



# **& BREAD BORDERS**

**EXPLORING FEARS, FACTS  
& IMPACTS ABOUT REFUGEE  
CLAIMANTS IN MANITOBA**

**A RESOURCE FOR ENGAGING IN MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE**

Prepared by the Refugee Claimant Public Education Working Group (Winnipeg)

# **Bread & Borders**

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## **Exploring Facts, Fears and Impacts About Refugee Claimants in Manitoba**

In January 2017, a cross-sectoral meeting was held in Winnipeg to develop a coordinated response to the arrival of increasing numbers of Refugee Claimants to Manitoba. While working to address the basic housing, transportation and settlement needs of these newcomers, there was recognition that a negative public narrative had emerged that was driven by misinformation and misunderstanding.

To respond to this, a number of individuals volunteered to be part of a group focused on public education activities; they became the *Refugee Claimant Public Education Working Group (Winnipeg)*.

To assist their efforts, the Working Group developed this resource as a way to engage people directly, while helping to address common myths and misconceptions about Refugee Claimants. It is hoped that these materials will be useful to Manitobans seeking to build welcoming communities for all.

August 2017



# Bread & Borders Contents:

1. **Bread & Borders: Before You Begin.** A general orientation to the resource that helps determine which is the best tool to use for your context, with some key points to consider.
2. **Bread & Borders: Conversation Process for “New Friends.”** A Conversation Circle format for when not everyone knows each other.
3. **Bread & Borders: Conversation Process for “Old Friends.”** A Conversation Circle format for when everyone knows each other.
4. **Bread & Borders: Conversation Process for Unpacking Fears, Facts and Impacts.** A Conversation Circle format for exploring common myths/misconceptions about Refugee Claimants [to be used with accompanying pages containing *Myths/Misconceptions* and *Fears, Facts & Impacts* question sheets].
5. **Bread & Borders: Refugee Quiz and Answer Key.** An introductory activity for groups of any size that overviews some key issues related to the topic.
6. **Bread & Borders: Engagement Process for Medium-Large Sized Groups.** An engagement/dialogue process for medium to larger-sized groups that focuses on unpacking common myths/misconceptions about Refugee Claimants.
7. **“Refugee Rights: Where Do You Stand?”** A *Four Corners* engagement/dialogue activity for medium to larger-sized groups that focuses on exploring perspectives on Refugees in Canada [to be used with accompanying four signs].
8. **Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees.** An overview of eight common myth/misconceptions about refugees, with clarifying context and supporting links.
9. **Talking about Refugees and Immigrants: A Glossary** (Canadian Council for Refugees)
10. **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts About Refugee Claimants in Manitoba - Sources and Additional Resources**
11. **Bread & Borders: Tips for the Hosting Conversation Circles about Refugee Claimants**
12. **Bread & Borders: Agreements.** Conversation Agreements on a single page.
13. **Bread & Borders: 8 Ways to Take Action**
14. **Bread & Borders: Process & Tool Feedback Form.** A feedback form to help the Working Group improve this resource.

## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants** ***“Before You Begin...”***

Thank you for choosing to use this resource! Note that it has been designed for use by anyone seeking to assess, develop and/or deepen their understanding; experience with facilitating and/or knowledge of refugee issues are not required. Before you start, however, here are some points to consider:

### **Which process/tool to use?**

1. How much time do you have? The underlying goal of this resource is to help people dig deeper into their perspectives; choose a process that will allow enough time for critical reflection and discussion. If you have less than an hour, consider choosing a process that introduces the ideas (i.e., the *Refugee Quiz* or *Refugee Rights: Where Do You Stand?*).
2. How large is your group? The three “Conversation Processes” are best used when the group consists of less than 12 people. If your group is larger than this you are more likely to maximize individual engagement by using the three tools suitable for larger groups.
3. What is the intended audience’s general awareness of refugee issues?
  - a. If people know little about the issues, it’s better to use a process that educates as it teases out their understandings and perspectives. The *Refugee Quiz* can be a good starting point. As part of your opening/framing, it can also be helpful to share a video or news story that helps to explain the issue (see *Sources & Additional Resources*); or refer to the *Talking About Refugees and Immigrants – A Glossary*.
  - b. If people are fairly familiar with the issues, it can be more effective to use a tool that allows them to express their own perspectives, and dig deeper into explaining why they think/feel what they do (i.e., the *Conversation Process for Old Friends*, the *Refugee Rights: Where Do You Stand?* process, or one of the tools for *Unpacking the Myths*).

\*If you’re unsure about the group’s awareness (or even if you want to ensure that people are starting out at basically the same level of understanding), you can do a simple check-in to help you assess by asking, “*What do you know about the Refugee Claimant situation happening here?*” and inviting answers. Don’t write anything or validate the answers (so that you don’t pre-empt yourself when using a tool). Based on the answers you’ll likely get a sense of which tool to use/adapt.
4. What physical space do you have to work with? The processes involve engagement and conversation. Is there wall space available for flipcharts, or tables/comfortable seating? For larger groups where concurrent conversations may be ongoing, do people have space to move around, or are they far away enough from other groups so that they won’t be distracted (i.e., by loud conversations or difficult acoustics)? If people are not comfortable, or the space is not conducive to conversation, they may not engage, and you may be doing a disservice to your efforts.

## General Comments on Using This Resource:

- ❖ While the title of this *Bread & Borders* resource is focussed on Refugee Claimants crossing the border in Manitoba, note that the tool often explores broader perspectives on claimants/asylum seekers and refugees in various Canadian locations (as often the experiences are similar, or people's understandings have not recognized the differences).
- ❖ When using the processes that explore the myths/misconceptions, consider limiting the number you have the group discuss so that the conversations can go deeper (i.e., rather than rushing through as many as you can).
- ❖ You'll note that the processes are designed in such a way as to draw out people's perspectives rather than evaluate/judge them. As many people are at different places in their understanding, and conversations about these topics can become heated or polarizing, we have intentionally set out to create processes that allow for safety for all; each person's experience is relevant and valid to them. In the spirit of dialogue and learning, information based on facts/statistics/data is provided (with the sources listed) so that people can make up their own minds about the issues.
- ❖ Note that an *Infographic Poster on Refugee Claimants* is also available for use. Please contact Immigration Partnership Winnipeg (Social Planning Council of Winnipeg) for copies: <https://www.ipwinnipeg.org/community>

The Working Group acknowledges that this work was created on Treaty One land, home of the Cree, Anishinaabe, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples; and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We are committed to working in partnership with Indigenous community members and organizations to reduce the ongoing impact of colonization as we attempt to increase the understanding of issues facing refugees/refugee claimants.

**In the spirit of reconciliation and creating *right relationships*, when delivering any of these tools we strongly encourage facilitators to offer a similar opening acknowledgement of the original peoples of this land.**

If you have any questions about this resource, or would like to access a Speakers Bureau consisting of people who can provide a "lived experience" perspective, please email [breadandborders@mtsmail.ca](mailto:breadandborders@mtsmail.ca)

## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Conversation Process for “New Friends”**

### **Purpose:**

To provide a respectful space in an informal setting (living room, dining table, etc.) for participants to explore their perspectives on the recent Refugee Claimant arrivals in Manitoba; and to enter into dialogue with people of differing views.

### **Pre-Conversation Preparation:**

Assemble between 8-12 people, including the Host; select a *talking object* to be used; print one copy each of (a) the Agreements (located near end of toolkit), and (b) the four questions on one page (located at end of instructions); and select a timing device (process will take ~90 min).

### **Conversation Process:**

As a general introduction explain that you, as Host, will guide the group through the conversation. Clarify that your role is not to provide answers or be an expert, rather to facilitate the process.

1. **Opening - Group Introductions/Check-in:** Go around room and invite people to say (a) their name; and (b) something they love about their community (however they define this).
2. **Agreements:** Point to and read over the Agreements, acknowledging that these are simply a guide to help all feel safe and respectfully engaged. Remind people that this is intended to be a group conversation (i.e., no side conversations).
  - **Open-mindedness:** Listen to and respect all points of view.
  - **Acceptance:** Suspend judgment as best you can.
  - **Curiosity:** Seek to understand rather than persuade.
  - **Discovery:** Question assumptions, look for new insights.
  - **Sincerity:** Speak from your heart and personal experience.
  - **Brevity:** Go for honesty and depth but don't go on and on.
3. **Process:** Explain that, using a talking object to indicate who can speak, each person will have an opportunity (approximately 2 minutes, depending on how long participants can stay) to respond to each of four questions, one per round. Refer to handout with questions.
  - **Round 1:** Pass around the talking object; without providing feedback or response each person speaks briefly about the Round 1 question - ***Regarding the recent Refugee Claimant/Asylum Seeker arrivals in Manitoba...what is one concern or question you have and why? (Be as specific and focused as possible in your explanation.)***
  - **Round 2:** Again with talking object, each person speaks briefly about the Round 2 question - ***Regarding the recent Refugee Claimant/Asylum Seeker arrivals in Manitoba...what is one thing you would like to see happen as a response (whether it's currently happening or you feel still needs to happen)?***
  - **Round 3:** Again with talking object, each person speaks briefly about the Round 3 question - ***Reflecting on comments already shared, what do you still want to know/understand?***

- **Final Round:** Again with the talking object, each person speaks briefly about the Final Round question - ***What is one thing you are taking away from this conversation (A new understanding? Something you want to learn more about? Something you will commit to doing to address this issue?)?***
4. **Closing:** Share resources in *Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants in Manitoba*, as appropriate. In particular, it can be helpful to provide a copy of the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees* document once the Final Round has concluded as this may help to stimulate further dialogue or address unanswered questions. Share with the group at this time, and only at this time, so as to not pre-empt the purpose of the activity.

