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Canada's Response to the Yemeni Refugee Crisis

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We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Omàmiwininìwag (Algonquin) nation whose traditional territory we are gathered upon today.

Outline

*Canada's Response to the
Yemeni Refugee Crisis*

1. Problem
2. Background
3. Key Considerations
4. Recommendation
5. Analysis
6. Implementation
7. Risk Analysis
8. Communications

The Problem: Yemeni Refugee Crisis

Government wants to meet its humanitarian ambitions and responsibilities in recognition of public skepticism, intergovernmental tensions, and administrative capacity.

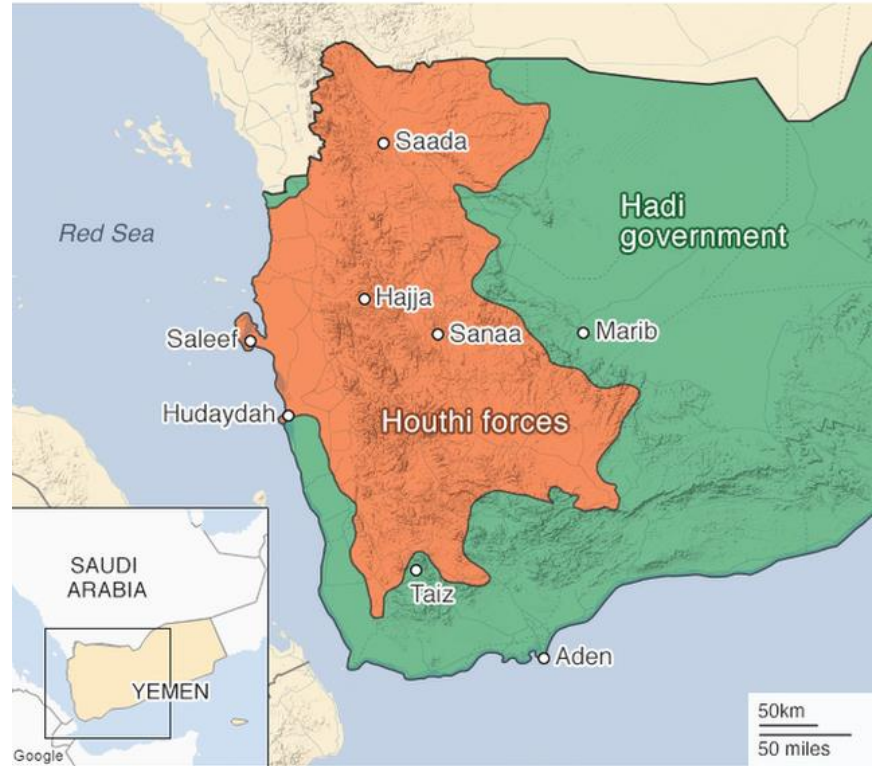
Yemeni Refugee Crisis

3.9 million
internally displaced

24 million in need
of aid

15 million at risk of
starvation

Areas of control in Yemen

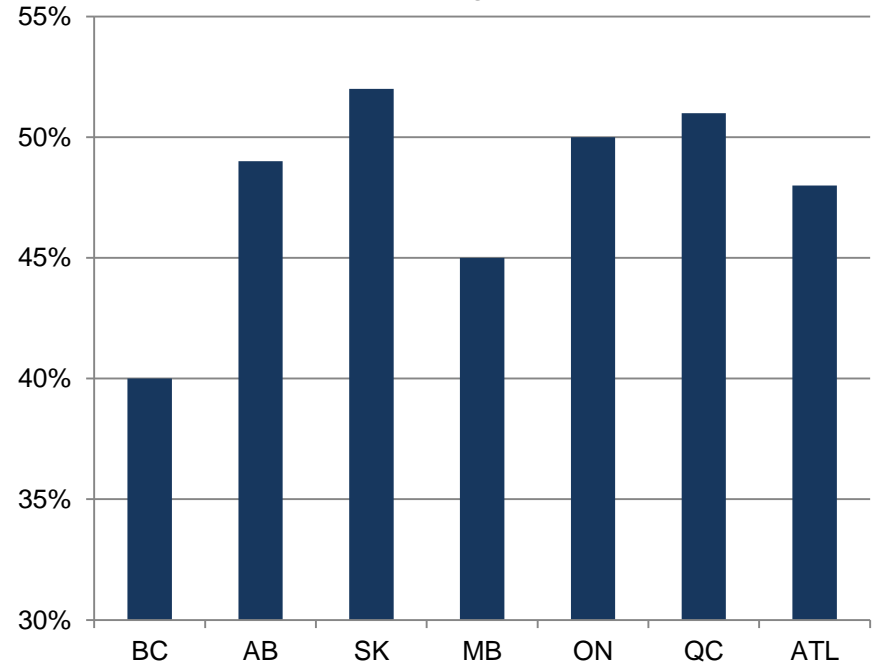


Source: IHS Conflict Monitor, 12 June 2018

Public Opinion

- Humanitarian fatigue
- Security risks
- Growing anti-immigrant sentiment
- Election year
- Support for Canada as a humanitarian leader

