



Annual Report 2016-2017

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) is a non-profit umbrella organization committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada and around the world and to the settlement of refugees and immigrants in Canada.

Executive Committee

President - Loly Rico, Toronto

Vice President - Jim Mair, Winnipeg

Treasurer - Ibrahim Absiye, Toronto

Secretary - Jennifer Stone, Toronto

Counsellors - Mulugeta Abai, Toronto; Rita Acosta, Montreal; Kelly Carline, Saint John; Sherman Chan, Vancouver; Ese Ejebe, Edmonton; Sue Grafe, Hamilton; Jill Hanley, Montreal; Sabine Lehr, Victoria.

Working Group Chairs

Immigration & Settlement Amy Casipullai, Toronto; Sharmarke Dubow, Victoria

Inland Protection Jenny Jeanes, Montreal; Nazrin Azar, Toronto

Overseas Protection & Sponsorship Gilbert Iyamuremye, Windsor; Mary Purkey, Sherbrooke

Staff

Settlement Policy Director - Marisa Berry Méndez

Executive Director - Janet Dench

Office Manager - Elizabeth Docherty

Campaign coordinator - Jihane El Atifi

Communication and Networking

Coordinator - Colleen French, Damiano Raveenthiran

Fundraising Coordinator and Project Manager - Samanta Garcia Fialdini

Youth Coordinator / Francophone Outreach and Resource Coordinator - Eva Gracia Turgeon

Private Sponsorship Outreach Coordinator - Lauren Lallemand

Anti-Trafficking Project Coordinator - Elvira Truglia

Message from Loly Rico, President

Record numbers of people have been displaced around the world this past year. We have also seen challenges closer to home with smaller numbers of refugees resettled to Canada and more refugee claimants asking for protection at our borders.

In spite of the challenges, we have seen some positive strides forward:

- We continue discussions the Canada Border Services Agency to find Alternatives to Detention that allow refugee claimants to live in dignity.
- We celebrated the rollback of conditional permanent resident for sponsored spouses.
- We welcomed changes to Canada's citizenship rules, making it easier for newcomers to become fully-fledged Canadians.

We welcome the promises kept by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, but there is still more to do. Speeding up family reunification and taking the lead to resettle more refugees are key areas for work in the coming year. We will also be paying close attention to the review of the Immigration and Refugee Board. We will be standing up to ensure that the IRB remains independent and adequately resourced to make effective decisions for refugee claimants.

The CCR Youth Network held a successful Youth Action Gathering in Winnipeg, with more than 100 youth actively participating. Thank you to our members, and especially to the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM), for bringing together this successful event.

We are also engaging our members and members of the public in a new campaign promoting welcoming attitudes towards refugees, Protecting refugees = Stronger communities, to build welcoming communities and create opportunities for pro-refugee policies. Look for ways to get involved in this campaign in the coming year!

- Loly



Credit: E. Truglia

Loly Rico after speaking at the CCR Spring Consultation in Edmonton, June 2017.

Bringing family reunification to Parliament Hill

We have made ‘Family reunification for all’ a top priority in our work recently and this year we took our concerns directly to Members of Parliament in a Refugee Rights Day (4 April) Lobby Day with meetings with MPs, Senators and parliamentary staff. We also boosted Lobby Day efforts with a targeted social media campaign to bring the stories of separated families to a broader audience.

The meetings led to a commitment by the government to improved efficiency and greater transparency on refugee family reunification, and to reviewing the “Excluded Family Member” rule.

Networking and professional development

We held two national Consultations, as well as forums on migrant worker issues and human trafficking.



In Montreal
500 participants from
9 provinces
36 sessions

In Edmonton
380 participants from
8 provinces
34 sessions

A number of emerging needs and priorities in the refugee protection and newcomer settlement sector have been identified:

- Services for refugee claimants and migrant workers
- Building on support for refugees
- Poverty issue
- Promoting equity in settlement and resettlement responses to refugees
- The global context and Canada’s evolving response

Challenging the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement

In the past year, we have seen an increasing number of refugee claimants crossing from the United States into Canada irregularly and at great risk. It demonstrates that the US is not safe for all refugees and that Canada should suspend the Safe Third Country Agreement. Together with Amnesty International, we submitted a formal report highlighting these reasons.

After the Canadian government responded that there is no need to revisit the Agreement, the CCR with Amnesty International, the Canadian Council of Churches and a refugee claimant from El Salvador with her children are challenging the safe third country rules at the Federal Court. Members of the CCR’s Legal Affairs Committee have made valuable contributions to these efforts.



ccrweb.ca/en/family-reunification
 #4allfamilies

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Some successes this year:

An increase to the age of dependants to under 22 from under 19. More families with young adult children are reunited.

Conditional permanent residence for sponsored spouses ended: a relief for sponsored spouses in vulnerable situations, and to the advocates supporting them

Thanks to a CCR request, the Canada Revenue Agency has directed its officials to accept letters from front-line workers at settlement agencies and community organizations as evidence for newcomer clients in applications for Canada Child Benefit.