**Here are some ways to stay at ease, curious, inviting and keep the conversation flowing:**

- ***Tell me more about...***(If your curiosity is piqued)
- ***This is what I heard you say... is it what you meant?*** (If your instinct is to counter another's statement)
- ***What led you to this point of view?*** (If you are with someone who begins advocating for a fixed position)
- ***What is most important you in a leader?*** (If you are with someone who begins championing/criticizing a leader who has taken a position on this issue)
- ***I notice your passion on this issue; what makes this so important for you?*** (If someone begins lecturing and intellectualizing)
- ***What if the opposite were true?*** (If you are with someone who always agrees with you)
- ***Can you say that in another way?*** (If you suspect you don't understand)
- ***I'd like to offer another point of view...*** (If you hold a different opinion)
- ***I'm wondering if you have some thoughts or feelings about what you've been hearing...***(If someone has been silent)
- ***If what you are proposing came to pass, how would things be different?*** (If someone's ideas are very abstract)

Adapted from:

Conversation Café: *Basic Resources for Hosts* (<http://www.conversationcafe.org/for-hosts/>)

United Way Winnipeg, *How to Host a Red Table Dinner*. (<http://unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/red-tables-a-meal-with-a-message/>)

### **Round 1:**

*Regarding the recent Refugee Claimant/Asylum Seeker arrivals in Manitoba...**what is one concern or question you have and why? (Be as specific and focused as possible in your explanation.)***

### **Round 2:**

*Regarding the recent Refugee Claimant/Asylum Seeker arrivals in Manitoba...**what is one thing you would like to see happen as a response (whether it's currently happening or you feel still needs to happen)?***

### **Round 3:**

***Reflecting on comments already shared, what do you still want to know/understand?***

### **Final Round:**

***What is one thing you are taking away from this conversation? (A new understanding? Something you want to learn more about? Something you will commit to doing to address this issue?)***



## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts About Refugee Claimants Conversation Process for “Old Friends”**

### **Purpose:**

To provide a respectful space in an informal setting (living room, dining table, etc.) for participants to explore their perspectives on the recent refugee claimant arrivals in Manitoba; and to enter into dialogue that deepens each person’s understanding.

### **Pre-Conversation Preparation:**

Assemble between 8-12 people including the Host; print one copy each of (a) the Agreements (located near end of toolkit), and (b) the Round 1 question (located at end of instructions); bring enough index cards for those invited; and select a timing device (process will take ~90 min).

### **Conversation Process:**

As a general introduction explain that you, as Host, will guide the group through the conversation. Clarify that your role is not to provide answers or be an expert, rather to facilitate the process.

1. **Opening - Group Check-in:** go around room and invite people to answer the question:  
*“What do I care about/value that has brought me here today?”*
2. **Agreements:** Point to and read over the Agreements, acknowledging that these are simply a guide to help all feel safe and respectfully engaged. Remind people that this is intended to be a group conversation (i.e., no side conversations).
  - **Open-mindedness:** Listen to and respect all points of view.
  - **Acceptance:** Suspend judgment as best you can.
  - **Curiosity:** Seek to understand rather than persuade.
  - **Discovery:** Question assumptions, look for new insights.
  - **Sincerity:** Speak from your heart and personal experience.
  - **Brevity:** Go for honesty and depth but don’t go on and on.
3. **Process:** Explain that through some facilitated reflection, together you will create your discussion questions. Pass out index cards. Refer to handout with the Round 1 question.

### **Round 1:**

- a. Ask people to write down their response, on an index card, to the following question:  
***Regarding the recent Refugee Claimant/Asylum Seeker arrivals in Manitoba...what is one question or concern you have and why? (Be as specific and focused as possible in your explanation.)***
- b. Without anyone providing feedback or response, have each person read their concern and then place it on the table (or anywhere it is visible for all to see). Emphasize to the group the importance of simply hearing people’s answers (not evaluating them).
- c. Pick 3 concerns/questions to focus on for this conversation; if some can be grouped and considered together, do so.

**Round 2:** The Host reads out the first concern/question, encouraging each person to participate in the discussion. To allow time for all to speak, individual sharing should be kept to approximately 2 minutes.

Round 3: The Host reads out the second question/ concern, encouraging each to participate.

Final Round: The Host reads out the third concern/question, encouraging each to participate.

#### 4. Closing:

- a. Go around the room and invite each person to respond to the either question:
  - ❖ What are your hopes around this issue?
  - ❖ What's one action you will take as a result of our conversation?
- b. Share resources in *Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants in Manitoba*, as appropriate. In particular, it can be helpful to provide a copy of the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees* document once the Final Round has concluded as this may help to stimulate further dialogue or address unanswered questions. Share with the group at this time, and only at this time, so as to not pre-empt the purpose of the activity.

**Here are some ways to stay at ease, curious, inviting and keep the conversation flowing:**

- ***Tell me more about...***(If your curiosity is piqued)
- ***This is what I heard you say... is it what you meant?*** (If your instinct is to counter another's statement)
- ***What led you to this point of view?*** (If you are with someone who begins advocating for a fixed position)
- ***What is most important you in a leader?*** (If you are with someone who begins championing/criticizing a leader who has taken a position on this issue)
- ***I notice your passion on this issue; what makes this so important for you?*** (If someone begins lecturing and intellectualizing)
- ***What if the opposite were true?*** (If you are with someone who always agrees with you)
- ***Can you say that in another way?*** (If you suspect you don't understand)
- ***I'd like to offer another point of view...*** (If you hold a different opinion)
- ***I'm wondering if you have some thoughts or feelings about what you've been hearing...***(If someone has been silent)
- ***If what you are proposing came to pass, how would things be different?*** (If someone's ideas are very abstract)

Adapted from:

Conversation Café: *Basic Resources for Hosts* (<http://www.conversationcafe.org/for-hosts/>)

United Way Winnipeg, *How to Host a Red Table Dinner*. (<http://unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/red-tables-a-meal-with-a-message/>)

On an index card, write down your response  
to the following question:

***Regarding the recent Refugee Claimant/  
Asylum Seeker arrivals in Manitoba...***

***What is one question or  
concern you have and why?***

***(Be as specific and focused as possible in  
your explanation.)***

## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants**

### **Conversation Process for Unpacking Fears, Facts & Impacts of Common Myths/Misconceptions**

#### **Purpose:**

To provide a respectful space in an informal setting (living room, dining table, etc.) for participants to explore common myths about the recent Refugee Claimant arrivals in Manitoba; and to enter into dialogue with people of differing views.

#### **Pre-Conversation Preparation:**

Assemble 8-12 people including the Host; print (a) Agreements on one page (located near end of toolkit), (b) each of the eight Myths/Misconceptions on a separate sheet of paper and in large font (located in next section of toolkit), (c) the handout with the Fears-Facts-Impacts questions, and (d) enough copies of the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees* handouts for each person; and select a timing device (going through all myths/misconceptions may take up to 2hrs). The duration of the activity can be shortened by reducing the amount covered.

#### **Conversation Process:**

As a general introduction explain that you, as Host, will guide the group through the conversation. Clarify that your role is not to provide answers or be an expert, rather to facilitate the process.

1. **Opening - Group Introductions/Check-in:** Go around room and invite people to say (a) their name; and (b) something they love about their community (however they define this).
2. **Agreements:** Point to and read over the Agreements, acknowledging that these are simply a guide to help all feel safe and respectfully engaged. Remind people that this is intended to be a group conversation (i.e., no side conversations).
  - **Open-mindedness:** Listen to and respect all points of view.
  - **Acceptance:** Suspend judgment as best you can.
  - **Curiosity:** Seek to understand rather than persuade.
  - **Discovery:** Question assumptions, look for new insights.
  - **Sincerity:** Speak from your heart and personal experience.
  - **Brevity:** Go for honesty and depth but don't go on and on.
3. **Process:**
  - a. **Round 1:** Select one of the accompanying Myth/Misconception handouts to explore, read it out loud, and then place it where everyone can see it. As you pose each of the following questions, place the corresponding question sheet where all can see...
    - **What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth/misconception?\*** Allow a maximum of 10 minutes for conversation.
    - **What "FACTS" appear to support this myth/misconception?\*** Allow a maximum of 10 minutes for conversation.
    - **What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth/misconception, for you personally, and for society?\*** Allow a maximum of 10 minutes for conversation.

**\*Note that the Fears-Facts-Impacts handouts each include two clarification questions to help participants better understand what's being asked, and to help them dig deeper into their perspectives. Be sure to read these out loud.**

To close the round, the Host will read the information associated with the Myth/Misconception in the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* document. (Do not provide participants with this until the very end.)

- b. **Round 2:** Select another Myth/Misconception to explore, read it out loud, and then place handout where everyone can see it. Repeat the Fears-Facts-Impacts questions/process.
- c. **Round 3:** Select a final Myth/Misconception to explore, read it out loud, and then place handout where everyone can see it. Repeat the Fears-Facts-Impacts questions/process.

#### 4. Closing:

- a. Read out the remainder of the Myths/Misconceptions that were not explored.
- b. Hand out the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* document.
- c. Go around the room and ask each person to respond to the question, “**What is one thing you are taking away from this conversation (A new understanding? Something you want to learn more about? Something you will commit to doing to address this issue?)?**”
- d. Share resources in *Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants in Manitoba*, as appropriate.

#### Here are some ways to stay at ease, curious, inviting and keep the conversation flowing:

- **Tell me more about...**(If your curiosity is piqued)
- **This is what I heard you say... is it what you meant?** (If your instinct is to counter another’s statement)
- **What led you to this point of view?** (If you are with someone who begins advocating for a fixed position)
- **What is most important you in a leader?** (If you are with someone who begins championing/criticizing a leader who has taken a position on this issue)
- **I notice your passion on this issue; what makes this so important for you?** (If someone begins lecturing and intellectualizing)
- **What if the opposite were true?** (If you are with someone who always agrees with you)
- **Can you say that in another way?** (If you suspect you don’t understand)
- **I’d like to offer another point of view...** (If you hold a different opinion)
- **I’m wondering if you have some thoughts or feelings about what you’ve been hearing...**(If someone has been silent)
- **If what you are proposing came to pass, how would things be different?** (If someone’s ideas are very abstract)

Adapted from:

Conversation Café: *Basic Resources for Hosts* (<http://www.conversationcafe.org/for-hosts/>)

United Way Winnipeg, *How to Host a Red Table Dinner*. (<http://unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/red-tables-a-meal-with-a-message/>)



**Myth/Misconception #1:**  
**Refugees are weakening**  
**Canadian identity.**

**Myth/Misconception #2:**  
**Refugees who cross the border without going to an official Port of Entry must be charged for breaking the law.**

**Myth/Misconception #3:**  
**Refugee Claimants are a**  
**threat to our security.**

**Myth/Misconception #4:**  
**Refugees are an economic  
burden, and a drain on our  
social programs.**

**Myth/Misconception #5:**  
**Refugee Claimants are**  
**queue jumpers.**



**Myth/Misconception #6:**  
**Canada is being**  
**overwhelmed by refugees.**

**Myth/Misconception #7:**  
**The United States is a safe  
country for refugees.**

**Myth/Misconception #8:**

**We should help those who live here first, instead of helping Refugee Claimants.**

**What FEARS do you think are  
at the root of this  
myth/misconception?**

What are people afraid of?

