



Annual Report 2017-2018

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 - Claire Roque, Windsor

Vice President - Dorota Blumczynska, Winnipeg

Treasurer - Sherman Chan, Toronto

Secretary - Jennifer Stone, Toronto

Counsellors - Mulugeta Abai, Toronto;

Akram Ben Salah, Moncton; Léo

Cardoso, Montreal; Jill Hanley,

Montreal; Ricki Justice, Edmonton;

Sabine Lehr, Victoria; Bintou Sacko,

Winnipeg; Eunice Valenzuela, Kitchener.

Working Group Chairs

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

Inland Protection Jenny Jeanes, Montreal;

Nazrin Azar, Anne Woolger, Toronto

Overseas Protection & Sponsorship

Fikre Tsehai, Vancouver; Mary Purkey,

Sherbrooke

Staff

Settlement Policy Director - Marisa Berry Méndez

Youth Coordinator - Juliana Cortes Lugo

Fundraising Coordinator and Project Manager - Van Thao Dam

Executive Director - Janet Dench

Office Manager - Elizabeth Docherty

Communication and Networking

Coordinator - Colleen French

Member Services Coordinator - Sandra Gasana

Francophone Outreach and Resource

Coordinator - Eva Gracia Turgeon

Conference Coordinator - Puja Roy

Anti-Trafficking Project Coordinator -

Elvira Truglia

Message from Claire Roque, President

Starting as the Standing Conference of Canadian Organizations Concerned for Refugees in 1978, the CCR has connected people and organizations across Canada to support passionate and tireless work to protect refugees, building a welcoming home for newcomers.

2018 marks our 40th anniversary. As CCR President during this

momentous time, I have no words to describe how grateful I am to have this opportunity to lead an organization that continues to stand with refugees for the right reasons.

As a member for six years, I am vocal that the only way I am able to advocate and assist refugees with confidence and compassion is through networking and learning from the CCR. Its webinars, virtual meetings, handouts, Working Group meetings and twice-a-year Consultations are indispensable. As President, I have the privilege of working closely with CCR staff and leaders to ensure all possible resources and tools are in the hands of our members to help refugee and other vulnerable populations on the ground. Frankly, I underestimated the amount of work involved in making those resources available, and it has made me appreciate the work of the CCR even more.

As we celebrate 40 years of the CCR, I ask everyone to reflect on how pain and joy are bound together in our work:

- the celebration of new lives in safety, but also painful memories of the past
- the joy of welcoming communities, but also mourning for those who were lost
- the happiness of families reunited, but also the desperation of those who continue to wait.

May this milestone event remind us not only of our successes, but also prompt us to do more in the years to come.

Thank you for your role in making ours a unified voice for refugee rights and empowerment in Canada and around the world. We look forward to working with you in the next 40 years of refugee rights.



Claire Roque, President, addresses International Refugee Rights Conference participants.

Since 1978 the CCR has connected people and organizations across Canada to support them as they work passionately and tirelessly to protect refugees and make Canada a welcoming home for newcomers. 2018 marks our 40th anniversary, providing us with an opportunity to showcase our accomplishments and to recognize contributions – large or small, yet all significant – to our successes.

Events defining our 40th year:

The CCR’s **International Refugee Rights Conference** was held from 7 to 9 June 2018 at York University, Toronto. 650 participants from 36 countries on five continents met to learn from each other and work across borders to meet the evolving needs of refugees and other vulnerable migrants.



Participants at the International Refugee Rights Conference, Toronto, June 2018.

“ I gained a lot – more than I could ever imagine. I felt like I am in the world of concrete information. The network I created will greatly transform the work at my organization. ”
 – Conference participant

At the **2017 Fall Consultation in Niagara Falls**, we heard directly from the Minister for Public Safety, Ralph Goodale. At this meeting CCR members also adopted a new position on criminal inadmissibility measures that affect newcomers.

Citizenship rule changes: In October 2017 changes to the Citizenship Act came into effect, with the result that many people qualify for citizenship sooner than in the past. The CCR has long advocated for changes to rules that made Canadian citizenship harder to get and easier to lose. We offered training webinars to members to explain these changes and their impacts in detail.