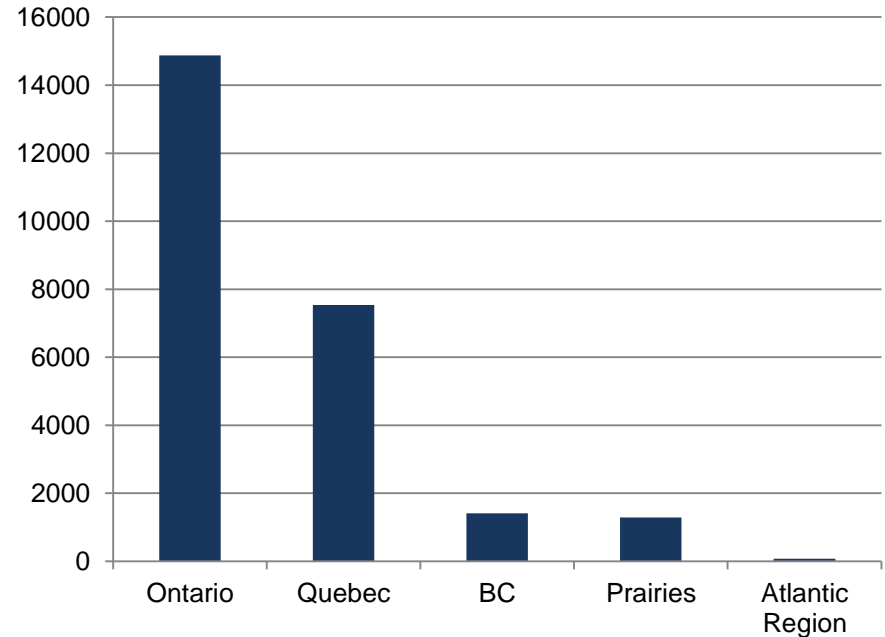
Dissatisfaction with Current Immigration Levels by Region, 2018



Intergovernmental Relations

- Provincial tensions (AB/ON/QC)
 - ◆ Economic conditions e.g. housing
 - ◆ Federal and provincial partisan differences
- Irregular border crossings
- Municipality strain

Average Asylum Claimants in Canada
by Region, 2008-2017



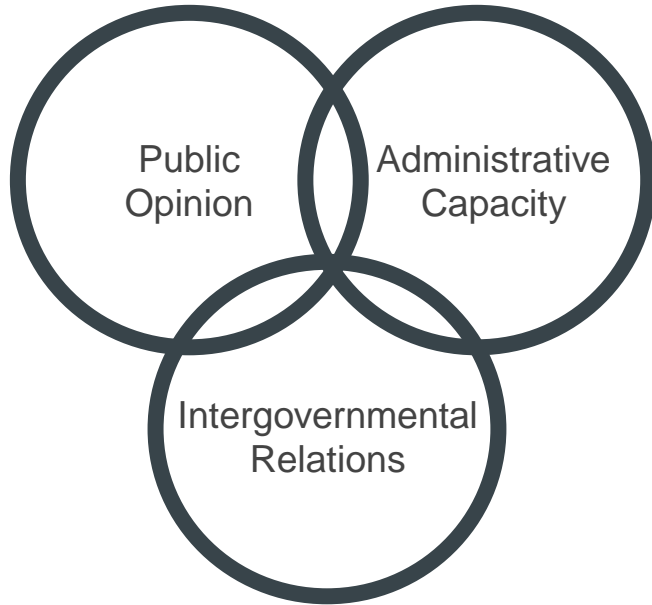
Administrative Capacity

- Service providers are strained following Syrian refugee initiative
- Existing IRCC backlog
- Housing and employment availability
- Budgetary impacts

Blended Visa	Government Assisted	Private Sponsor	Total
5,320	28,540	28,100	61,955

Key Considerations

Lessons learned from Syrian refugee initiative



- Need for end-to-end initiative planning
- Need for accurate refugee information
- High interest in sponsoring refugees
- EN/FR language learning is paramount
- Need for improved provincial coordination to support employment outcomes

Yemeni Demographics



46% of population
under 15



14% industry
24% agriculture
62% services



30% secondary
education or higher



Principal language:
Modern Standard Arabic

Recommendation

Increase Canadian refugee intake to allow for 16,000 Yemeni refugees over two years to be settled and integrated through end-to-end planning.