What's the underlying idea that makes people uncomfortable?

# What “FACTS” appear to support this myth/misconception?

What do people believe is true about refugees that allows them to think this perspective is accurate?

What information or images have led people to believe this?



**What do you think are the  
IMPACTS of this  
myth/misconception,  
for you personally,  
and for society?**

Why does it matter if people think this is true?

Who is affected by people thinking this is true, and how?

## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Refugee Quiz & Answer Key**

### **Purpose:**

To explore/deepen participant understanding about recent Refugee Claimant arrivals to Canada by providing access to accurate information and helpful resources.

### **Materials required:**

1. Copies of the *Quiz on Refugees* handout (enough for each participant).
2. Copies of the *Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key* handout (enough for each participant).
3. *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout (as required).

### **Process:**

1. Explain the purpose (above) of the activity.
2. Give each person a *Quiz on Refugees* handout, and instruct them to answer each question by selecting the response they think is correct. Allow sufficient time for all to complete (approximately 5-10 minutes).
3. Debrief using one of the following formats:
  - a. Read out the first question and ask for volunteers to share their answers. After some have been shared, provide the answer (using the *Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key*), and invite comments/questions. Repeat this process for all questions and then provide each person with the *Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key*.
  - b. Provide each person with the *Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key*. As a group, go through each question, and read out the answers, inviting comments/questions along the way.
4. To end activity, invite participants to share a new learning or question they have as a result of completing the quiz. If it's evident that further clarifications would be helpful, provide copies of the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout.

### **Alternatives**

- ❖ Divide the group into 2 teams. For the first question, invite a member of each team to the front (or to a designated area) and have them compete to provide the answer (i.e., game show-style = press a button, squeeze a horn, etc.). Let the group know if the answer provided was correct (and/or read the correct answer) and, using the *Refugee Quiz: Answer Key*, provide a brief explanation. Repeat the process for the remaining questions.
- ❖ Divide the group into pairs/triads. Provide the *Refugee Quiz* to each pair/triad and have them discuss and answer each the question. Once they have done this (approximately 15 minutes), provide them with the *Refugee Quiz: Answer Key* and invite them to check their answers/read the explanations.

# Quiz on Refugees

- 1. In 1939 Canada turned away a ship of over 900 Jewish refugees fleeing Germany.**  
 True     False
- 2. How many refugees were there (worldwide) by the end of 2016?**  
a. 2.8 million    b. 22.5 million    c. 40.3 million    d. 65.6 million
- 3. In response to the immigration policies introduced by the Trump Administration, human rights organizations like Amnesty International started to oppose Canada's *Safe Third Country Agreement* with the United States.**  
 True     False
- 4. Evidence shows that refugees from the countries included in the Trump Administration's travel ban pose a greater risk to the safety and security of Americans.**  
 True     False
- 5. Over the past 16 years, what was the average annual number of Refugee Claimants arriving in Canada?**  
a. 1,100    b. 13,300    c. 25,500    d. 30,700
- 6. In 2016, which country received the highest number of refugees?**  
a. Lebanon    b. Germany    c. Canada    d. Turkey
- 7. What percentage of the world's refugees are ever resettled?**  
a. 1%    b. 5%    c. 10%    d. 25%
- 8. How many Syrian refugees did Canada resettle between November 4, 2015 and January 29, 2017?**  
a. 3,930    b. 14,270    c. 21,880    d. 40,080
- 9. Refugees receive significantly more money in income assistance than Canadian senior citizens who are collecting a pension.**  
 True     False
- 10. Refugees have higher unemployment rates than people who were born in Canada.**  
 True     False

# Quiz on Refugees: Answer Key

1. **In 1939 Canada turned away a ship of over 900 Jewish refugees fleeing Germany.**

**True**

The St. Louis sailed from Hamburg in 1939. There were 937 Jewish refugees on board who were fleeing a dangerous situation in Europe. After being turned away by Cuba, their original destination, the ship sought safe haven in the United States, and then in Canada. Canada, like the other countries, refused to admit these refugees. The ship returned to Europe where 254 of the passengers died in the Holocaust.

Source: <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ms-st-louis/>

2. **How many refugees were there (worldwide) by the end of 2016?**

**b. 22.5**

By the end of 2016 there were record levels of displacement worldwide. There were a total of 65.6 million forcibly displaced due to persecution conflict, violence or human rights violations (22.5 refugees + 40.3 internally displaced + 2.8 million asylum seekers). More than half (51%) of these refugees are children under 18. 75,000 unaccompanied children under the age of 18 (i.e., those separated from their families) claimed asylum in 70 countries in 2016.

Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/>

3. **In response to the immigration policies introduced by the Trump Administration, human rights organizations like Amnesty International started to oppose Canada's *Safe Third Country Agreement* with the United States.**

**False**

The Canadian Council for Refugees and Amnesty International have both opposed the Safe Third Country Agreement since it came into effect in 2004 because of longstanding concerns about the protection of refugees in the United States (U.S.). Because of U.S. laws and how they are implemented, some refugees who receive protection in Canada are denied refugee status in the U.S. In 2007, the Federal Court of Canada agreed with these organizations, ruling that the U.S. does not always protect refugees as required under international law.

Source: <http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/tell-your-mp-usa-isnt-safe-refugees>

**4. Evidence shows that refugees from the countries included in the Trump Administration’s travel ban pose a greater risk to the safety and security of Americans.**

**❑ False**

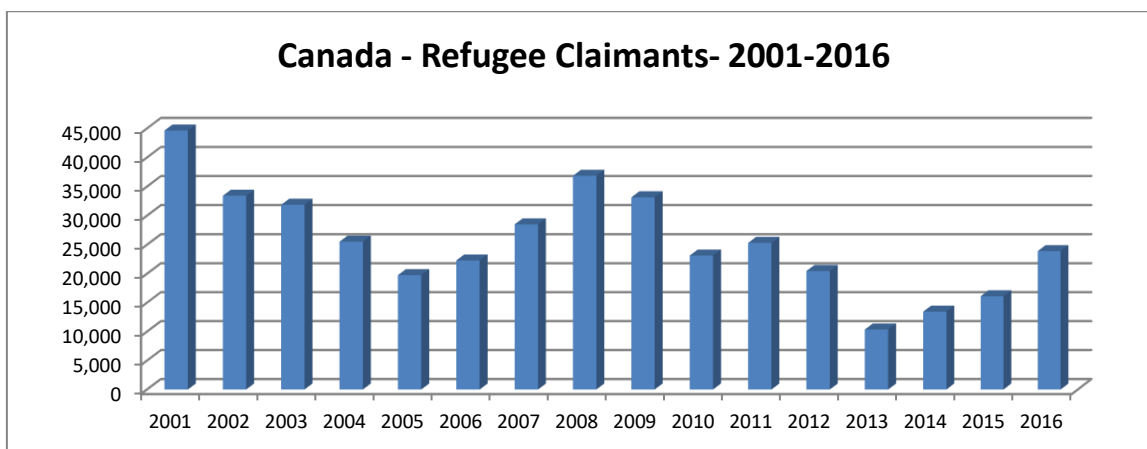
There is no evidence to support the argument that an increase in the number of Refugee Claimants is associated with decreased security for North Americans. The CATO Institute published a comprehensive study of the risk of terrorism from different categories of immigrants in the United States. Since 1975, there have been no terrorist attacks by refugees or Asylum Seekers from the countries named in the Trump Administration’s travel ban (Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen).

Sources: <https://www.newamerica.org/international-security/blog/trumps-travel-ban-would-not-have-prevented-single-death-jihadist-terror/>  
<https://www.cato.org/blog/five-reasons-congress-should-repeal-trumps-immigrant-refugee-ban>  
<https://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/terrorism-immigration-risk-analysis>

**5. Over the past 16 years, what was the average annual number of Refugee Claimants arriving in Canada?**

**c. 25,500**

Although the number of annual claims has gone up and down over the years, 25,000 refugee claims per year has been the approximate annual average for more than 20 years in Canada. **Canadians are noticing a recent increase in the number of Refugee Claimants at some border crossings, but this is only an increase compared to the unusually low numbers of claims in the past few years.** In 2016, there were a total of 23,894 refugee claims in Canada which is consistent with the historical average.

