

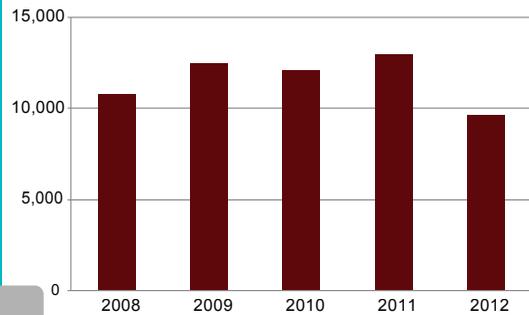
What's new for refugees in Canada?

Resettled refugees

Fewer refugees resettled

Canada is increasingly focusing on resettling specific populations and choosing refugees based on settlement prospects rather than need for protection.

Number of refugees resettled to Canada: 2008 - 2012



affects privately sponsored refugees

Caps on privately sponsored refugees

Sponsors now face limits on refugees they can sponsor, especially in certain regions in Africa.

The Government controls more which refugees can be resettled, leaving less room for private sponsors to choose the refugees they want to respond to.

Big cuts in health care

Access to health care is much more difficult for refugees and refugee claimants, since June 2012 cuts to the Interim Federal Health Program.



Refugee claimants from DCOs have virtually no health care.

Cutting off family members

Starting in January 2014 dependent children will be defined as under 19 years of age (currently under 22). Young adult children of refugees will be left behind, denied reunification or face removal from Canada.



Rules differ depending on country of origin

Tougher rules apply to refugee claimants from Designated Countries of Origin (DCOs) since December 2012.

- > Shorter timelines, no appeal.
- DCOs include Mexico and Hungary (Roma).

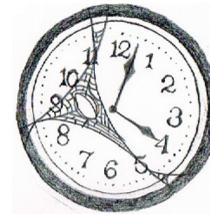
affect claimants

Barriers to citizenship

Since November 2012, citizenship applicants must provide proof of their English / French skills at their own expense (\$250 per test).

Since May 2012, many applicants must complete a long 'residence questionnaire' (also involves costs).

Fees for citizenship applications will go up. Processing is slow (average 25-35 months).



affects resettled refugees

Refugee claimants

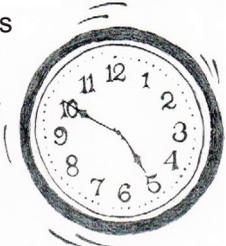
Short timelines, appeal for some

Refugee claimants have 15 days to complete forms (down from 28 days).

Hearings are scheduled much sooner.

New refugee appeal (but many do not have access).

Faster removal, no recourses (humanitarian factors or risk assessment).

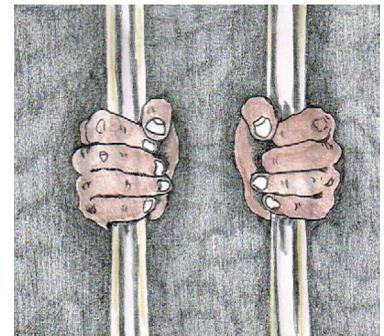


Designated Foreign Nationals

The Public Safety Minister can designate groups as 'irregular arrivals', leading to:

- > Mandatory detention
- > No permanent status or family reunification for at least 5 years, *even if* recognized as refugees.

* These policies are borrowed from Australia.



For more information on these and other changes: ccrweb.ca

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