



Annual Report 2014-2015

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 - Rita Acosta, Montreal; Sherman Chan, Vancouver; Debbie Hill-Corrigan, Toronto; Jill Keliher, Saint John; Jean McRae, Victoria; Sharmarke Mohamed, Victoria; Florim Tafilaj, Edmonton; Eunice Valenzuela, Kitchener.

Working Group Chairs

Immigration & Settlement Yasmine Dossal, Toronto; Craig Mackie, Charlottetown
Inland Protection Jenny Jeanes, Montreal; Gloria Nafziger, Toronto
Overseas Protection & Sponsorship Gilbert Iyamuremye, Windsor; Sara Shahsiah, Toronto

Staff

Executive Director - Janet Dench
Director of Operations - Florence Bourdeau
Office Manager - Elizabeth Docherty
Settlement Policy Director - Marisa Berry Méndez
Communication and Networking Coordinator - Colleen French
Trafficking Coordinator, Project Manager - Samanta Garcia Fialdini
Fundraising Coordinator - Simran Chahal
Youth Coordinator - Chloé Raxlen

Message from Loly Rico, President

Last year was a challenging year for refugees and immigrants in Canada. We witnessed increasing waiting times for family reunification, a jump in the number of refugees with their status in Canada revoked due to cessation, and the implementation of a new law creating two classes of Canadian citizens, making many of us feel second-class.

To fulfill our dream of a fair immigration and refugee protection system, the CCR put forward a vision for Canada: *Seven Keys to Protecting and Welcoming Refugees*. We also launched the campaign *Express Entry Family Reunification*, showing the challenges facing families waiting years to be reunited.

Since I arrived in Canada 20 years ago, I have never been as heartbroken as when I felt the pain of our sisters and brothers from Syria at their worst time and saw the unwillingness of the Canadian government to open doors for refugees. But once again the people of Canada, and especially members of the CCR family, showed their solidarity by going to the streets demanding the government of Canada resettle more Syrian refugees.

We have more and more opportunities to see our new vision for Canada take shape. We hope that refugees, immigrants and dual citizens will feel more secure about their status in Canada. We hope that families will be reunited as soon as possible. We hope that refugees can live with full rights, dignity and a feeling of welcome. My dream for next year is that immigration enforcement will be held to account by an independent body.

With opportunities and dreams like these, let's continue working together and make the impact of the CCR's work stronger year after year.

- Loly



Loly Rico speaking at a rally in Toronto calling for Canada to open its doors to Syrian refugees.

Outreach and public opinion

The CCR's Proud to Protect Refugees campaign and Walk with refugees engaged hundreds of people in communities across Canada. They heard the stories of newly-arrived refugees and learned about the realities they face in Canada. The CCR suggested ways for Canadians to 'walk with refugees' every day – from book and film suggestions to volunteering.



Policy analysis

The past year saw many immigration policy changes. The CCR welcomed opportunities to submit formal comments to government on:

- proposed changes to immigration regulations relating to marriage
- the immigration provision in Bill C-51 (“anti-terrorism” law)
- access to social assistance for refugees and other newcomers without permanent status



Networking and professional development

CCR Consultations, held in Gatineau, Quebec (November 2014) and Winnipeg, Manitoba (May 2015), provided participants with opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of a wide range of issues, including:

- the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD)
- the Urgent Protection Program for resettled refugees
- settlement support for vulnerable populations
- innovative initiatives to secure acceptable housing
- violence against women and immigration enforcement

Among emerging priorities highlighted in the past year were issues facing LGBT newcomers, interfaith initiatives and promoting greater understanding of indigenous peoples among newcomers.

Cooperation with organizations and partners

In addition to our regular Consultations twice a year, the CCR also expanded use of:

- virtual meetings bringing together CCR members, for example to exchange with the International Detention Coalition
- regional meetings in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal to involve more people locally.

Research

The CCR's research has continued to demonstrate the impacts of recent policy changes on refugees and other newcomers. We published:

- a survey on access to health care by province and by immigration category
- an analysis of how the new refugee claim process is working from the perspective of non-governmental organizations.