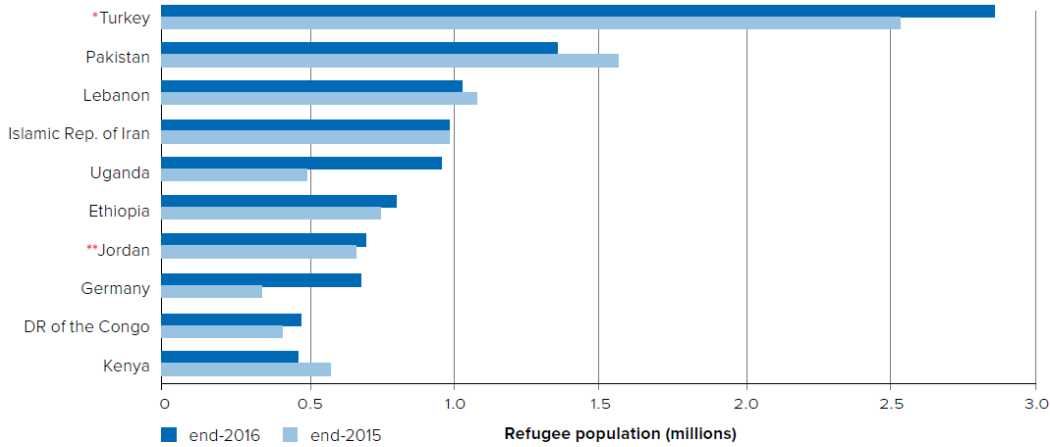


Source: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/infographic-asylum.asp>



**6. In 2016, which country received the highest number of refugees?**  
**d. Turkey**

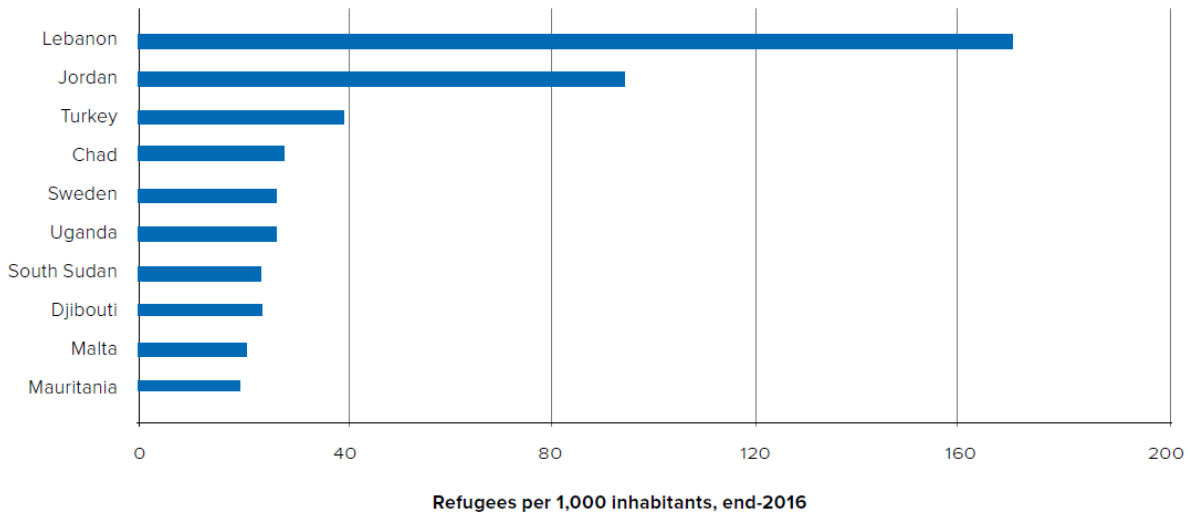
Turkey has 2.9 million refugees.



\* Refugee figure for Syrians in Turkey was a Government estimate.  
 \*\* Includes 33,100 Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan. The Government estimated the number of Iraqis at 400,000 individuals at the end of March 2015. This includes refugees and other categories of Iraqis.

Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/>

Lebanon has the highest number of refugees per capita – 169 for every 1,000 people in Canada.



Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/>

Only a small minority of refugees and Asylum Seekers make claims in the world’s richest countries, including Canada. By the end of 2016 Canada had just about 3 refugees for every 1,000 people living in Canada.

## 7. What percentages of the world's refugees are ever resettled?

a. 1%



Source: <http://www.unhcr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Canada-Resettlement-Fact-Sheet-March-2017.v2.pdf>

The need for refugee resettlement far exceeds the opportunities for resettlement. According to the UNHCR, less than 1% of the world's refugees will ever find a safe haven by being resettled. Refugee camps are not orderly processing centres where claimants arrive, take a number, and are processed in a systematic fashion. The process of resettlement operates more like a lottery than a queue. It is only a lucky few who are able to find permanent resettlement, and start the process of rebuilding their lives in safety.

Many refugees know that it is unlikely they will be selected for resettlement by the UNHCR. If the mythical refugee queue actually existed, refugees joining at the end of the line might have to wait for 100 years to get to the front. As such, some refugees resort to taking what is often a dangerous journey in search of safety for themselves and their families.

## 8. How many Syrian refugees did Canada resettle between November 4, 2015 and January 29, 2017?

d. 40,080

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Government-Assisted Refugee</b>          | 21,876        |
| <b>Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugee</b> | 3,931         |
| <b>Privately Sponsored Refugee</b>          | 14,274        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                | <b>40,081</b> |

Source: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/welcome/milestones.asp>

9. Refugees receive significantly more money in income assistance than Canadian senior citizens who are collecting a pension.

False

For many years, a persistent chain email has been circulating claiming that refugees receive significantly more money in income assistance than Canadians collecting a pension. The information, which is based on a letter published in the *Toronto Star*, is false. The record has been set straight by the federal government and the Canadian Council for Refugees.

Refugees come to Canada in different ways but, no matter the category, receive very limited income assistance from the government (if any). No category receives more than the minimum amount for provincial social assistance.



Sources: Canadian Council for Refugees, *Refugees and Income Assistance - Rebutting the Chain Email ("Pensioners' Myth")*. <http://ccrweb.ca/en/pensioners-myth>  
Canadian Council for Refugees, *Refugees: Myths... Busted! Choosing Facts over Fears*. <http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-myths-busted-choosing-facts-over-fear>

10. Refugees have higher unemployment rates than people who were born in Canada.

True and  False

Refugees are prepared to work hard to become financially self-sufficient but they face many barriers to finding employment, such as: discrimination; lack of professional networks; language and skills differences; and lack of documentation to prove their education and training. Partly due to these barriers, the employment rate for newcomers is initially lower when compared to persons born in Canada.

The majority of refugees eventually succeed in overcoming barriers and finding gainful employment. **Refugees eventually attain equivalent employment rates to the Canadian average once they have had a chance to get settled.**

Sources: Statistics Canada, *2011 National Household Survey - Data Table 99-010-X2011046*. <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/index-eng.cfm>  
Statistics Canada, *CANSIM Tables - Labour Force Characteristics by Immigrant Status of Population*. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/labor90a-eng.htm>  
Transatlantic Council on Migration, *The Economic Integration of Refugees in Canada: a Mixed Record?* L. Wilkinson and J. Garcea. April 2017. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/economic-integration-refugees-canada-mixed-record>

## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Engagement Process for Medium-Large Sized Groups**

### **Purpose:**

To explore common myths/misconceptions about the Refugee Claimant arrivals in Manitoba; and to deepen understanding by providing access to accurate information and helpful resources.

### **Resources Required:**

1. *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout (1 per group)
2. Fears, Facts & Impacts Worksheets (1 set per group)

### **Process:**

1. Explain purpose of activity (above).
2. Divide into groups of 4 people.
3. Provide each group with a set of “Fears, Facts & Impacts Worksheets” (located at end of instructions).
4. Have the groups read the Myth/Misconception #1 and answer the three questions identified. Allow up to ten minutes to complete the questions. Repeat the same process for the remaining Myths/Misconceptions (#2 to #8).
5. Once each group has gone over each of the eight Myths/Misconceptions, provide them a copy of the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout and invite them to review the document, comparing their answers to the information provided.
6. Debrief by inviting participants to share a new learning, or something they will commit to doing as a result of having a more informed understanding. Allow space for a few people to share.

Alternatively:

- a. The facilitator can identify a few Myths/Misconceptions they would like to focus on, read the first one out loud, and invite a group brainstorming on the three questions (What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth? What “FACTS” appear to support this myth? What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth, for you personally, and for society?). After the first myth has been explored in this way, the facilitator can read out the information in the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout. Then the process can be repeated for the remaining Myths/Misconceptions selected.
- b. Create eight groups, one to explore each myth/misconception. Have the group answer the three questions for their assigned myth/misconception, and then provide them with the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout so that they can compare their answers to the information provided.

**Myth/Misconception #1:**  
**Refugees are weakening Canadian identity.**

**What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth/misconception?**

What are people afraid of? What's the underlying idea that makes people uncomfortable?

**What "FACTS" appear to support this myth/misconception?**

What do people believe is true about refugees that allows them to think this perspective is accurate? What information or images have led people to believe this?

**What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth/misconception, for you personally, and for society?**

Why does it matter if people think this is true? Who is affected by people thinking this is true, and how?

## **Myth/Misconception #2:**

**Refugees who cross the border without going to an official Port of Entry must be charged for breaking the law.**

**What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth/misconception?**

What are people afraid of? What's the underlying idea that makes people uncomfortable?

**What "FACTS" appear to support this myth/misconception?**

What do people believe is true about refugees that allows them to think this perspective is accurate? What information or images have led people to believe this?

**What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth/misconception, for you personally, and for society?**

Why does it matter if people think this is true? Who is affected by people thinking this is true, and how?

### **Myth/Misconception #3:**

## **Refugee Claimants are a threat to our security.**

### **What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth/misconception?**

What are people afraid of? What's the underlying idea that makes people uncomfortable?

### **What "FACTS" appear to support this myth/misconception?**

What do people believe is true about refugees that allows them to think this perspective is accurate? What information or images have led people to believe this?

### **What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth/misconception, for you personally, and for society?**

Why does it matter if people think this is true? Who is affected by people thinking this is true, and how?

## **Myth/Misconception #4:**

**Refugees are an economic burden, and  
a drain on our social programs.**

**What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth/misconception?**

What are people afraid of? What's the underlying idea that makes people uncomfortable?

**What "FACTS" appear to support this myth/misconception?**

What do people believe is true about refugees that allows them to think this perspective is accurate? What information or images have led people to believe this?

**What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth/misconception, for you personally, and for society?**

Why does it matter if people think this is true? Who is affected by people thinking this is true, and how?



**Myth/Misconception #5:**  
**Refugee Claimants are queue jumpers.**

**What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth/misconception?**

What are people afraid of? What's the underlying idea that makes people uncomfortable?

**What "FACTS" appear to support this myth/misconception?**

What do people believe is true about refugees that allows them to think this perspective is accurate? What information or images have led people to believe this?

**What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth/misconception, for you personally, and for society?**

Why does it matter if people think this is true? Who is affected by people thinking this is true, and how?

## **Myth/Misconception #6:**

### **Canada is being overwhelmed by refugees.**

**What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth/misconception?**

What are people afraid of? What's the underlying idea that makes people uncomfortable?

**What "FACTS" appear to support this myth/misconception?**

What do people believe is true about refugees that allows them to think this perspective is accurate? What information or images have led people to believe this?

**What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth/misconception, for you personally, and for society?**

Why does it matter if people think this is true? Who is affected by people thinking this is true, and how?