Policy Options

Option A	Option B	Option C
<p>No special intake & increase aid</p> <p>→ Lump sum aid funding via UN</p>	<p>Phased intake of 16,000 refugees based on capacity and opportunity</p> <p>→ Year 1: 6,000 private</p> <p>→ Year 2: 10,000 all types</p>	<p>Phased and proportionate intake of 25,000</p> <p>→ Allocated per capita</p> <p>→ Two year response</p>

Option A: No Special Intake & Increase Aid

Lump sum aid funding to humanitarian organizations via UN

Advantages:

- Low risk of public backlash
- Politically feasible pre-election
- Minimal administrative strain

Disadvantages:

- Low probability of aid reaching recipients
- Severity of crisis limits impact of aid
- Does not fulfill government mandate on humanitarian relief

Option B: Phased Intake of 16,000

Two year initiative based on provincial and administrative capacity

Advantages:

- Supports humanitarian relief
- Adheres to provincial and programmatic capacity
- No increase to 2019 permanent resident number
- Better outcomes for private and blended refugees

Disadvantages:

- Potential strains on intergovernmental relations
- Perceived security risks
- Potential for public backlash

Option C: Additional Intake of 25,000

Phased and proportionate intake over two years

Advantages:

- Fulfills Canada's humanitarian commitments
- Timely response to Yemeni crisis
- Utilizes existing infrastructure from Syrian initiative

Disadvantages:

- Strains capacity of service providers
- Intergovernmental tensions
- Potential public backlash
- Perceived security risks
- Substantial administrative burden

Phased Intake: National Cap

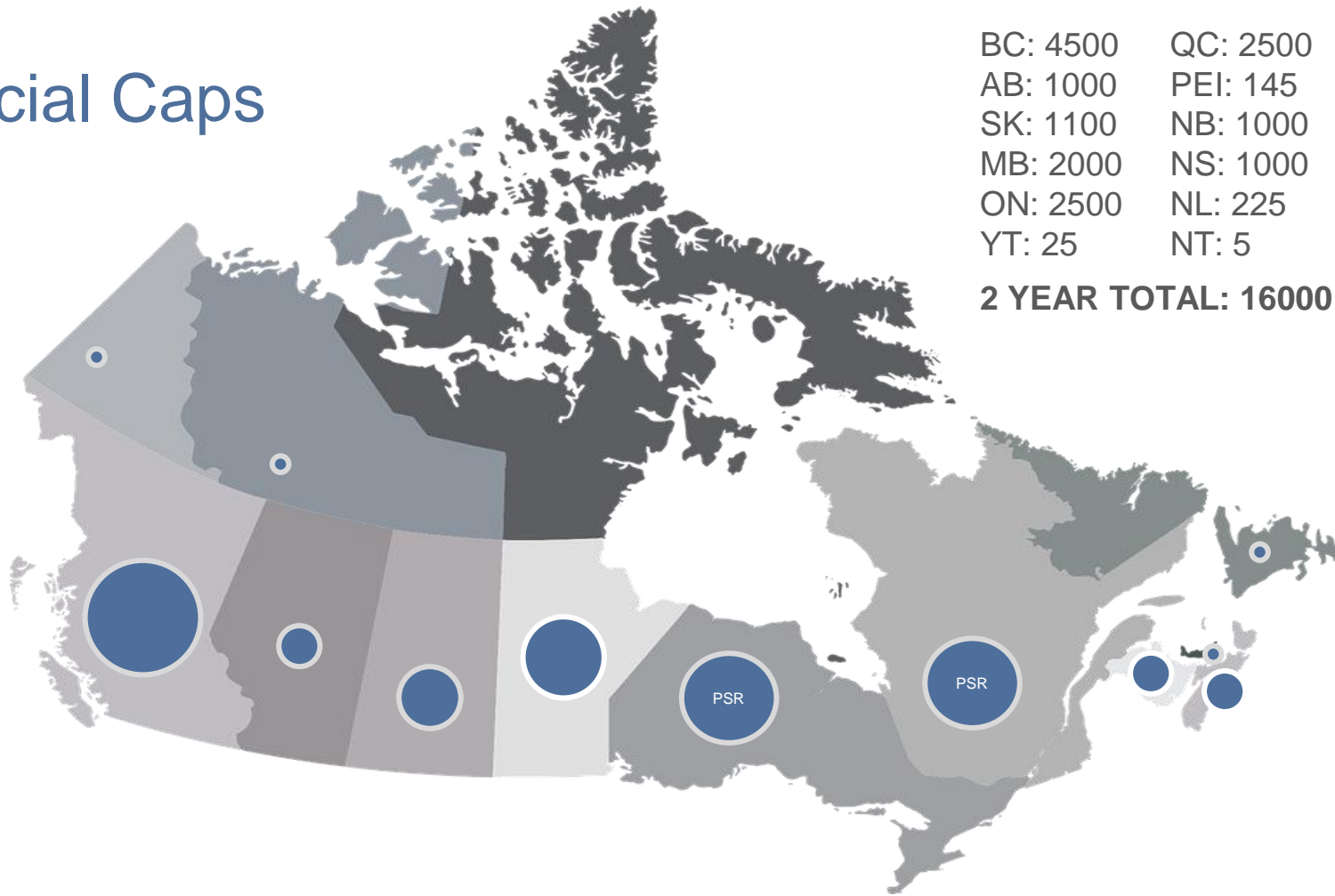
Recommended yearly intake by refugee category