“ *The US was never safe for all refugees, and is now even less safe. It is wrong, morally and legally, to send claimants back to the US, knowing as we do that they may face serious violations of their basic rights.*

Loly Rico, CCR President ”

Advancing information exchange among CCR members

CCR members and allies benefit not only from email communications through forums like the CCRLIST, but increasingly through resources available through member accounts on ccrweb.ca, including free webinar participation, invitations to virtual meetings for CCR members and more.

Resource development on refugee-related issues

“The webinar was helpful. I feel armed if we run into trouble with having our families accepted. Thank you for the resources.”

Webinar participant

Some other statistics

- 4** delegations at international meetings
- 7** reports published
- 10** submissions to government
- 36** Lobby Day visits on Parliament Hill
- 500+** webinar participants
- 500+** member accounts on ccrweb.ca
- 660+** Working Group participants
- 1000+** media phone calls and emails
- 1,166** CCRLIST subscribers



30,000

monthly visits
on our website
ccrweb.ca



13,000

followers
on Twitter
[@ccrweb](https://twitter.com/ccrweb)



3,821

followers
on Facebook
[@ccrweb](https://www.facebook.com/ccrweb)

With the groundswell of interest in the private sponsorship of refugees, we developed new resources for private sponsors. As well as launching an online toolkit, we hosted training opportunities and virtual meetings to raise concerns and exchange ideas for Groups of 5 sponsors and other private sponsorship groups.

Engaging newcomer youth

The CCR Youth Network focused efforts on Newcomer Youth Civic Engagement (NYCE) projects and a successful Youth Action Gathering in Winnipeg.

Each of the 13 local NYCE projects addressed common challenges newcomer youth face in their community. They then identified and carried out strategies to tackle them together with local partners. The national Youth Action Gathering allowed newcomer youth and allies to come together and to discuss common challenges and strategies.

NYCE projects

- 449** newcomer youth participants
- 13** local projects

Youth Action Gathering

- 175** participants from
- 8** provinces
- 15** communities



“Thank you, CCR, for giving us the opportunity to tell our stories. The journey of a refugee in a foreign land can be lonely and depressing. This project has shown me that there are people who care about me and that people cannot change something they don't know about.”

YAG participant

To receive regular updates:

ccrweb.ca/subscribe

To become a CCR member:

ccrweb.ca/join

To participate in a CCR webinar:

ccrweb.ca/webinars

Together with our printed publications, the CCR website is a key platform for those serving refugees and immigrants and the general public. There you will find the CCR's complete publications and resource collection, proposed actions, and information reserved for CCR members.

ccrweb.ca

CCR Members

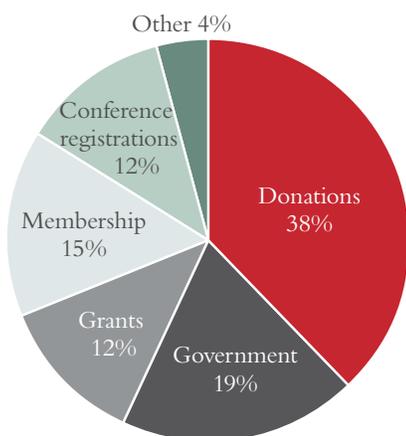


Fundraising Report

The CCR is grateful for the many contributions of our members, donors, volunteers, and funders who make possible the CCR's work to make Canada more welcoming for refugees.

2016-2017 was one of the CCR's most successful years for fundraising! Undesignated donations this year were up (120% compared to the previous year). We also welcomed new Friends of the CCR, monthly donors whose contributions are an important and reliable stream of funding, now at over \$53,000 total, the highest level ever.

Where our funding came from:



The Canadian Council for Refugees is a non-profit charitable organization. Business number: 11883 0470RR 0001. Donations are tax-deductible.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of operations for the year ending August 31, 2017 (in \$)

REVENUE	2017	2016
Grants		
Government	142,513	38,086
Others grants	91,037	92,362
Donations	290,922	320,610
Interest	2,589	4,006
Publications	370	5,404
Membership fees	115,635	90,565
Fundraising events	22,202	6,704
Conference registrations	94,327	75,730
Gain (loss) of investment	2,052	3,439
Total	761,647	636,907

EXPENSES

Salaries	328,792	251,759
Conference expenses	66,550	44,067
Executive committee	9,866	12,134
Working groups expenses	76,371	38,331
Syrian Refugee Support Fund	110,000	160,000
Networking and public education	51,365	13,413
Administrative expenses	56,604	55,913
Fundraising	29,471	41,207
Total	729,019	616,824

EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES

	32,628	20,083
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Balance sheet at August 31

Assets	1,652,079	1,561,635
Liabilities	149,162	245,093
Net assets		
Endowment Fund	1,353,287	1,199,540
Internally restricted	20,000	20,000
Unrestricted	129,630	97,002
Total net assets	1,502,917	1,316,542

Change in net assets

Balance at beginning of year	1,316,542	1,210,036
Excess of revenues over expenses	32,628	20,083
Variation of endowment fund	153,747	86,423
Balance at end of year	1,502,917	1,316,542

Copies of full audited statements including notes are available from the CCR office.



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