## **Myth/Misconception #7:**

**The United States is a safe country for refugees.**

**What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth/misconception?**

What are people afraid of? What's the underlying idea that makes people uncomfortable?

**What "FACTS" appear to support this myth/misconception?**

What do people believe is true about refugees that allows them to think this perspective is accurate? What information or images have led people to believe this?

**What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth/misconception, for you personally, and for society?**

Why does it matter if people think this is true? Who is affected by people thinking this is true, and how?

## **Myth/Misconception #8:**

**We should help those who live here first,  
instead of helping Refugee Claimants.**

**What FEARS do you think are at the root of this myth/misconception?**

What are people afraid of? What's the underlying idea that makes people uncomfortable?

**What "FACTS" appear to support this myth/misconception?**

What do people believe is true about refugees that allows them to think this perspective is accurate? What information or images have led people to believe this?

**What do you think are the IMPACTS of this myth/misconception, for you personally, and for society?**

Why does it matter if people think this is true? Who is affected by people thinking this is true, and how?

## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants** **Process for Using *Refugee Rights: Where Do You Stand?***

### **Purpose:**

To respectfully explore perspectives about recent Refugee Claimant arrivals to Canada.

### **Materials required:**

1. Copies of the *Refugee Rights: Where Do You Stand* handout.
2. 4 signs (see attached): Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree.
3. Tape or adhesive material.
4. *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout.

### **Process:**

1. In advance, prepare the space by putting up the four signs in four different corners of the room (Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree).
2. When all are in their seats, explain the purpose (above) of the interactive activity they are about to do. Acknowledge that people may have very different viewpoints, and that the goal isn't to persuade others or defend opinions; rather to gain a deeper understanding of various views.
3. Give each person a *Refugee Rights* handout. While they're sitting, invite them to individually read the statements and, for each, decide if they *Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree* or *Strongly Disagree* with it. Have them circle their answers. Allow a maximum of 5 minutes to complete.
4. As the facilitator, identify any/one statement to explore as a group. Read it out loud and ask them to move to the corner with the sign that reflects their answer (give them time to do so).
5. Invite them to discuss why they are standing where they are with 2-3 others who are around them (give approximately 1-2 minutes to do so). Emphasize the importance of "*listening to understand others, without interrupting or evaluating/judging their comments.*"
6. When it's clear that groups have had adequate time to discuss, stop the conversation by asking for their attention.
  - Explain that you will ask to hear 2-3 perspectives per corner, and that it's your goal to **have each person share uninterrupted, and without comments** from the larger group.
  - Starting with the corner with the fewest number of people, invite one person to share why they stood in that corner. **Paraphrase the sharing** (as best you can), and **without adding your own comments**. Then invite 1-2 more people who may have said something different than the first person.
  - Move to the next corner with the next fewest number, and so on, until you have heard from each corner.
7. Repeat process with up to 2 more statements (more, if time permits).
8. **Debrief:** Indicate that, "*perspectives are informed by belief, experiences and information. Before acting on our perspectives ensure we understand their origin, and the potential personal and social impact.*" For more context on the subject participants can refer to the *Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugee Claimants* handout (share with the group at this time, and only at this time, so as to not pre-empt the purpose of the activity).

# Refugee Rights

## *Where Do You Stand?*

- 1. People who enter Canada outside of an official border crossing should be charged with a crime.**  
a) Strongly Disagree      b) Disagree      c) Agree      d) Strongly Agree
- 2. The international community is doing a good job protecting the rights of refugees.**  
a) Strongly Disagree      b) Disagree      c) Agree      d) Strongly Agree
- 3. Canada is a world leader in refugee protection and resettlement.**  
a) Strongly Disagree      b) Disagree      c) Agree      d) Strongly Agree
- 4. Refugee Claimants should wait for resettlement through the proper channels, instead of jumping the queue by coming to Canada directly.**  
a) Strongly Disagree      b) Disagree      c) Agree      d) Strongly Agree
- 5. We need to make sure that people in our own communities are getting the help they need first, before reaching out to help refugees.**  
a) Strongly Disagree      b) Disagree      c) Agree      d) Strongly Agree
- 6. Refugees need resettlement supports to integrate successfully so we should not admit more refugees into Manitoba than the system can handle.**  
a) Strongly Disagree      b) Disagree      c) Agree      d) Strongly Agree
- 7. The government has a responsibility to ensure that we do not allow people into Canada who could be a threat to our security.**  
a) Strongly Disagree      b) Disagree      c) Agree      d) Strongly Agree
- 8. Because Asylum Seekers are unable to work legally in Canada, they are a drain on our social services.**  
a) Strongly Disagree      b) Disagree      c) Agree      d) Strongly Agree
- 9. I am doing more than enough to support refugees and Refugee Claimants.**  
a) Strongly Disagree      b) Disagree      c) Agree      d) Strongly Agree

**Strongly Agree**

Agree



**Disagree**

**Strongly Disagree**

**Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants  
Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees**

## Overview

| Myth/Misconception  | Some Key Points & Facts   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1. Refugees are weakening Canadian identity.</b></p>  | <p>Indigenous peoples are the original inhabitants of this land; their rich and diverse cultures have formed the very foundation of Canadian identity. All others came (or have ancestors who came) to Canada as immigrants.</p> <p>Diversity is not new. A hundred years ago, Canada was already quite diverse.</p> <p>Part of our identity is responding to others in our community with empathy and compassion.</p>  |
| <p><b>2. Refugees who cross the border without going to an official Port of Entry must be charged for breaking the law.</b></p> | <p>It would actually be illegal for Canadian authorities to prosecute refugees who bypass an official Port of Entry and enter Canada through irregular channels.</p> <p>Seeking asylum from persecution is a fundamental right. The <i>1951 United Nations Refugee Convention</i> and Canada's <i>Immigration and Refugee Protection Act</i> both say that refugees must not be penalized for breaking immigration laws in order to enter the country to seek asylum.</p>   |
| <p><b>3. Refugee Claimants are a threat to our security.</b></p>  | <p>Refugees are not threats to security – they are seeking security and protection from threats to their own lives.</p> <p>Refugee Claimants and resettled refugees all go through significant security screening. Individuals who have been convicted of serious criminal offences are not eligible to seek asylum in Canada.</p> <p>Numerous research studies have shown that immigrants (including those who arrived as Refugee Claimants) have lower rates of criminal activity and incarceration.</p>  |
| <p><b>4. Refugees are an economic burden, and a drain on our social programs.</b></p>   | <p>Refugees receive very limited income assistance from the government (if any).</p> <p>While refugees generally start out with lower employment rates, once they have settled they often end up having equivalent employment rates to the Canadian average.</p> <p>Refugees generally have higher rates of business ownership and thus generate economic activity for Canada – they are job creators.</p>  |
| <p><b>5. Refugee Claimants are queue jumpers.</b></p>   | <p>There is no official queue/line of refugees seeking asylum. There are no “proper” or “normal” channels for refugees to seek protection. The process of refugee resettlement operates more like a lottery than a queue. It is only a lucky few who are able to find permanent resettlement and start the process of rebuilding their lives in safety.</p> <p>According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, less than 1% of the world’s refugees will ever find a safe haven by being resettled. If the mythical refugee queue actually existed, refugees joining at the end of the line might have to wait for 100 years to get to the front.</p> |

**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**

**Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants  
Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees**

| <b>Myth/Misconception</b>  | <b>Some Key Points &amp; Facts</b>  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>6. Canada is being overwhelmed by refugees.</b></p>  | <p>There are over 65 million forcibly displaced people around the world; 22 million of them are refugees. According to the United Nations, we are witnessing the highest numbers of displaced people ever.</p> <p>Only a small minority of Asylum Seekers make claims in the world's richest countries, including Canada.</p> <p>In 2016, there were a total of 23,894 refugee claims in Canada; this is consistent with the historical average of 25,000 refugee claims per year.</p>  |
| <p><b>7. The United States is a safe country for refugees.</b></p>                               | <p>Canada's "<i>Safe Third Country Agreement</i>" with the United States (U.S.) means that Asylum Seekers in the U.S. must make their refugee claim there, instead of in Canada. This limitation leads to more irregular arrivals (i.e., crossing the border at points other than official Ports of Entry).</p> <p>The Canadian Council for Refugees and Amnesty International have both opposed the <i>Safe Third Country Agreement</i> because of longstanding concerns about the protection of refugees in the U.S. In 2007, the Federal Court of Canada agreed with these organizations, ruling that the U.S. does not always protect refugees as required under international law.</p> <p>The situation now is significantly worse. The Trump Administration has adopted an arbitrary immigration enforcement approach, as well as anti-refugee and anti-Muslim measures. This means we cannot be confident that refugees sent back to the U.S. will have their basic rights protected. Areas of concern include the confinement of children in U.S. detention centres, and the return of refugees to countries where they face the risk of imprisonment, torture or death. Due to these concerns, Refugee Claimants are increasingly choosing to cross the border through irregular channels.</p> |
| <p><b>8. We should help those who live here first, instead of helping Refugee Claimants.</b></p> | <p>Refugee Claimants are members of our community. Helping one vulnerable group does not prevent us from also helping others who need support. Instead of adopting an "us" versus "them" approach, Manitobans from different backgrounds are coming together to assist Refugee Claimants during their first few weeks in our community.</p> <p>In response to the arrival of Refugee Claimants, former refugees themselves have taken a lead role in working with government departments, service providers, ethnocultural community associations, churches, etc. to coordinate a comprehensive resettlement plan.</p> <p>Former refugees have also raised money and volunteered their time to address other pressing community issues such as poverty, homelessness and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. We all have a role to play in helping each other, and in making our community as strong as possible.</p>  |

**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**

## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees**

### **Myth/Misconception #1: *Refugees are weakening Canadian identity.***

- ❖ **Indigenous peoples are the original inhabitants of this land**, and occupied North America for thousands of years before European settlers arrived. As the first peoples of Canada, **their rich and diverse cultures have formed the very foundation of Canadian identity.**
- ❖ **All others came (or have ancestors who came) to Canada as immigrants.** For many decades, Scottish, Polish, Italian, Jewish, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Czech, Chinese, Chilean, Bosnian, Kosovar, etc. communities have come to Canada as refugees who were seeking a place of safety from persecution, war or violence.
- ❖ **A hundred years ago, Canada was already quite diverse.** The population included First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples; a significant Chinese population, especially in the West; African-Canadians who had been living in Canada for generations; and people of different European heritages. This diversity has often been denied or forgotten due to racism and assimilation policies/practices.
- ❖ **Part of our identity is responding to others in our community with empathy and compassion.**