Year 1	Year 2
6,000	10,000
Privately sponsored only	All categories
No net change to 2019 permanent residents target	Increase refugee levels of 2020 permanent residents target

Provincial Caps

BC: 4500	QC: 2500
AB: 1000	PEI: 145
SK: 1100	NB: 1000
MB: 2000	NS: 1000
ON: 2500	NL: 225
YT: 25	NT: 5

2 YEAR TOTAL: 16000



British Columbia

Provincial opportunities to support refugee settlement and integration



Economic Strength

Low unemployment, strong GDP growth, shortage of service-sector and construction workers



Public Support

2018 survey: BC has highest acceptability of number of refugees



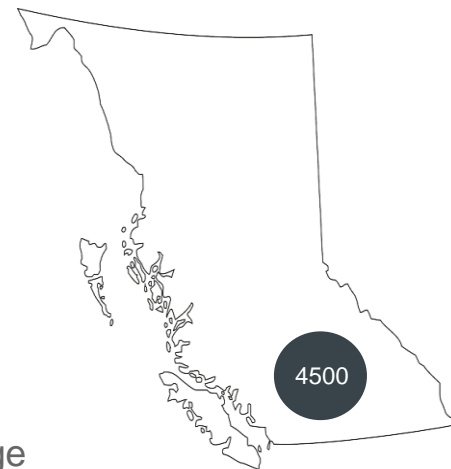
Private Sponsors

1305 successfully matched refugees to private sponsors



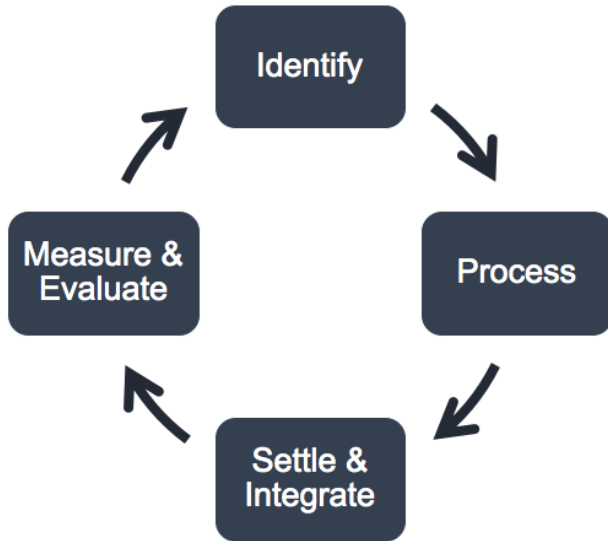
Programmatic Capacity

233 service providers: immigration, housing, language



Implementation Options

Modifications from Syrian initiative



- **Identify:** Asset-based pre-arrival assessment tool
- **Process:** Facilitate refugee-sponsor matching
- **Settle & Integrate:** Promote online EN/FR language resources
- **Measure & Evaluate:** Ongoing evaluation

Identify: Asset-based pre-arrival assessment tool

Action: Cross-departmental development of asset-based pre-arrival assessment tool to facilitate complete refugee profiles