Seven Keys for Protecting and Welcoming Refugees

Traditionally a leader in welcoming refugees and other newcomers, Canada can and must renew its efforts to protect their rights. The CCR is highlighting seven key areas for change as part of a new vision for Canada: ccrweb.ca/en/refugees-newcomers-vision-Canada



Dialogue with government

Through meetings, consultation sessions and other communications, CCR engaged actively with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency and the Immigration and Refugee Board. We brought forward numerous questions and concerns about the impacts of government policy on refugees and other vulnerable migrants, including issues relating to Temporary Foreign Workers, trafficked persons in Canada and the need for a policy on violence against women for immigration enforcement officers.

Forwarding rights through the courts

CCR was active in several cases before the courts, including as an intervener in an important series of cases at the Supreme Court dealing with the definition of human smuggling. The CCR argued that it should not be a crime for people acting on humanitarian motives to help refugees find asylum from persecution. At year's end we were waiting for the verdict of the court.



CCR Youth Network activities

The Youth Network's Speak Up! program produced a fresh batch of projects recounting refugee and newcomer youth experiences in creative forms.

In the past year, the Youth Network created a Core Group to ensure deeper youth participation in CCR activities and decision-making. CCR members are encouraged to engage and support youth locally and within the CCR.

Looking forward

As part of our strategic plan, CCR has given emphasis to outreach to francophone members and members in smaller communities, and has strengthened connections with provincial settlement umbrella organizations. These efforts have increased the number of voices contributing to the CCR's work.



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.

Further information on issues profiled here and others is available at: ccrweb.ca

Did you know... ?

CCR resources, commentaries and news are posted on:



Facebook
facebook.com/ccrweb



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



YouTube
youtube.com/ccrwebvideos

To participate in a CCR webinar: ccrweb.ca/en/webinars

To receive regular updates, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter: ccrweb.ca/en/chronicle

To become a CCR member: ccrweb.ca/en/join

Fundraising Report

In the last year, we have witnessed a growing global refugee crisis, increasing barriers to protection for refugees and vulnerable migrants in Canada and public discourse promoting fear. We have also heard a collective voice calling on Canada to open its doors and renew efforts to welcome and protect the rights of refugees and newcomers.

The CCR's major grants have ended, but we continue to carry out our work with the sustained support and dedication of volunteers. We are building our financial core with new funding opportunities. Our donors' demonstrated commitment, such as recent donations to the CCR Endowment Fund, gives hope for the future.

CCR supporters have an opportunity to send a strong message that we want Canada to value families, protect refugees and other vulnerable migrants, and respect the rights and contributions of all newcomers. Some ways to make an impact are:

- Become a sustaining monthly donor, a Friend of the CCR
- Fundraise to support the CCR's work – organize a house party or celebrate an important event while raising funds
- Provide long-term support with a major donation 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, 2015

REVENUE	2015	2014
Grants		
Government	5,000	39,115
Others grants	7,000	19,067
Donations	212,496	248,120
Endowment fund contribution	50,000	35,000
Interest	4,586	5,058
Publications	932	1,893
Membership fees	65,415	60,505
Fundraising events	16,160	6,832
Conference registrations	62,041	47,600
Gain (loss) of investment	-12,906	4,438
Miscellaneous	100	0
Total	410,824	467,628

EXPENSES

Salaries	239,684	240,455
Conference expenses	59,152	32,329
Executive committee	12,620	13,025
Working groups expenses	7,923	27,373
Networking and public education	30,753	44,221
Administrative expenses	64,462	56,585
Fundraising	27,984	39,813
Total	442,578	453,801

EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES

-31,754	13,827
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Statement of changes in net assets

NET ASSETS UNRESTRICTED	2015	2014
Balance at beginning of year	108,674	94,847
Excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses	-31,754	13,827
Balance at end of year	76,920	108,674

NET ASSETS RESTRICTED EXTERNALLY

(Endowment Fund)	2015	2014
Balance at beginning of year	1,224,963	1,055,433
Contribution received as an endowment	25,000	0
Transfer to operations	-50,000	-35,000
Gain (loss) of investment	-86,847	204,530
Balance at end of year	1,113,116	1,224,963

Balance sheet at August 31

	2015	2014
Assets	1,222,467	1,492,082
Liabilities	12,431	138,445
Net assets		
Externally restricted	1,113,116	1,224,963
Internally restricted	20,000	20,000
Unrestricted	76,920	108,674
Total net assets	1,210,036	1,353,637

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 2015