*“Manitoba has always been a safe and welcoming place, and Manitobans have a well-deserved reputation within Canada for compassion and willingness to help those in need. Just as we have opened our arms to newcomers for centuries, our province continues to provide significant supports to those organizations offering direct services to Refugee Claimants.”*

- Premier Pallister’s announcement of supports for Refugee Claimants on February 23, 2017

*“In Canada, we see diversity as a source of strength, not weakness. **Our country is strong not in spite of our differences, but because of them.** And make no mistake: we have had many failures, from the internment of Ukrainian, Japanese and Italian Canadians during the World Wars; to our turning away boats of Jewish and Punjabi refugees; to the shamefully continuing marginalization of Indigenous Peoples. What matters is that we learn from our mistakes, and recommit ourselves to doing better. To that end, in recent months, Canadians have opened their arms and their hearts to families fleeing the ongoing conflict in Syria. And from the moment they arrived, those 31,000 refugees were welcomed – not as burdens, but as neighbours and friends. As new Canadians.”*

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s address to the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

#### Sources & Additional Resources

1. Canadian Council for Refugees, *Facing Facts: Myths and Misconceptions about Refugees and Immigrants in Canada.* <http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/documents/FFacts.htm>
2. Government of Canada, *Canada – A History of Refuge.* <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/timeline.asp>
3. Government of Canada – *Aboriginal History in Canada.* <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100013778/1100100013779>
4. Government of Manitoba, *News Release – Government of Manitoba Provides Emergency Supports for Refugee Claimants.* <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=40830>
5. Prime Minister’s Office, *Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s Address to the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.* <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/09/20/prime-minister-justin-trudeaus-address-71st-session-united-nations-general-assembly>

**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary.***

**Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants  
Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees**

**Myth/Misconception #2:  
*Refugees who cross the border without going to an official  
Port of Entry must be charged for breaking the law.***

- ❖ **It would actually be illegal for Canada to prosecute refugees who bypass an official Port of Entry and enter Canada through irregular channels.**
- ❖ Seeking asylum from persecution is a fundamental right, as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 14 states that, ***“everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.”***
- ❖ After World War Two, 145 countries agreed to protect refugees through the *1951 United Nations Refugee Convention*. During the war many countries, including Canada, had denied entry to Jewish refugees fleeing persecution by the Nazis.
- ❖ **The *1951 United Nations Refugee Convention* and Canada’s *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* both say that refugees must not be penalized for breaking immigration laws in order to enter the country to seek asylum.**
- ❖ Refugee Claimants have a legal right to a compassionate and fair review of their cases, and adequate supports until a decision is made.

Sources & Additional Resources

1. Canadian Council for Refugees, *Refugees entering from US and Safe Third Country: FAQ*. <http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugees-entering-us-and-safe-third-country-faq>
2. Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations (MANSO), *Refugee Claimants Crossing Borders Irregularly*. <http://mansomanitoba.ca/resource-category/refugee-claimants/>
3. United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Rights*. <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights>
4. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status and of Refugees*. <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10>

**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**

**Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants  
Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees**

**Myth/Misconception #3:  
*Refugee Claimants are a threat to our security.***

- ❖ **Refugees are not threats to security – they are seeking security and protection from threats to their own lives.** They have been targeted because of their race, religion, political opinion, nationality or membership in a particular group; and have been forced to leave their homes to escape torture, imprisonment, violence and mass killings.
- ❖ It is far more difficult to enter Canada as a refugee than as a visitor. **Refugee Claimants and resettled refugees all go through significant security screening. Individuals who have been convicted of serious criminal offences are not eligible to seek asylum in Canada.**
- ❖ All Refugee Claimants are subject to immediate criminality and security checks, conducted by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), in partnership with other relevant government agencies such as the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). It is not likely that a person intending to commit a violent act would submit to such detailed examinations.
- ❖ There is no evidence to support the argument that an increase in the number of Refugee Claimants is associated with decreased security for North Americans. The CATO Institute published a comprehensive study of the risk of terrorism from different categories of immigrants in the United States. Since 1975 there have been no terrorist attacks by refugees or Asylum Seekers from the countries named in the Trump Administration's travel ban. Based on the data, Americans are more likely to be killed by their own clothes (igniting or melting) than by an immigrant terrorist.
- ❖ Numerous research studies have shown that immigrants (including immigrants who arrived as Refugee Claimants) have lower rates of criminal activity and incarceration.

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**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**



**Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants  
Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees**

**Myth/Misconception #4:**

***Refugees are an economic burden, and a drain on our social programs.***

- ❖ **Refugees do not come to Canada to abuse the system or get rich.** Canada has a process for determining refugee status that distinguishes refugees from economic immigrants. Unlike economic immigrants, refugees come to Canada seeking protection. The wars and circumstances that caused people to flee their countries seldom discriminate between the rich or poor; and many refugees led successful lives before being forced to leave everything behind in search of safety.
- ❖ **For many years, a persistent chain email has been circulating claiming that refugees receive significantly more money in income assistance than Canadians collecting a pension. The information, which is based on a letter published in the Toronto Star, is false.** The record has been set straight by the Government of Canada, and the Canadian Council for Refugees.
- ❖ **Refugees come to Canada in different ways but, no matter the category, receive very limited income assistance from the government (if any).** No category receives more than the minimum amount for provincial social assistance.
- ❖ **Refugee Claimants are entitled to very little support when they first arrive in Canada.** Unlike refugees who are sponsored by the government or by private sponsors, Refugee Claimants are not eligible for services funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.
- ❖ **Manitobans are stepping up to address this gap.**
  - ✓ On February 23, 2017, the Government of Manitoba committed funding to help with the transportation of Refugee Claimants from the border; the provision of paralegal supports; and the expansion of temporary accommodation available to Refugee Claimants.
  - ✓ Ethnocultural communities, faith-based groups and other organizations are also helping by providing housing; assisting Refugee Claimants with completing their paperwork; and donating money and other essential items.
  - ✓ On March 2, 2017, United Way Winnipeg launched a fundraising campaign to help meet the essential needs of Refugee Claimants during their first 30 days in our community.
- ❖ **After 30 days in Canada, Refugee Claimants become eligible to apply for work permits and access supports to help them become independent.**
- ❖ Refugees are prepared to work hard to become financially self-sufficient, but they face many barriers to finding employment, such as: discrimination; lack of professional networks; language and skills differences; and lack of documentation to prove their education and training. Partly due to these barriers, the employment rate for newcomers is initially lower when compared to persons born in Canada.
- ❖ The majority of refugees eventually succeed in overcoming barriers and finding gainful employment. **Refugees eventually attain equivalent employment rates to the Canadian average once they have had a chance to get settled.**

**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**



## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees**

- ❖ **Instead of being a drain on our social programs, immigrants are net contributors.** Economists and business leaders have advised countries like Canada to accept more refugees because of our aging population.
- ❖ Canada needs immigrants and refugees to fill job vacancies in many sectors; and to expand our tax base to help pay for pensions, our medical system and other essential social programs.
- ❖ **Refugees generate economic activity and create jobs by opening businesses.** A recent **Statistics Canada study showed that immigrants, including those who came to Canada as refugees, had higher rates of business ownership compared to other Canadians.**

*“A significant share of the skilled workers required to maintain the ongoing growth of our economy will be made up from new immigrants and refugees coming into our community. As a community we need to be prepared to have the programs and services readily available to ensure their seamless integration into the economy and community.”*

- Greg Dandewich, Senior Vice President, Economic Development Winnipeg on July 31, 2017

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**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**

## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees**

### **Myth/Misconception #5: *Refugee Claimants are queue jumpers.***

- ❖ There is no official queue of refugees seeking asylum. If your life is in danger, you run. You don't stand still in line and wait for help to come to you.
- ❖ **There are no "proper" or "normal" channels for refugees to seek protection. After the end of World War Two the international community developed the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention as they realized that applying immigration rules meant that many Jews had been unable to flee persecution by the Nazis.**
- ❖ There are different ways that refugees can apply to come to Canada.
  - ✓ When someone comes as a Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) or a Privately-Sponsored Refugee (PSR) they are accessing the "Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program" operated by the United Nations.
  - ✓ Refugee Claimants who arrive in Canada independently are accessing "In-Canada Asylum Program."
- ❖ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) works with a small number of countries, including Canada, to provide resettlement to refugees who have sought asylum in refugee camps, or in nearby countries of refuge.
- ❖ The need for refugee resettlement far exceeds the opportunities for resettlement. **According to the UNHCR, less than 1% of the world's refugees will ever find a safe haven by being resettled.**
- ❖ Refugee camps are not orderly processing centres where claimants arrive, take a number, and are processed in a systematic fashion. **The process of resettlement operates more like a lottery than a queue.** It is only a lucky few who are able to find permanent resettlement, and start the process of rebuilding their lives in safety.
- ❖ Many refugees know that it is unlikely they will be selected for resettlement by the UNHCR. If the mythical refugee queue actually existed, refugees joining at the end of the line might have to wait for 100 years to get to the front. As such, some refugees resort to taking what is often a dangerous journey in search of safety for themselves and their families.

