

Who is a refugee?

A refugee is a person who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

Source: UNHCR

Top Reasons for Fleeing a Country

1. War
2. Ethnic, tribal and/or religious violence
3. Sexual orientation
4. Gender Violence

Source: ISSofBC



What is Canada's Role?

As a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention, Canada is pledged to accept a share of the world's refugees. It is not simply a humanitarian gesture, but a legal requirement.

How Do Refugees Come to Canada?

There are two ways:

- 1 Some refugees are selected abroad to be resettled. These refugees are called **Government Assisted Refugees (GARs)**, **Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs)**, or **Blended Visa Office Referred Refugees (BVORs)**. They must qualify for entry under Canada's laws and must pass

medical and security checks before they can come to Canada.

- 2 Some refugees arrive on their own and make a claim once in Canada. These refugees are called **Refugee Claimants** or **Asylum Seekers**.

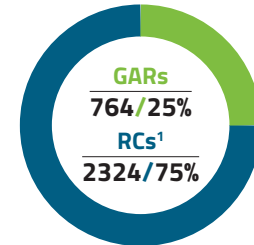
Source: IRCC, ISSofBC

Refugee Arrivals to B.C.

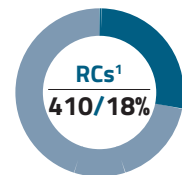
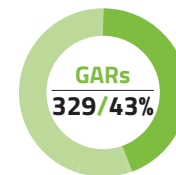
January 1 to December 31, 2018

Source: ISSofBC

British Columbia Total² 3088



Surrey Total² 739



In 2018

- **1 in 4 refugees to BC** settled in Surrey
- **4 in 10 GARs to BC** settled in Surrey
- **1 in 2 GARs to Surrey** is under the age of 18
- **Refugees to Surrey** came from 50+ countries

GLOSSARY

Government Assisted Refugees (GARs) are selected abroad and sponsored by the Government of Canada who provides financial and other support for up to one year after arrival.

Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs) are selected abroad and sponsored by a private sponsorship group who agrees to provide financial and other support for up to one year after arrival.

The **Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)** Program matches refugees identified for resettlement by the United Nations Refugee Agency with private sponsorship groups in Canada. The Government of Canada provides up to six months of financial support, and the private sponsorship group provides financial support for another six months, as well as social and emotional support for the full year.

Refugee Claimants (RCs) or **Asylum Seekers** are foreign nationals seeking refugee protection status from within Canada. They cannot return to their home country safely because they would be subject to danger or torture, risk to their life, or risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment. Decisions on their applications are made by the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Source: IRCC, ISSofBC

About The Surrey Local Immigration Partnership

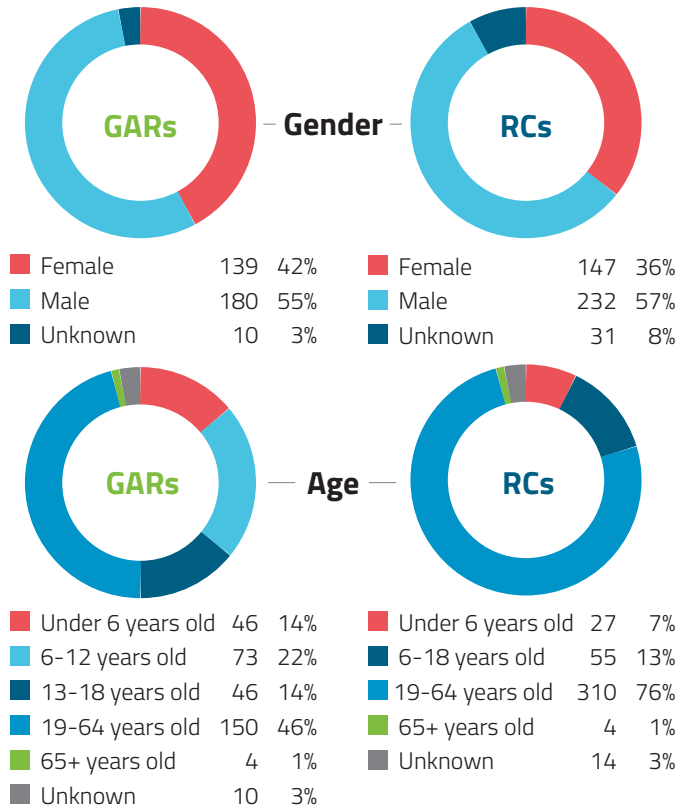
Established in 2014, Surrey's Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) is led by the City of Surrey and governed by a committee of 32 community representatives working together to improve newcomer integration in Surrey.

¹New refugee claimant clients to Settlement Orientation Services (SOS), which supports refugee claimants to BC in navigating Canada's refugee determination process.

