



Annual Report 2015-2016

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 - Debbie Hill-Corrigan, Toronto; Sherman Chan, Vancouver; Rita Acosta, Montreal; Ese Ejebe, Edmonton; Sabine Lehr, Victoria; Sue Grafe, Hamilton; Sharmarke Mohamed, Victoria.

Working Group Chairs

Immigration & Settlement: Yasmine Dossal, Toronto; Craig Mackie, Charlottetown
Inland Protection: Jenny Jeanes, Montreal; Nasrin Azar, Toronto
Overseas Protection & Sponsorship: Gilbert Iyamuremye, Windsor; Mary Purkey, Sherbrooke

Staff

Executive Director - Janet Dench
Campaign coordinator - Jihane El Atifi
Office Manager - Elizabeth Docherty
Settlement Policy Director - Marisa Berry Méndez
Communications and Networking Coordinator - Damiano Raveenthiran / Colleen French
Anti-Trafficking Project Coordinator - Elvira Truglia
Project Manager - Samanta Garcia Fialdini
Private Sponsorship Outreach Coordinator - Lauren Lallemand

Message from Loly Rico, President

The last year was one full of surprises and activities... After an incredibly painful decade, we have finally started to see some light and a glimmer of hope. In 2016 we are welcoming more than 40,000 resettled refugees. It has been wonderful to see so many people passionately calling on the government to respond to the refugee cause. Last year refugees became an important issue in the election campaign, in a positive way.

Now with a new government and a new Minister, there are new expectations. The workload of the CCR has increased. There have been many consultations on immigration and refugee issues, and we have been active bringing our positions and concerns. We have given our input on how to have a fair refugee determination process. We have met with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship and raised key concerns, including proposing a special program for the “legacy” claimants (waiting for a hearing for more than three years) and calling for the elimination of Regulation 117(9)(d) which excludes too many immediate family members.

With the euphoria around Syrian refugees we took the opportunity to talk about the need for equity in how we respond to refugees, not forgetting the many refugees from other regions of the world.

Over the last year, in this new era, the importance of the CCR is clearer than ever. Part of our role is to listen to our members about what they are seeing on the ground, and to bring forward those perspectives.

We have been busy producing many different documents and resources, and we have been invited to present at various parliamentary Standing Committees.

The issues of concern to our members are many: mental health, family reunification, detention of children, migrant workers, trafficked persons, accountability of CBSA, support for integration, and so much more.

The CCR will continue to work with others to open the doors to immigrants and refugees and to ensure that they are treated fairly and their contributions fully recognized.



Loly Rico speaking at the CCR Spring 2016 Consultation about creating welcoming communities for refugees.

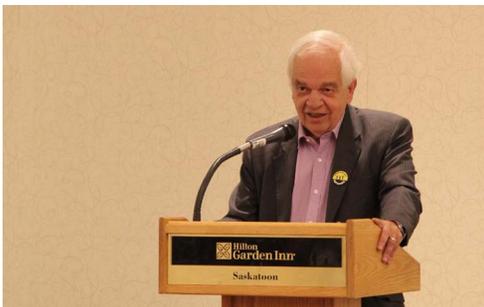


Highlights of activities 2015-2016

Refugees Welcome Here!

A joint initiative between Amnesty International, the Canadian Council for Refugees and Amnistié internationale, the Refugees Welcome Here! public awareness campaign encouraged Canada to welcome more refugees, to achieve more fairness in systems affecting refugees, and to create welcoming communities across the country.

The campaign developed advocacy tools and brought together people across Canada to amplify efforts to welcome refugees.



John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship at the CCR's Spring 2016 Consultation in Saskatoon, SK.

Engaging with the government

The CCR was actively engaged in bringing forward the concerns of refugees and other vulnerable migrants to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency and the Immigration and Refugee Board.

One key topic of discussion was reducing immigration detention.



Youth Action Gathering

In October 2015, 200 participants from six provinces attended the Youth Action Gathering in Vancouver, organized in partnership with Vancouver Foundation's Fresh Voices Initiative and MOSAIC. Issues addressed included second-class citizenship, links with indigenous youth and access to education.



CCR in the Courts

The CCR was active as an intervener in several cases before the Supreme Court of Canada, including *Kanthasamy*, which addressed humanitarian and compassionate considerations in decisions made by immigration officers, and *Appulonappa*, in which the Court ruled that it is not a crime to help refugees find safety.

