



## FIGURES USED TO (NOT QUITE) REACH \$50,000 PER REFUSED CLAIMANT

Obtained from CIC by Access to Information, August 2010

<b>Cost per refugee claimant under the current system: assumptions – March 2010</b>			
	Take up rates for negative claimants	Unit cost	Average cost of a negative claimant with an average time in the system of 50 months
Security screening	80%	\$194	\$155
Eligibility	100%	\$280	\$280
IRB	97%	\$4,928	\$4,780
PRRA	100%	\$598	\$598
CBSA ministerial interventions	4%	\$2,200	\$54
FC application for leave	57%	\$928	\$529
FC judicial review	3%	\$2,478	\$77
Removal	83%	\$9,000	\$7,470
Legal Aid	100%	\$1,780	\$1,774
IFH	100%	\$46/month	\$2,300
Social Assistance*	75%	\$604/month	\$22,650
Education**	17%	\$855.17/month	\$7,269
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$47,936</b>

\* See below for (dubious) rationale for 75% figure.

\*\* Based on the refugee claimant intake numbers from the past five years, on average, 17% of the claimant population is school-age children. According to the most recent Statistics Canada report, an average of \$10,262 was spent on each child per year in Canada. This amounts to \$855.17 per month per child.

For an explanation of why these figures don't make sense, visit:

<http://ccrweb.ca/en/forget-refugee-claimants-its-canadian-citizens-we-cant-afford>



**Calculating the cost of a Canadian  
Based on CIC figures to calculate costs of refused claimants**

<b>Cost per Canadian</b>			
		Unit cost	Average cost of a Canadian over 50 months
Health care*	100%	\$454/month	\$ 22,717
Social Assistance**	5%	\$604/month	\$1,573
Education (same as for claimants)	17%	\$855.17/month	\$7,269
University***	3%	\$2,113/month	\$3,169
Universal child care benefit	6%	\$100/month	\$300
<b>Total (so far)</b>			<b>\$35,028</b>

Note: this table covers only some of the many benefits received by Canadians. For example it does not include Child Tax Benefit and Old Age Security payments. The real total would be much higher.

\* Average cost = \$5,452 per person in 2009. <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/11/19/health-care-spending-canada.html>

\*\*Rate on social assistance = approx 5%.

[http://www.nwcnbes.net/documents/researchpublications/ResearchProjects/WelfareIncomes/2005Report\\_Summer2006/Factsheets/Factsheet09ENG.pdf](http://www.nwcnbes.net/documents/researchpublications/ResearchProjects/WelfareIncomes/2005Report_Summer2006/Factsheets/Factsheet09ENG.pdf)

\*\*\* <http://www40.statcan.ca/101/cst01/govt41a-eng.htm>. In 2006, total full-time enrolment at Canadian universities reached an all time high of 815,000 students (Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, 2007).

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**PROVIDING SERVICES TO ASYLUM CLAIMANTS  
Education and Social Assistance Methodology Note**

*Services to Asylum Seekers*

Asylum seekers benefit from social assistance, education, emergency health care, emergency housing, and legal aid. Health care services for asylum seekers are paid for through the Interim Federal Health program. Emergency housing is provided by the municipalities which do not differentiate classes of people in need of shelter. As for legal aid, the federal government provides funding to the provinces for legal aid. CIC and DOJ can provide the methodological notes for Interim Federal Health and legal aid. As for emergency housing, robust data is not available. Therefore, this note focuses on data and methodological issues associated with social assistance and education for asylum seekers in order to arrive at two critical inputs to costing: (i) average monthly rate/cost; and (ii) take-up rate.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Services to Asylum Seekers</b>	<b>Program Description</b>
<i>Provincial</i>	Social Assistance	Various provincial plans in place to provide financial assistance to people in temporary financial need. <sup>1</sup> While all claimants have access to the labour markets, evidence suggests 3 out of every four (75%) receive social assistance.
	Education	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes the child's right to education. Provincial statutes allow for education irrespective of citizenship status. Evidence suggests 1 out of 4 claimants are children under 18 and about 17% of the claimant population are school-age children.

*Social Assistance*

For any costing exercise, it is important to establish the monthly rate of assistance. To date, all costing exercises have assumed an **average monthly rate of \$530 per person**, which is roughly equivalent to the assistance provided to Government-Assisted Refugees which is in turn roughly marked to the provincial social assistance rates.

In previous costing exercises, we have used a **take-up rate of 75%** (applied to the entire population) in previous costing exercises. This rate is derived through backward extrapolation of protected persons data from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB), a taxfiler database with data for only "landed" immigrants. This extrapolation has been confirmed three times – in a study by t in a collaborative effort between Brian Chow and Research and Evaluation (R&E) in early 2008; and in an R&E study on "Immigration: The Canadian Story" (see Annex A). R&E's extrapolation using the 1993 and 1997 landing data suggests a take-up rate of between 70 and 80 per cent.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.canadabenefits.gc.ca/faechome.jsp?lang=en>

To fully understand the robustness of these estimates, one must look at two factors: (i) survivor bias; and (ii) status across the asylum continuum.