²The total number refers to GARs and refugee claimants only – the number of PSRs and BVORs to Surrey is unknown. The actual number of refugees to Surrey is higher.

Refugee Arrivals to Surrey

January 1 to December 31, 2018



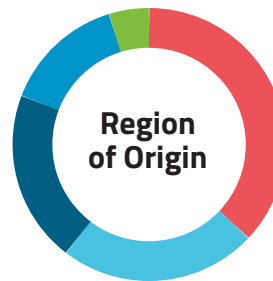
Country of Origin

GARs

Syria	143	43%
Somalia	55	17%
Congo	41	12%
Eritrea	27	8%
Iraq	16	5%
Burma	14	4%
Burundi	8	3%
Uganda	5	2%
Iran	5	2%
Sudan	4	1%
Other/Unknown	10	3%

RCs

Colombia	52	13%
Iraq	50	12%
Afghanistan	46	11%
Honduras	32	8%
El Salvador	20	5%
Nigeria	19	5%
Mexico	18	4%
Iran	18	4%
Turkey	11	3%
Libya	11	3%
Palestine	10	2%
India	10	2%
Other/Unknown	113	28%



Middle East	272	37%
Africa	181	24%
Latin America	147	20%
Asia	101	14%
Other	38	5%

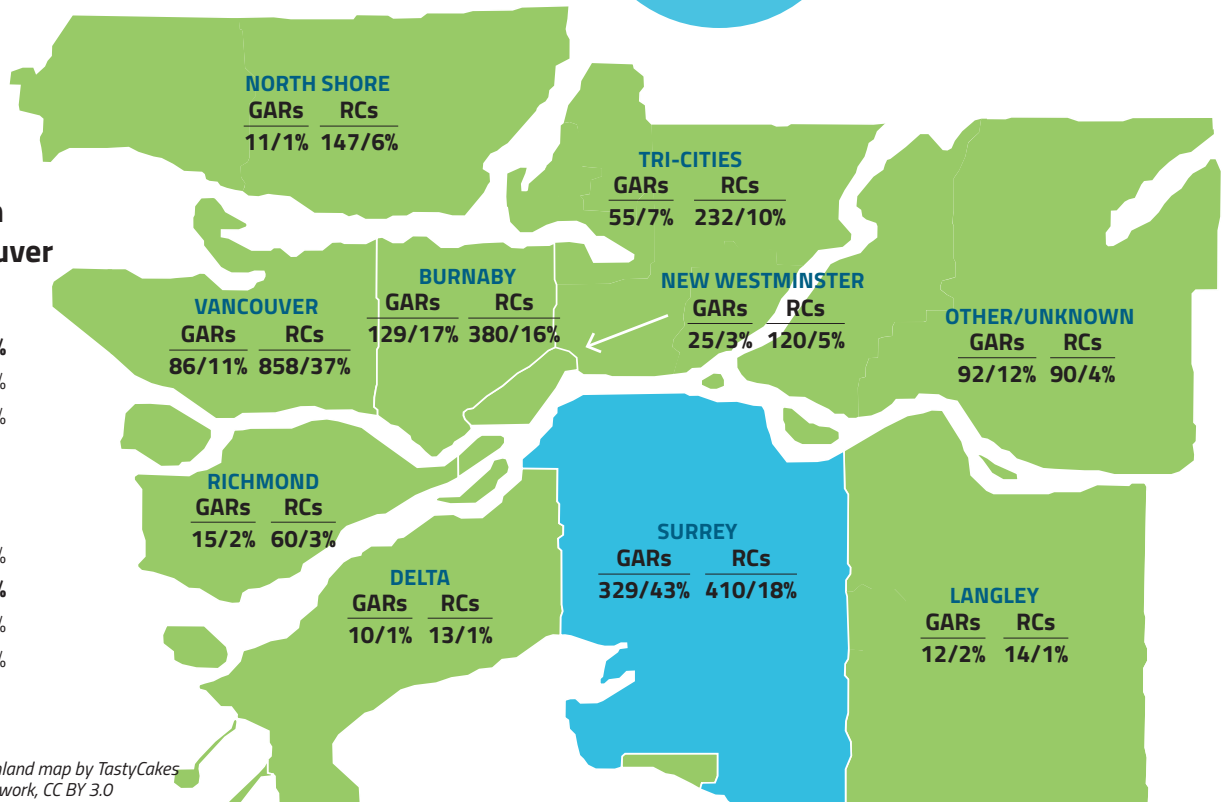
Settlement in Metro Vancouver

GARs

1. Surrey 43%
2. Burnaby 17%
3. Vancouver 11%
4. Tri-Cities 7%

RCs

1. Vancouver 37%
2. Surrey 18%
3. Burnaby 16%
4. Tri-Cities 10%



Source: ISSofBC, Lower Mainland map by TastyCakes on English Wikipedia - Own work, CC BY 3.0