



Report to Catholic Charities 2018

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September 30 | 2019

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Reduction in Refugee Arrivals

2018 saw a **40%** reduction in the number of newly arrived refugees sponsored by Calgary RC Diocese, from 505 arrivals in 2017 to **305** in 2018. The reduction occurred as a result of a reduction in the inventory of PSR applications in Visa Offices overseas. IRCC initiated a policy in 2018 to clear the backlog of refugee files overseas and decrease processing time for privately sponsored refugees to one year or less.

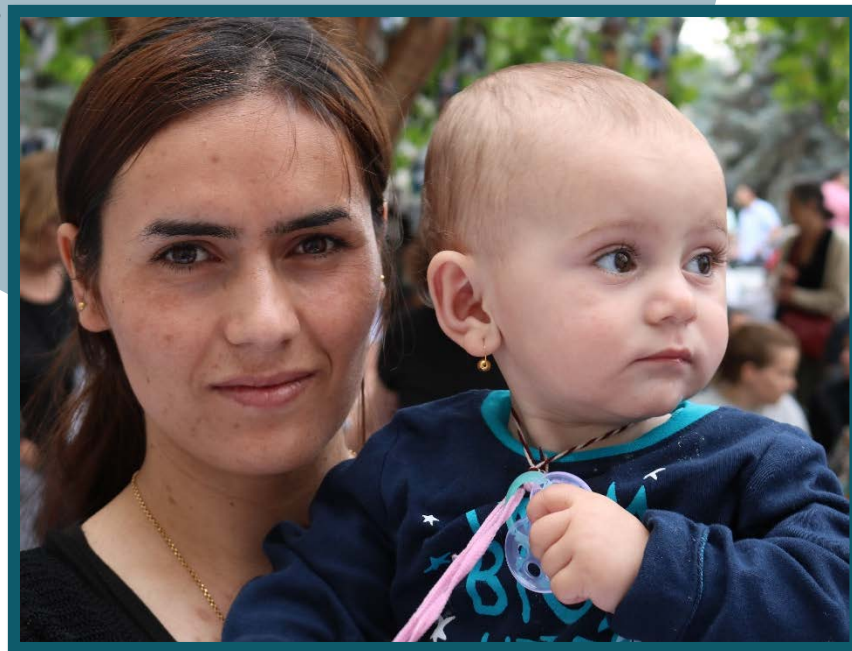
Case Review

IRCC initiated a second policy in 2018 called Case Review or, as it later became known, Quality Assurance. In the 40-year history of the PSR Program in Canada, IRCC had not implemented a practice of following up on the resettlement of newly arrived refugees unless the refugees applied for financial assistance from provincial Social Services during the one-year term of sponsorship responsibility.

In 2018, IRCC began doing follow-up in instances where refugees relocate to another city in Canada during the sponsorship year. Relocating to other cities has been a common practice for refugees throughout the history of the program.

In 2018, IRCC decided to increase resettlement accountability and began sending Case Review letters when they became aware that refugees had moved to a city other than the original destination. Case Review resulted in considerable time being spent by SAHs to follow-up with Co-sponsors, most often relatives of the refugee, and collect details about resettlement progress.

SAHs used IRCC's Settlement Plan as a guide to all the steps that should be covered in the refugee resettlement process.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Red Wednesday Prayer Service for Persecuted Christians

For the first time in the history of the Sponsorship Program at CCIS, a prayer service for staff and volunteers was held acknowledging the recent and unprecedented level of persecution of Christians in the world.

The prayer service campaign was initiated by the Social Justice Office of Calgary RC Diocese.



Bridging Borders Campaign | Canadian Jesuits International | Fr Nawras Sammour

Fr Nawras, Regional Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service in the Middle East, presented the Bridging Borders Campaign at two parishes in the Diocese on November 23-24; St Stephen's Protomartyr Ukrainian Church in Calgary and St Martha's Parish in Lethbridge, Alberta.