Trafficking

The Canadian Women's Foundation is generously supporting CCR's work towards justice for trafficked non-citizen women. Over the next five years, the CCR will continue to raise awareness about trafficking, build capacity among service providers, and advocate for policy reform in order to protect the rights of trafficked persons and prevent trafficking in Canada.

Syrian Refugee Support Fund

At the request of the Canadian Labour Congress, the CCR initiated a fund to support the settlement of Syrian refugees in Canada. By the end of the year, \$160,000 had been distributed to organizations so that they could sponsor more people or respond to financial needs of Syrians in Canada.

Policy analysis, reports and resources

The CCR continued to develop numerous reports and useful resources such as:

- A national report on services for migrant workers
- A proposed model for a CBSA accountability mechanism
- A brief on Excluded Family Members
- A series of infographics outlining resettlement needs and processes in Canada



Networking and Professional Development

The CCR Consultations in Hamilton, November 2015, and Saskatoon, June 2016, provided participants with an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding on a wide range of issues, such as Lessons learned in the resettlement of 25,000 Syrian refugees, Collaborative approaches to offer mental health services to refugees, Reforming the refugee determination system and Detention and the best interest of the child.

The CCR also expanded use of virtual meetings and webinars to discuss topics such as mental health, sexual orientation and gender identity, Islamophobia and violence against women.



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

Did you know... ?

CCR resources, commentaries and news are posted on:



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



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



YouTube
[youtube.com/ccrwebvideos](https://www.youtube.com/ccrwebvideos)

To receive regular updates, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter: [ccrweb.ca/en/chronicle](https://www.ccrweb.ca/en/chronicle)

To become a CCR member: [ccrweb.ca/en/join](https://www.ccrweb.ca/en/join)

Fundraising Report

This past year we saw an extraordinary level of donations from long-time and new donors who urgently sought to respond to the refugee crisis. Thanks to our members and donors we stood strong in support of welcoming Syrian refugees without overlooking refugees from other regions of the world.

This year's financials highlight these generous donations, as well as new grants allowing us to continue our work to improve family reunification and to advance the rights of trafficked persons and migrant workers in Canada. We also received funding to carry out outreach among private sponsorship groups across Canada, including unattached groups newly engaged in sponsoring refugees.

In moving forward, we hope to sustain the generous level of support. Please help us by engaging those around you who share our values. They can join us in strengthening Canada's commitment to welcome and protect refugee and newcomer rights by:

- Joining the family of monthly donors: Friends of the CCR;
- Leaving a legacy gift to have a lasting impact by contributing to the CCR Endowment Fund.

For more information:
ccrweb.ca/donate

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, 2016

REVENUE	2016	2015
Grants		
Government	38,086	5,000
Others grants	92,362	98,720
Donations	320,610	120,776
Endowment fund contribution	0	50,000
Interest	4,006	4,586
Publications	5,404	932
Membership fees	90,565	65,415
Fundraising events	6,704	16,160
Conference registrations	75,730	62,041
Gain (loss) of investment	3,439	-12,906
Miscellaneous	0	100
Total	636,906	410,824

EXPENSES

Salaries	251,759	239,684
Conference expenses	44,067	59,152
Executive committee	12,134	12,620
Working groups expenses	38,331	7,923
Networking and public education	13,413	30,753
Administrative expenses	55,913	64,462
Fundraising	41,207	27,984
Syrian Refugee Support Fund	160,000	0
Total	616,824	442,578

Excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses	20,082	-31,754
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Statement of changes in net assets

NET ASSETS UNRESTRICTED	2016	2015
Balance at beginning of year	76,920	108,674
Excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses	20,082	-31,754
Balance at end of year	97,002	76,920

NET ASSETS RESTRICTED EXTERNALLY

(Endowment Fund)	2016	2015
Balance at beginning of year	1,113,116	1,224,963
Contribution received as an endowment	0	25,000
Transfer to operations	0	-50,000
Gain (loss) of investment	86,424	-86,847
Balance at end of year	1,199,540	1,113,116

Balance sheet at August 31

	2016	2015
Assets	1,561,635	1,222,467
Liabilities	245,093	12,431
Net assets		
Externally restricted	1,199,540	1,113,116
Internally restricted	20,000	20,000
Unrestricted	97,002	76,920
Total net assets	1,316,542	1,210,036

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



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

ccrweb.ca
November 2016