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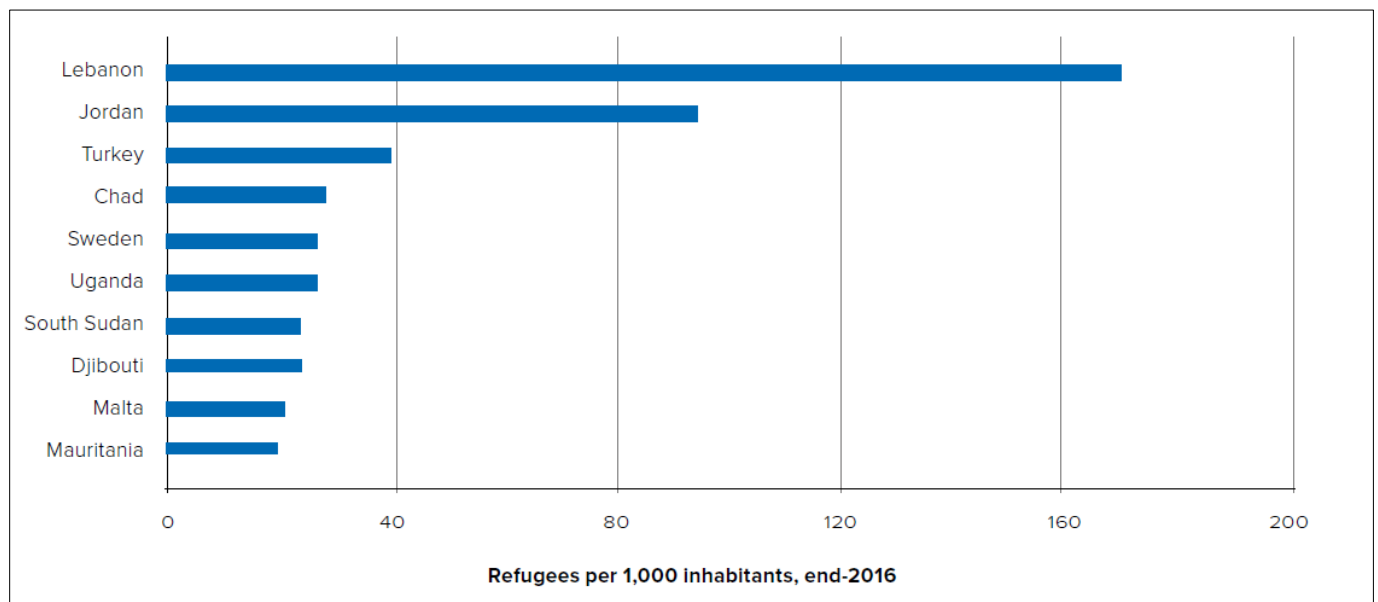
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**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**

## Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees

### Myth/Misconception #6: *Canada is being overwhelmed by refugees.*

- ❖ There are over 65 million forcibly displaced people around the world; 22 million of them are refugees. The number of new displacements was equivalent to 20 people being forced to flee their homes every minute of 2016, or 28,300 people every day. According to the United Nations, **we continue to witness the highest numbers of displaced people ever recorded.**
- ❖ **More than half (51%) of these refugees are children under 18.** 75,000 unaccompanied children under the age of 18 (i.e., those separated from their families) claimed asylum in 70 countries in 2016.
- ❖ Nine of the top ten refugee hosting countries were in developing regions. **Only a small minority of refugees and Asylum Seekers make claims in the world's richest countries such as Canada.**
- ❖ By the end of 2016, Canada had just about 3 refugees for every 1,000 people living in Canada. The top host countries for refugees were Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran and Uganda. With 1 million refugees, Lebanon had 169 refugees for every 1,000 people living in the country.

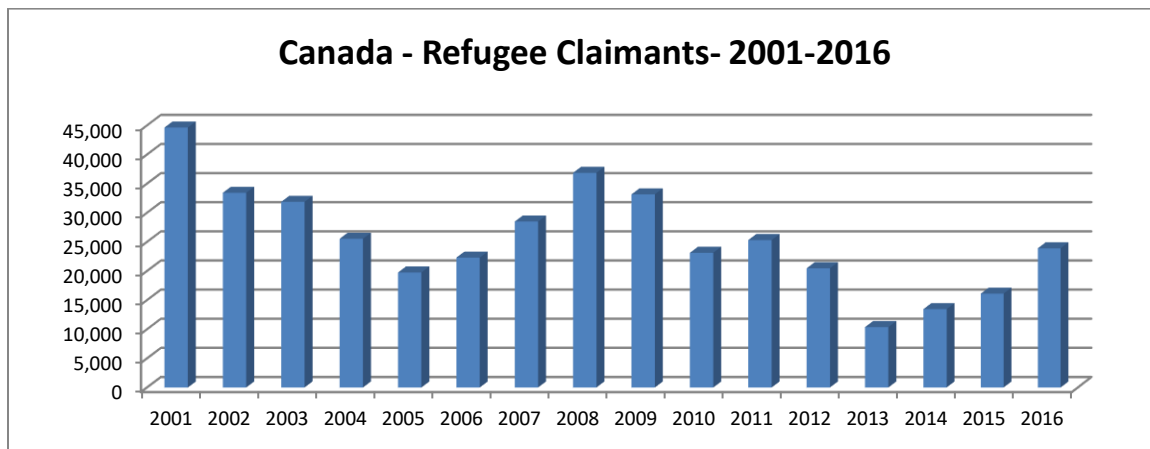


Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2016/>

- ❖ Although the number of annual claims has gone up and down over the years, 25,000 refugee claims per year has been the approximate annual average for more than 20 years in Canada. **Canadians are noticing a recent increase in the number of claimants at some border crossings, but this is only an increase compared to the unusually low numbers of claims in the past few years.** In 2016, there were a total of 23,894 refugee claims in Canada which is consistent with the historical average.

**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary.***

## Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees



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**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**

Refugee Claimant Public Education Working Group (Winnipeg)

## Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees

### Myth/Misconception #7: ***The United States is a safe country for refugees.***

- ❖ Canada entered into a *Safe Third Country Agreement* with the United States (U.S.) in 2004. This agreement means that Asylum Seekers in the U.S. must make their refugee claim there – instead of in Canada – since it assumes the U.S. is a safe country for refugees.
- ❖ **The *Safe Third Country Agreement* leads to more irregular arrivals (i.e., crossing the border at points other than official Ports of Entry). In fact, when the agreement was signed, concern was raised that increased irregular crossings and potential physical danger for Refugee Claimants were likely to occur.** More recently, increasing numbers of Refugee Claimants are choosing to cross the border through irregular channels because they are afraid that if they make their claim at official Ports of Entry, they will be returned to the United States.
- ❖ **The Canadian Council for Refugees and Amnesty International have both opposed the *Safe Third Country Agreement* since it was first introduced, citing concerns that the U.S. has never been safe for all refugees.** Because of U.S. laws and how they are implemented, some refugees who receive protection in Canada are denied refugee status in the U.S. In 2007, the Canadian Federal Court agreed with these organizations, ruling that the U.S. does not always protect refugees as required under international law.
- ❖ The situation now is significantly worse. The Trump Administration has adopted an arbitrary immigration enforcement approach, as well as anti-refugee and anti-Muslim measures. This means that we cannot be confident that refugees sent back to the U.S. will have their basic rights protected.
- ❖ **Areas of concern include the confinement of children in U.S. detention centres, and the return of refugees to countries where they face the risk of imprisonment, torture or death.**
- ❖ Many Canadians are adding their voices to appeals from organizations like the Canadian Council for Refugees, Amnesty International, and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers; unequivocally, they are asking the Government of Canada to suspend the *Safe Third Country Agreement*.
- ❖ **Suspending the *Safe Third Country Agreement* would allow Refugee Claimants to make their claim at an official Port of Entry. This would reduce risk and hardship for Refugee Claimants, and lessen the pressures on communities seeking to respond to their needs.**

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**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**

## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts about Refugee Claimants Common Myths/Misconceptions About Refugees**

### **Myth/Misconception #8: *We should help those who live here first, instead of helping Refugee Claimants.***

- ❖ Refugee Claimants are members of this community. **Helping one vulnerable group does not prevent us from also helping others who need support.**
- ❖ Instead of adopting an “us” versus “them” approach, Manitobans from different backgrounds are coming together to assist Refugee Claimants during their first few weeks in our community.
- ❖ **The first 30 days are critical because Refugee Claimants have limited access to resources during this period. After 30 days, families with refugee claims can apply for work permits and access supports to help them become independent.** Refugees need additional support during this initial period so they can quickly become self-supporting.
- ❖ Refugee Claimants and former refugees contribute in many ways to our community. They pay taxes, start businesses, create jobs and volunteer to help others.
- ❖ In response to the arrival of Refugee Claimants, former refugees have taken a lead role in working with government departments, service providers, ethnocultural community associations, churches, etc. to coordinate a comprehensive resettlement plan. Former refugees are also stepping up to help by opening their homes; assisting Refugee Claimants with their paperwork; and donating money and other essential items.
- ❖ There has been growing mutual support between different groups in our community.
  - ✓ Immigrants and ethnocultural community members have raised money and volunteered their time to address other pressing community issues such as poverty, homelessness and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.
  - ✓ Indigenous community members have joined Immigration Partnership Winnipeg to foster more collaboration between communities, and have raised money to support refugee sponsorships.
- ❖ **Instead of prioritizing one group over another we need to mobilize our compassion to ensure the social and economic inclusion of all community members.**

#### **To find out how you can help go to:**

<http://unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/were-united-to-help-refugee-claimants-in-winnipeg/>

#### Sources & Additional Resources

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**For definitions of key terms, refer to the document *Talking about Immigrants and Refugees – A Glossary*.**



# TALKING ABOUT REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS:

## *a Glossary*



**M**any different terms are used to describe refugees and immigrants. Some have particular legal meanings, some are mean and offensive. Using terms properly is an important way to treat people with respect and advance an informed debate on the issues.

### REFUGEE TERMS

**REFUGEE** – a person who is forced to flee from persecution and who is located outside of their home country.

**CONVENTION REFUGEE** – a person who meets the refugee definition in the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. This definition is used in Canadian law and is widely accepted internationally. To meet the definition, a person must be outside their country of origin and have a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

**REFUGEE CLAIMANT OR ASYLUM SEEKER** – a person who has fled their country and is asking for protection in another country. We don't know whether a claimant is a refugee or not until their case has been decided. 'Claimant' is the term used in Canadian law.



*Amalia and Roberto Gomez, with daughter Loren and son Robert, are Colombian refugees who were resettled to Canada in 2006. Credit: Mennonite Central Committee/Joanie Peters.*

**RESETTLED REFUGEE** – a person who has fled their country, is temporarily in a second country and then is offered a permanent home in a third country. Refugees resettled to Canada are selected abroad and become permanent residents as soon as they arrive in Canada.

