriers
- Conducting pre-arrival orientation for refugees



Public Opinion

Refugees are straining the welfare system?

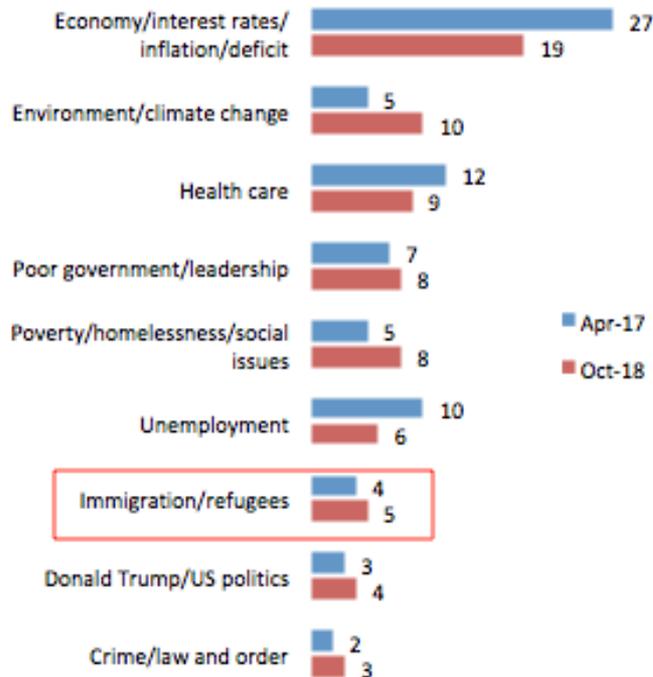
Strongly agree Somewhat agree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Unsure



Most important problem facing Canada today

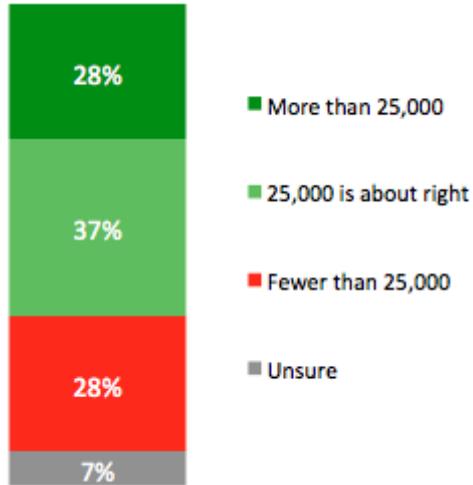
2017-2018

Top mentions (unprompted)



Public Opinion

**Most Canadians supported
25,000 Syrian refugees**



- Initial public resistance to Syrian refugees
- Support markedly increased once the Prime Minister welcomed the first arrivals
- However, general lack of awareness of Yemeni situation

Provincial/Regional: Prairie Provinces

- Provincial Ministers have expressed concern over inadequate federal support for supplemental Syrian refugee costs
- \$15 million shortfall claimed by Saskatchewan
- Expectation that the Federal Government would fully fund supports



Saskatchewan
Minister of
Immigration and
Career Training:
Jeremy Harrison



Manitoba
Education and
Training Minister:
Ian Wishart

Key Considerations

- Urgency
- Provincial support
- Resettlement Capacity
- Public acceptance
- Cost

Option 1: Reallocation of Current Targets

- Maintain planned levels of refugee resettlement
- 25,000 Yemeni refugees over three years
- First Ministers Conference
- Eliminate existing claims backlog within 3 years
- Evaluation of backlog after 2 years
- Additional \$50 million* per year to IRB to increase temporary capacity

Option 2: 17,000 Additional Refugees

- 17,000 Yemeni refugees over 1 year
- Provide \$300 million over 5 years* to aid in resettlement and integration
- First Ministers Conference
- Eliminate existing backlog within 3 years
- Evaluation of backlog in 2 years
- Additional \$70 million per year to IRB to increase temporary capacity

Evaluation Criteria

	Option 1: Reallocation	Option 2: Additional
Urgency	Slow response	Rapid response
Provincial Support	FPT meeting	+ Higher intake, time constraint
Resettlement Capacity	No extra strain	Rapidly build capacity
Public Acceptance	Low visibility	Public support for refugees
Cost	\$150 million	\$510 million

Recommendation: 17,000 Additional Refugees

- First Ministers Conference
- Continue to monitor integration
- Strengthen the settlement programming
 - Pre-arrival orientation
 - Addressing integration issues



#WelcomeRefugees



Implementation

- First Ministers Conference
- Increase capacity to reduce the existing backlog
- Public awareness campaign about the Yemeni crisis and previous efforts
- Refugee intake
- Evaluation of intake once completed



Communications Strategy

Target Audience

Strategy

General Public

Promote refugee success stories, particularly around Syrian integration

Parliament

International goodwill generated and the economic benefits from refugees and their families in later decades

Interprovincial/Territorial

Importance of partnership, the potential for greater cooperation on future targets, and the Supplemental Refugee Payment

UNHCR

Canada's existing commitments to refugees and the limits of our capacity

Key Messages



- Canada continues its strong commitment towards refugees
- We will work with our provincial and municipal partners and use our lessons learned
- We will continue to integrate refugees into the multicultural fabric of our country

Questions?



Option 2: 17,000 Additional Refugees