Alternatives:

- Pre-arrival language and skills training
- Increased needs assessments

KPI:

- % of incoming refugees with complete profiles
- % of working age refugees with recognized credentials

Process: Facilitate refugee-sponsor matching

Action: Extend blended sponsor deadline from 14 days to 30 days to facilitate matching, and extend IRCC processing funding to address the existing and potential backlog

Alternatives:

- Employer toolkits for hiring refugees
- Targeting repeat private sponsors

KPI:

- Increase in matchings
- Decrease in proportion of funds for government assisted refugees
- Reduce and stabilize backlog

Settle & Integrate: Online language resources

Action: Facilitate service provider delivery of accessible online content for EN/FR language proficiency, including video learning and peer forums

Alternatives:

- Increased funding for in-person language classes
- Transportation subsidies to facilitate access to services

KPI:

- Increase in intermediate EN/FR language proficiency in first two years
- % of employed working-age refugees
- Degree to which online resources facilitate integration of families

Departmental Roles

Expected outputs from cross-departmental collaboration

IRCC

- Lead initiative
- Initiate efforts with UNHCR in Yemen

ISED

- Collaborate with ESDC and provinces on asset-based assessment tool
- Identify private sponsors

PCO

- Coordinate inter-departmental efforts
- Facilitate provincial engagement

Finance

- Provide analysis on budgetary needs
- Approve budget decisions

Risk Analysis

Degree of Severity:



Low



Medium



High

Severity

Risk

Mitigation Strategy



Program integrity

Inter- and intra-governmental collaboration
Increased capacity/lower numbers



Inadequate support from
sponsors and third parties

Mobilize ISED channels to promote sponsor
engagement
Lower overall target reduces risk



Integration challenges

Thorough identification to facilitate settlement
Transferable Syrian processes/infrastructure



Security risks

Increased screening and identification processes
Communications strategy to address public concern

Communications

Department-led key messaging

Consideration	Key Message	Department
Intergovernmental relations	Governments are working in partnership to develop a domestic strategy that supports provincial capacities while upholding Canada's role as a humanitarian leader.	Lead: PCO Support: IRCC
Administrative capacity	With additional government supports and a proven track record, private sponsors are best positioned to welcome and integrate refugees into Canadian communities.	Lead: IRCC Support: ESDC, Finance
Public opinion	An increased focus on federal, provincial, and private partnerships will better equip Canada to do its fair share to support Yemeni refugees facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis.	Lead: PMO Support: IRCC

Recommendation

Increase Canadian refugee intake to allow for 16,000 Yemeni refugees over two years to be settled and integrated through end-to-end planning.



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Thank you.
Questions?

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Appendix

1. Syrian Refugees by Province
2. Expanded Analysis
3. B.C. Unemployment Rates
4. Implementation Timeline
5. B.C. Communications Strategy
6. Assumptions