*Resettled refugees are determined to be refugees by the Canadian government before they arrive in Canada. Refugee claimants receive a decision on whether they are refugees after they arrive in Canada.*

**STATELESS PERSON** – a person that no state recognizes as a citizen. Some refugees may be stateless but not all are. Similarly, not all stateless people are refugees.

#### **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A REFUGEE AND AN IMMIGRANT?**

*A refugee is forced to flee for their lives. An immigrant chooses to move to another country.*

*Once a refugee has become a citizen of another country (such as Canada) they are no longer a refugee.*

#### **YOU MAY ALSO HEAR...**

**POLITICAL REFUGEE, ECONOMIC REFUGEE, ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEE** – these terms have no meaning in law. They can be confusing because they incorrectly suggest that there are different categories of refugees.



*Residents and staff members at Matthew House in Toronto, a shelter for refugee claimants. Credit: Matthew House.*

**PROTECTED PERSON** – according to Canada's *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, a person who has been determined to be either (a) a Convention Refugee or (b) a person in need of protection (including, for example, a person who is in danger of being tortured if deported from Canada).

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON** – a person who is forced to leave their home, but who is still within the borders of their home country.

## TERMS FOR IMMIGRANTS

**IMMIGRANT** – a person who has settled permanently in another country.

**PERMANENT RESIDENT** – a person granted the right to live permanently in Canada. The person may have come to Canada as an immigrant or as a refugee. Permanent residents who become Canadian citizens are no longer permanent residents.

### OTHER TERMS FOR PEOPLE OUTSIDE THEIR HOME COUNTRY

**TEMPORARY RESIDENT** – a person who has permission to remain in Canada only for a limited period of time. Visitors and students are temporary residents, and so are temporary foreign workers such as agricultural workers and live-in caregivers.

**MIGRANT** – a person who is outside their country of origin. Sometimes this term is used to talk about everyone outside their country of birth, including people who have been Canadian citizens for decades. More often, it is used for people currently on the move or people with temporary status or no status at all in the country where they live.



*A Guatemalan migrant worker on a farm in Quebec.  
Credit: canadabrian/GetStock.com.*

**ECONOMIC MIGRANT** – a person who moves countries for a job or a better economic future. The term is correctly used for people whose motivations are entirely economic. Migrants' motivations are often complex and may not be immediately clear, so it is dangerous to apply the "economic" label too quickly to an individual or group of migrants.

<sup>1</sup> Permanent residents used to be called 'landed immigrants' – this term is still sometimes used.



*Bayan, Rakeb and Oban al-Rekabi and Asia Taher. Rakeb and Asia, of Iraqi origin, have lived in Canada for nearly fifteen years without status.*

**PERSON WITHOUT STATUS** – a person who has not been granted permission to stay in the country, or who has stayed after their visa has expired. The term can cover a person who falls between the cracks of the system, such as a refugee claimant who is refused refugee status but not removed from Canada because of a situation of generalized risk in the country of origin.

### YOU MAY ALSO HEAR:

**ILLEGAL MIGRANT/ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT/ILLEGAL** – these terms are problematic because they criminalize the person, rather than the act of entering or remaining irregularly in a country. International law recognizes refugees may need to enter a country without official documents or authorization. It would be misleading to describe them as "illegal migrants". Similarly, a person without status may have been coerced by traffickers: such a person should be recognized as a victim of crime, not treated as a wrong-doer.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES**  
6839 Drolet #302, Montréal, QC, H2S 2T1  
Tel.: 514-277-7223 Fax: 514-277-1447  
Email: info@ccrweb.ca Web site: www.ccrweb.ca



## **Bread & Borders: Exploring Facts, Fears & Impacts About Refugee Claimants Sources and Additional Resources**

1. Amnesty International, *14 Facts about Refugees*. <http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/14-facts-about-refugees>
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## Bread & Borders: Tips for Leading Conversations About Refugee Claimants

What makes a good conversation? There are many variables that influence this, such as: a topic of interest to all; an open and receptive mood; people being willing to listen as much as they speak; a willingness to drop preconceptions and explore many different ideas; a comfortable setting in which people can easily hear each other; a group small enough for everyone to speak; etc. A good conversation is more like a game of hacky-sack than a game of tennis - the objective is to keep the ball in the air, not to defeat your "opponent." At its best, such conversation gets deeper and richer the longer it can be sustained.

### Setting the Stage - Opening the Conversation/Engagement Process:

Once the group is together, and have been welcomed, state the theme or topic for the interaction. Let them know the approximate duration of the process you'll be leading; as required, confirm that all are able to stay to the end, and/or assess people's ability to stay a little longer.

### The Agreements:

Next, read the Agreements out loud. The introduction of these Agreements begins to mark the shift from daily busy-ness and ordinary chit-chat to the wiser, generative depths at a slower pace of being fully present. You could have each person read one of them. This begins the sense of ownership of the process and gives a few people their first opportunity to speak. If appropriate or helpful, you may want to elaborate on each one, as indicated below:

- ❖ **Open-mindedness:** Listen to and respect all points of view. Conversation isn't just talking. It's talking and listening. In fact, in a group of 4-8, you'll be listening more than you are talking! By focusing on listening, you may also benefit from the variety of ideas around the table.
- ❖ **Acceptance:** Suspend judgment as best you can. We all judge one another, but do your best not to. Doing so will enable you to hear new things from others. It also helps everyone feel safer if they think others are trying to not judge them.
- ❖ **Curiosity:** Seek to understand rather than persuade. We're not here to convince others that we are right and they are wrong. If someone expresses a point of view that seems different from yours, see if you can ask some questions to gain clarity or understanding.
- ❖ **Discovery:** Question assumptions and look for new insights. Conversation/engagement processes aren't intended to be venues for polite conversation—they are designed to expose us to new ideas or possibly even see old ideas in a new way. Insight -seeing more deeply into a topic - can come if we watch for it.
- ❖ **Sincerity:** Speak from your heart and personal experience. We want to hear what's important to you, not just your opinions or data you've collected. Relate your ideas or reports to your personal experience.
- ❖ **Brevity:** Go for honesty and depth, but don't go on and on. Honesty and depth are important to good conversation, but so is giving everyone a chance to speak. People are polite. They may not stop you if you go on and on, however, you can stop yourself. Try to stay under a couple of minutes.

## Bread & Borders: Tips for Leading Conversations About Refugee Claimants

After reviewing each of these Agreements, make sure you get everyone's consent to be guided by them (i.e., by nodding their heads or raising their hands). It is essential that everyone makes the commitment to do their best to abide by these Agreements for the duration of the process.

### During the Conversation/Engagement Process:

- ❖ Ensure everyone is involved in a single conversation, where everyone has a chance to participate and be heard. The conversation can be derailed by side conversations, or if smaller groups monopolize it.
- ❖ Pose the questions for discussion. If the questions fail to engage guests, draw on the supplementary *Ways to Stay at Ease, Curious, Inviting* questions provided; these may help participants dig deeper.
- ❖ Conversation Circles/Engagement Processes work best when participants share personal stories rather than theories or abstract concepts. If the conversation shifts to beyond personal opinions or moves off topic, the Host/Facilitator will remind participants that sharing personal stories is important for meaningful dialogue.
- ❖ An introduction/check-in question sets the stage and dynamic by giving participants a chance to get to know each other. If you use a different question than the one(s) provided, ensure that it still allows participants to focus on something positive that encourages them to reflect on their values or engenders a broader sense of connectedness and empathy.
- ❖ When using processes with pre-determined questions, it can be helpful to provide each participant with a card featuring the same questions; or to have the questions on the prepared sheet/handout that's visible to all (for convenience, these have been included in the process instructions). These help both the Host/Facilitator and participants keep the conversation on track.

Sourced from:

1. Conversation Café: *The Complete Hosting Manual* (<http://www.conversationcafe.org/wp-content/docsPDF/docHostCompleteManual.pdf>)
2. United Way Winnipeg, *How to Host a Red Table Dinner*. <http://unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/red-tables-a-meal-with-a-message/>

# **BREAD & BORDERS: AGREEMENTS**

*For helping all feel safe and respectfully engaged*

## **Open-mindedness**

Listen to and respect all points of view.

## **Acceptance**

Suspend judgment as best you can.

## **Curiosity**

Seek to understand rather than persuade.

## **Discovery**

Question assumptions, look for new insights.

## **Sincerity**

Speak from your heart and personal experience.

## **Brevity**

Go for honesty and depth but don't go on and on.

## 8 Ways to Take Action

**1. Share the facts.**

When you hear a myth/misconception, take the opportunity (when appropriate and safe) to educate others.

**2. Put up a *My Door is Always Open for Refugees* door hanger at your home or office.**

Email [breadandborders@mtsmail.ca](mailto:breadandborders@mtsmail.ca) to get a door hanger.

**3. Take the *Refugees Welcome Here! Pledge*.**

<http://takeaction.amnesty.ca/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=1770&ea.campaign.id=48083>

**4. Ask your friends to sign a petition calling on our government to welcome refugees.**

<https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/canada%20welcome%20refugees.pdf>

**5. Tell your MP that the USA isn't safe for refugees.**

<http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/tell-your-mp-usa-isnt-safe-refugees>

**6. Ask your friends to sign a petition calling on our government to rescind the *Safe Third Country Agreement with USA*.**

[http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/safe%20third%20country%20petition\\_1.pdf](http://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/safe%20third%20country%20petition_1.pdf)

**7. Bust a myth by sharing a *Fact or Fiction? GIF* on social media.**

<http://www.amnesty.ca/node/72323>

**8. Host your own Bread & Borders session at your home or workplace.**

Email [breadandborders@mtsmail.ca](mailto:breadandborders@mtsmail.ca) for more information.



**Bread & Borders: Exploring Fears, Facts & Impacts About Refugee Claimants  
Feedback Form for Refugee Claimant Public Education Working Group**

**Date and location of engagement:**

**Specific process/tool used:**

**Number of people engaged:**

**What went well when you used the process/tool?**

**What was tricky or difficult about using the process/tool?**

**What would you do differently the next time you use the process/tool?**

**General Comments:**