The goal of the campaign was to promote dialogue and good-will among people of all faiths and political ideology throughout the Middle East and in the world. The Jesuit Refugee Service aided thousands of refugees and displaced people of all religious faiths, throughout the Syrian War, from 2011 to the present. *(See poster at the end of this report.)*

2019 marks the **40th anniversary** of the PSR Program. The Government of Canada created the PSR Program in 1979 to allow ordinary Canadians to sponsor 60,000 refugees fleeing the conflict in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The PSR Program was so successful that in 1986 the people of Canada were awarded the **Nansen Medal** for their humanitarian work, the only time the medal has been awarded to the people of a country. Over the last 40 years, approximately two million Canadians have helped sponsor more than **327,000** refugees.



Celebrating 40 years

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ARRIVALS

305 refugees arrived | 31% Africa | 68% Middle East | 1% Tibet

6490 refugees sponsored | Calgary RC Diocese | 1987 - present

105 new sponsorship applications

SPONSORSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Knights of Columbus | St Bonaventure Hope & Haven Refugee Ministry

Together in Action Campaign | St Paul's Church, Airdrie

Together in Action Campaign | St Famille Parish

WORKSHOPS FOR PARISH VOLUNTEERS

St Luke's Parish | *Introduction to Sponsorship*

Millarville Community Church | *Resettlement Planning*

FCJ Christian Life Centre | *Month 13 & Alberta Works Group of Five & Community Sponsorship*

All Saints Parish | *Airport Reception*

Westsprings Free Methodist Church | *Joint Assistance Sponsorship Resettlement Planning*

Chaldean Catholic Community | *Group of Five & Community Sponsorship*

St Gerard's Parish | *Airport Reception | Resettlement Planning*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

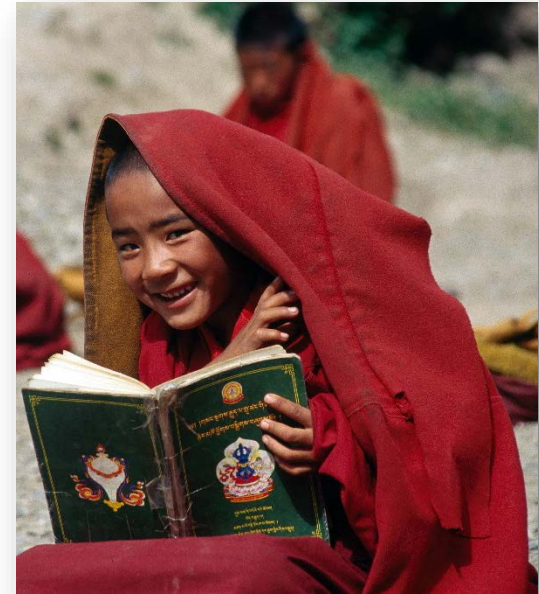
Project Tibet Society Sponsorship Celebration

Tax Clinic for Newly Arrived Refugees

National SAH Conference, Toronto

CCIS Red Wednesday Prayer Service for Persecuted Christians

Canadian Jesuits International | Bridging Borders Campaign Syria| St Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Church, Calgary



MEMBERSHIP IN SPONSORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Refugee Sponsorship Training Program Advisory Committee

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH) Association of Canada

Catholic Refugee Sponsorship Council & Board Member

Calgary SAH Working Group

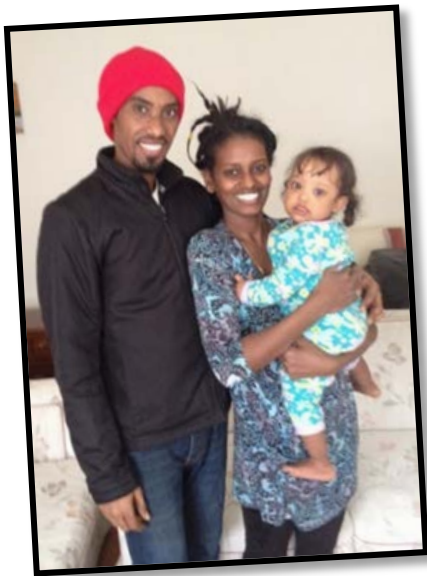
Eritrean Canadian Community Association of Calgary

Calgary RC Diocese Committee for World Day of Migrants & Refugees

ST. BONAVENTURE HOPE & HAVEN

St Bonaventure Hope & Haven Refugee Program provides financial, resettlement and material support to refugee families sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary and Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS).