Appendix 1: Syrian Refugees by Province

Updated December 2018

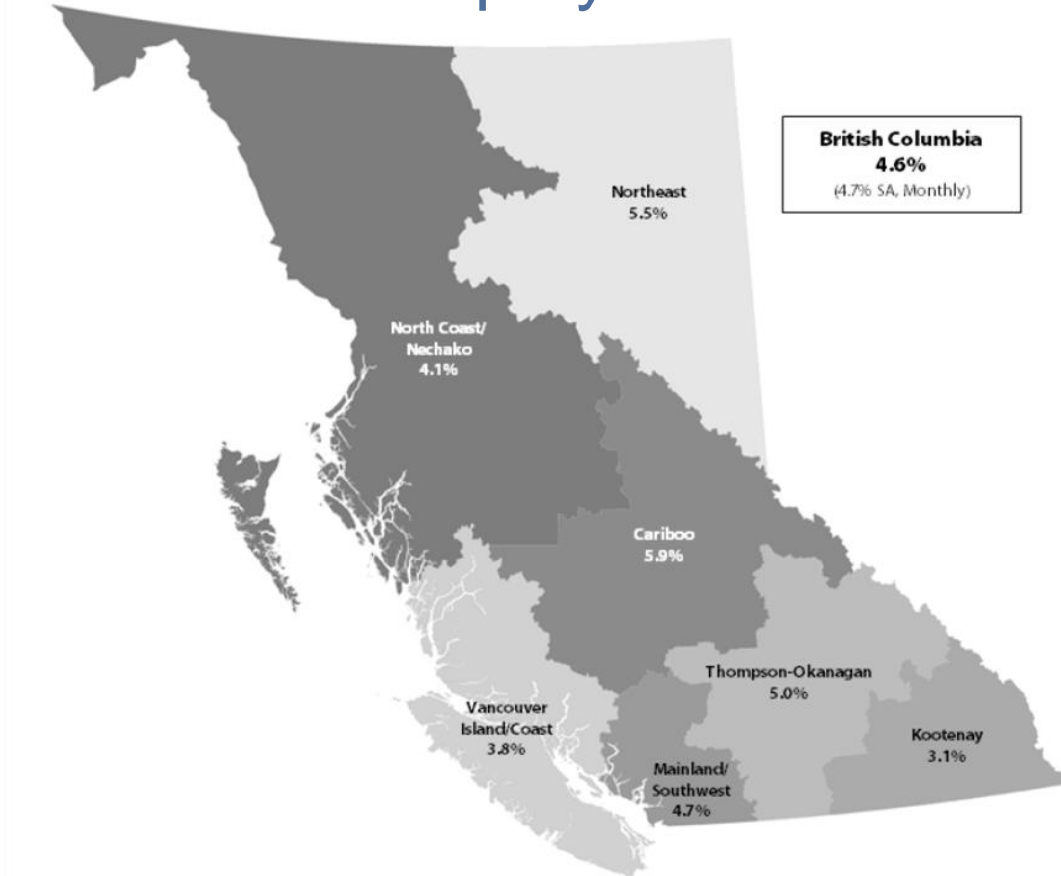
Province/Territory	BVOR	GAR	PSR	Total	Province/Territory	BVOR	GAR	PSR	Total
Newfoundland & Labrador total	135	350	100	585	Ontario total	2,925	12,440	11,635	27,005
Prince Edward Island total	45	190	140	375	Manitoba total	300	1,480	330	2,110
Nova Scotia total	345	1,085	360	1,795	Saskatchewan total	170	1,535	155	1,860
New Brunswick total	235	1,730	100	2,065	Alberta total	470	3,770	2,655	6,895
Quebec total	20	2,780	11,295	14,095	Yukon total	10	0	15	25
Northwest Territories total	5	0	0	5	British Columbia total	645	3,175	1,305	5,130
					Total	5,320	28,540	28,100	61,955

Appendix 2: Expanded Analysis

Analytical Criteria	Option A	Option B	Option C
*Key Objective: Humanitarian Relief	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Intergovernmental Relations	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Public Opinion	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Administrative Capacity	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Cost	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	LOW
Government Mandate/Commitment	LOW	HIGH	HIGH

**A designation of “LOW” in the humanitarian relief category renders the option insufficient given the key objective of responding to the humanitarian crisis.*

Appendix 3: B.C. Unemployment Rates



Appendix 4: Implementation - 2 year timeline

\$450 million total budget: reallocated from integration to processing

	Year 1: 6,000	Year 2: 10,000	Ongoing: Integration
Identify	ISED develops asset-based assessment tool with ESDC Identify sponsors for blended and private	Launch tool to facilitate matchings and settlement	Evaluation
Process	Extend 2017/18 IRCC funding to mitigate backlog of sponsors Extend blended deadline to 30 days	Match blended/private with sponsors Monitor sponsor processing time	Evaluation
Settle & Integrate	Support service providers in EN/FR language learning delivery	Ongoing	Continued support for integration and evaluate employment outcomes
Comms	Launch strategic internal and external communications Engage sponsors for blended/private	Engage sponsors for blended/private	Ongoing communications to promote refugee outcomes
Budget	\$200 million	\$200 million	\$50 million

Appendix 5: B.C. Communications Strategy

Provincial strategy – possible national extension

Objective:

- Raise profile of Yemeni refugee crisis and emphasize urgency
- Garner public and governmental support for Yemeni refugee initiative
- Address public and governmental concerns of security, capacity, and duration

Tactic:

- Media profiling of Yemen
- Statement by Premier/Prime Minister
- Highlight successes of Syrian initiative
- Leverage B.C.'s economic suitability
- Highlight IRB review process as a means to mitigate irregular crossings
- Emphasize role of private sponsors and limited government expenditure

Appendix 6: Assumptions

- All refugees are Yemeni (e.g. not Somalian refugees in Yemen)
- Refugees are in camps or urban centres in Yemen
- Yemeni refugees receive *prima facie* refugee status
 - ◆ Similar to Syrian refugee initiative, based on UNHCR distinction