An end to the detention of children: In November 2017, the government issued a National Directive for the Detention or Housing of Minors. The CCR welcomed the directive but more must be done.

The **CCR Youth Network** held its sixth Youth Action Gathering and has embarked on efforts to strengthen newcomer youth voices within our work, with opportunities for CCR members to get involved. Juliana Cortes Lugo has joined the CCR staff as Youth Coordinator to move these efforts forward.



YAG participants at the microphone, Toronto, 5 June 2018.



In **championing fairness for refugee claimants**, we put forward a new model for refugee status determination in Canada, simplifying the existing model with quick and inexpensive implementation, while being fairer to refugees. We have also witnessed changing public attitudes towards refugee claimants in Canada and are working to bring forward their stories, which are at the heart of our work.

We continue to **challenge the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement** in government circles and before the courts.

Opportunities for CCR member engagement extend beyond our regular face-to-face national meetings and consultations. **Virtual trainings, webinars and other practical resources** we produced this year tackled citizenship changes, ways to overcome rules that exclude family members from being reunited in Canada, orientations on human trafficking for legal professionals and much more.

Evaluating Migrant Worker Rights in Canada, an update of our original provincial report card series, continued our tradition of thorough and well-founded research to advocate for change.

“The timelines {for refugee determination} are certainly not working out, said Janet Dench of the Canadian Council for Refugees, adding that the new scheduling system is good news to those who have been languishing in the backlog but bad for recently arrived claimants.”

‘Refugee advocates broadcast ‘urgent concerns’ about Bill Blair’s new federal cabinet role’, Toronto Star, 9 Aug 2018



**EVALUATING
MIGRANT WORKER
RIGHTS IN CANADA
2018**



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



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



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

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

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

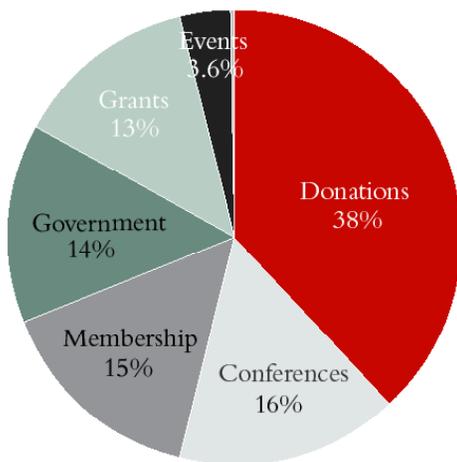


Fundraising Report

We extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude to all donors, volunteers, organizations, foundations and governments who supported our work and have given hope to many refugees, vulnerable migrants and newcomer youth.

This year, we received outstanding support from people and organizations that have helped increase our international engagement by providing essential funding to make the CCR International Refugee Rights Conference a success. This year's financials also highlight new grants allowing us to renew a three-year project to empower newcomer youth by promoting their leadership and civic engagement through the CCR Youth Network.

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, 2018 (in \$)

REVENUE	2018	2017
Grants		
Government	109,905	142,513
Others grants	103,420	91,037
Donations	303,548	290,922
Interest	1,346	2,589
Publications	360	370
Membership fees	121,060	115,635
Fundraising events	28,772	22,202
Conference registrations	124,946	94,327
Gain (loss) of investment	0	2,052
Total	793,357	761,647

EXPENSES

Salaries	330,339	328,792
Conference expenses	142,466	66,550
Executive committee	7,382	9,866
Working groups expenses	26,099	76,371
Syrian Refugee Support Fund	75,000	110,000
Networking and public education	52,639	51,365
Administrative expenses	68,515	56,604
Fundraising	31,213	29,471
Total	733,653	729,019

EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES

59,704	32,628
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Balance sheet at August 31

Assets	1,851,824	1,652,079
Liabilities	152,232	149,162
Net assets		
Endowment Fund	1,540,258	1,353,287
Internally restricted	20,000	20,000
Unrestricted	139,334	129,630
Total net assets	1,699,592	1,502,917

Change in net assets

Balance at beginning of year	1,502,917	1,316,542
Excess of revenues over expenses	59,704	32,628
Variation of endowment fund	136,971	153,747
Balance at end of year	1,699,592	1,502,917

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



Canadian Council for Refugees
Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés

ccrweb.ca
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