



Annual Report 2013-2014

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.

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Settlement Policy Director - Marisa Berry Méndez
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Fundraising Coordinator - Simran Chahal
Office Assistants - Aissatou Ndiaye, Madjako Deah, Marie-Jeanne Matsogwo

Message from Loly Rico, President

Each year for the CCR Annual Report, the President's role is to provide a message. Since I've been President, I've struggled to find good news to report: the fact is that things have been difficult for refugees and immigrants, who are feeling the impacts of recent changes. We are a long way from the days when Canada was recognized as a world leader on these issues, with policies focusing on protection and humanitarian considerations.

So I have been thinking that maybe we need to dream about what must be done to get Canada back to a leading role. Let us dream of a day of sunshine when the government will:

- Honour the United Nations' Nansen Medal awarded to the people of Canada in 1986 and our tradition of offering protection to refugees in situations of crisis, by committing to 10,000 resettled refugees from Syria, but not at the expense of refugees from other parts of the world. I'm dreaming that more of that number is made up of Government Assisted Refugees than Privately Sponsored Refugees, because Canada is taking seriously its responsibilities as a signatory to the Refugee Convention.
- Show leadership by accepting that mistakes were made and reinstate the Interim Federal Health Program for refugees and other vulnerable people.
- Recognize that citizenship is a right and that it should not be withdrawn as a punishment.
- Provide effective protection to migrant workers, in whichever stream they are, and offer them the possibility of being landed if they choose.
- Ensure that survivors of human trafficking have protection, through clear guidelines and access to permanent residence. In my dream, all forms of trafficking are addressed, not just in the sex trade and protection is guided by a human rights approach.
- Define family and dependency, not according to age, but based on the situation of the family.

Right now this is a dream, not reality. But I believe that if we keep dreaming, one day the dream will become a reality.

In that case, my friends, we need to dream. The day will come when the sun rises.



Upholding Canada’s tradition of refugee resettlement

In the context of ongoing dramatic changes to resettlement policies, the CCR energetically called for a strong Canadian response to refugees fleeing Syria, in line with the welcome offered in past refugee crises. We focused attention on the fundamental principles of the private sponsorship program: principles that underlie the success of the program, but that have been sadly eroded.

Monitoring Canada’s new refugee determination system

One year on, the new system’s challenges are clearer, as analyzed in CCR reports, including an in-depth look at the system from the perspective of refugee claimants. The CCR also focused on identifying, and looking for solutions to problems faced by claimants, in dialogue with relevant government departments.

Reuniting families

CCR continued to urge that priority be given to family unity, including intervening to speed up family reunification for children and responding to the change in the age of dependency (with at least some success).



Turning to the courts

The CCR was more than usually busy in the courts, urging that Canada comply with the Charter and international human rights obligations, on many issues, including the laws on human smuggling and the nature of the refugee appeal.

Building stronger communities of support for refugees and other vulnerable migrants

The Proud to Protect Refugees campaign built momentum and focused on how Canada must renew its role as a leader for refugee rights. People from across Canada joined in the Walk with refugees for a stronger Canada to show how refugees enrich our lives and why protecting refugee rights in Canada is a strong tradition to continue.



The 2014 Youth Action Gathering in Toronto brought together youth from across Canada to share and learn from one another. Youth Ambassadors acted as connectors between regions and national CCR discussions. Speak Up! projects enabled newcomer youth to bring light to barriers to education for non-status youth, the realities of young Muslim women, chosen family for newcomer communities regardless of sexual orientation, and more.

Creating connections between regions and communities

This year's consultations in Kitchener and in Halifax focused on building bridges: with aboriginal communities and with Canada's immigration-inspired past at Pier 21. Building stronger and more welcoming communities underscored our work together. In between these in-person conferences, our virtual meetings and webinars helped to further strengthen ties and explore ways to work together more effectively as individuals, as communities and across regions.



Promoting permanent residence and routes to protection

Stronger communities depend on secure status for everyone. Changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and temporary residence permits for trafficked persons exposed gaps in protection. The CCR focused on addressing these gaps through national forums on trafficking and migrant workers' issues in November 2013, a new introductory toolkit for action on trafficking issues and international collaboration to protect migrant workers' rights.

Standing for Canadian citizenship

Citizenship wasn't spared from changes making it "harder to get and easier to lose". We led members and allies in discussions on what citizenship means, new rules in Bill C-24, and the impacts of new cessation provisions affecting former refugees applying for Canadian citizenship.



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

From our Treasurer, Jehad Aliweiwi

Last year we saw the importance of having an independent and strong national voice on refugee rights like the CCR. Harmful policy changes and growing refugee crises across the globe encourage us to reflect on how necessary it is to sustain the CCR financially and ensure it is able to fulfill its important watchdog role in the years to come.

Moving forward, we realize the importance of involving the wider CCR community in this work. We are setting up local fundraising committees in a number of cities, reaching out to potential major donors, and growing our loyal base of monthly donors.

There are many ways you can support the CCR and help us build a solid financial foundation for the future of our work:

- Become a sustaining monthly donor, a Friend of the CCR
- Provide long term support by contributing to the CCR Endowment Fund
- Join a local fundraising committee or help the CCR identify fundraising opportunities

For more information, contact
Florence Bourdeau:
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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, 2014

REVENUE	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)
Grants		
Government	39,115	31,192
Others grants	19,067	25,000
Donations	248,120	251,360
Endowment fund contribution	35,000	10,000
Interest	5,058	1,646
Publications	1,893	6,777
Membership fees	60,505	71,445
Fundraising events	6,832	6,644
Conference registrations	47,600	70,905
Gain of investment	4,438	25
Total	467,628	474,994

EXPENSES

Salaries	240,455	251,523
Conference expenses	32,329	52,983
Executive committee	13,025	10,633
Working groups expenses	27,373	23,003
Networking and public education	44,221	26,754
Administrative expenses	56,585	59,903
Fundraising	39,813	21,452
Total	453,801	446,251

EXCESS (SHORTFALL) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	13,827	28,743
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Statement of changes in net assets

NET ASSETS UNRESTRICTED	2014	2013
Balance at beginning of year	94,847	66,104
Excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses	13,827	28,743
Balance at end of year	108,674	94,847

NET ASSETS RESTRICTED EXTERNALLY (Endowment Fund)

Balance at beginning of year	1,055,433	999,580
Contribution received as an endowment		
Transfer to operations	-35,000	-10,000
Gain/loss of investment	204,530	65,853
Balance at end of year	1,224,963	1,055,433

Balance sheet at August 31, 2014

	2014	2013
Assets	1,492,082	1,303,016
Liabilities	138,445	132,736
Net assets		
Externally restricted (note 8)	1,224,963	1,055,433
Internally restricted (note 7)	20,000	20,000
Unrestricted	108,674	94,847
Total net assets	1,353,637	1,170,280

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