- First, extrapolation using only those landed leaves out failed claimants (arguably mostly economic migrants) who come in search of economic opportunities and therefore would be more likely to participate in the labour force. Unfortunately, data is not available to confirm this bias.
- Second, in extrapolating backwards, it is important to note that it takes about one year from the granting of protected persons status by the Immigration and Refugee Board to landing. One therefore must extrapolate backwards at least for one year prior to landing. To determine the path of extrapolation, one must factor in survivor bias, the negative incentive effects of a social insurance number with a "9" to indicate asylum seekers, and the opportunity cost of working (i.e., no social assistance). On balance, R&E and other researchers have assumed no structural break.

Other related data do not yield additional insights in terms of social assistance access by asylum seekers. For example:

- In a recent deck by R&E with data from the 2008 Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate for "non-landed" was 7.4 per cent in 2008. There are some 500,000 non-landed. According to Stan Kustec of R&E, "non-landed" is derived from people who say they were born outside of Canada and are not landed immigrants. As such the "non-landed" population includes temporary foreign workers, foreign students, Canadian citizens born abroad (e.g., children of Canadian military parents), and asylum seekers as well as protected persons. The survey is not sufficiently robust enough to further disaggregate the data to arrive at an asylum seeker-specific number.
- The R&E study on "Immigration: The Canadian Story" noted a participation rate across all categories of refugees (GARs, PSRs and landed in Canada) six months after landing of only 43%. Of course, GARs are unlikely to seek unemployment during the first year when they receive assistance from the federal government. PSRs and those landed in Canada on the other hand – because of need or pressure – often enter the labour force more quickly than GARs. The same study noted an employment-to-total population ratio of 22%.

**Education**

A 2007 Statistics Canada study on "Summary Public School Indicators for the Provinces and Territories, 1998/1999 to 2004/2005" by Patrick Blouin and Marie-Josée Courchesne noted that provinces spent over \$44.5 billion for just over 5.2 million children for an average cost for child of \$9,040/year or a **monthly education expense of \$753 per child**; the per child rates in Quebec, Ontario and BC are \$8663, \$9267 and \$8960, respectively. With inflation and structural increases for teacher salaries, we expect the average cost to have increased; in this same study, over the span of six years, the per student cost rose by 28% or almost 5 per cent per year.

Looking at intake from the past five years, on average, **17 per cent** of the claimant population are school-age children and about 1 in 4 asylum seekers are children under 18. Since education is mandatory for school age children, it is reasonable to expect 100 per cent take-up. If one wants to arrive at an annual cost associated with education for children asylum seekers, one must use this percentage on the stock of asylum seekers in any given year in order to arrive at a reasonable annual cost.

Cohort	Age 0-4	Age 5-18	Age 19 and over	Total
2004	1,543	4,205	19,794	25,542
2005	1,155	3,140	15,476	19,771
2006	1,390	3,727	17,843	22,960
2007	2,224	5,044	21,264	28,532
2008	3,045	6,550	27,321	36,916
<b>Total</b>	18,225	47,503	215,914	281,642
<b>% total</b>	6.5	16.9	76.7	100.0

Source: FOSS, April 28, 2009

**Annex A: Immigration: The Canadian Story**

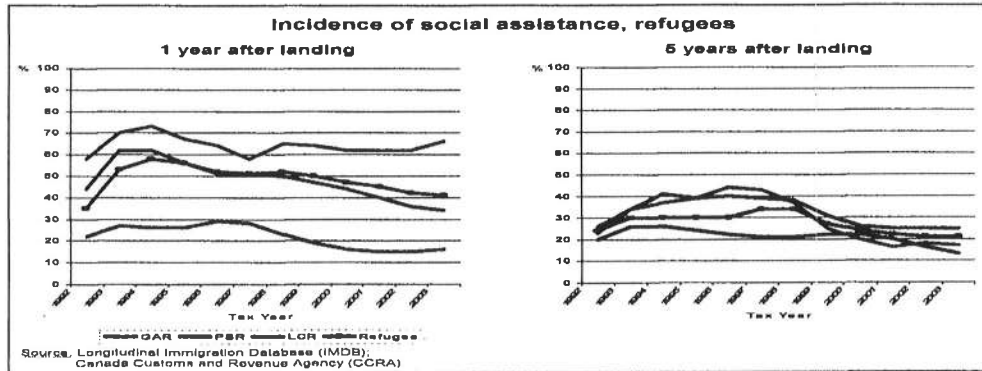
Knowledge Transfer Division, CIC

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**Refugees**

Refugees have a relatively high reliance on income support upon arrival, but incidence of social assistance falls with years in Canada as refugees become increasingly self-sufficient.

The initially high rates of social assistance incidence among Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) are largely explained by the fact that these individuals are provided income support – and a range of other services -- under the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) for up to 12 months (and up to 24 months for those with special needs). Income support amounts are set in line with provincial social assistance rates.



There is an income transition between pre and post landing from primarily social assistance to employment earnings for refugees landed in Canada.