Since its inception in September 2015, the program has provided furniture and household goods to 60 refugee families and individuals from Syria, Iraq, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Nepal, India and Nigeria.



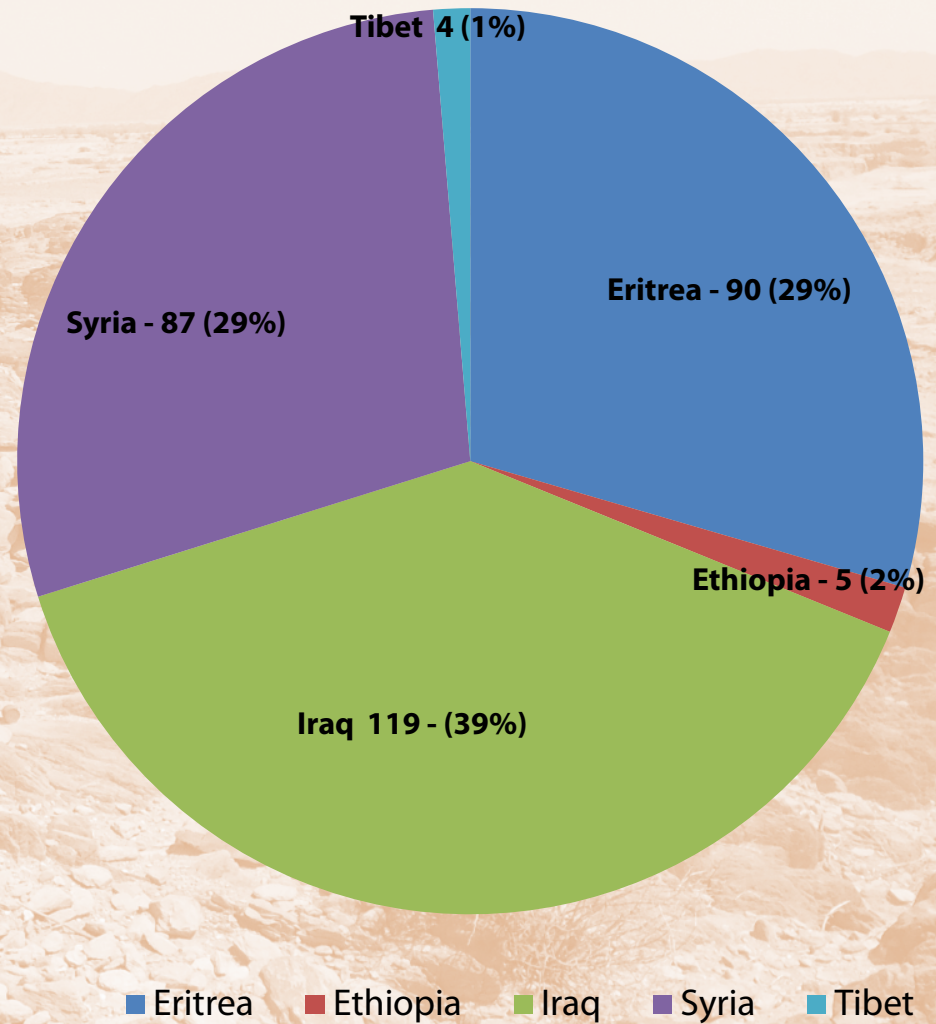
For more information about the Hope and Haven Refugee Program please contact St Bonaventure Parish. 403-278-7556.



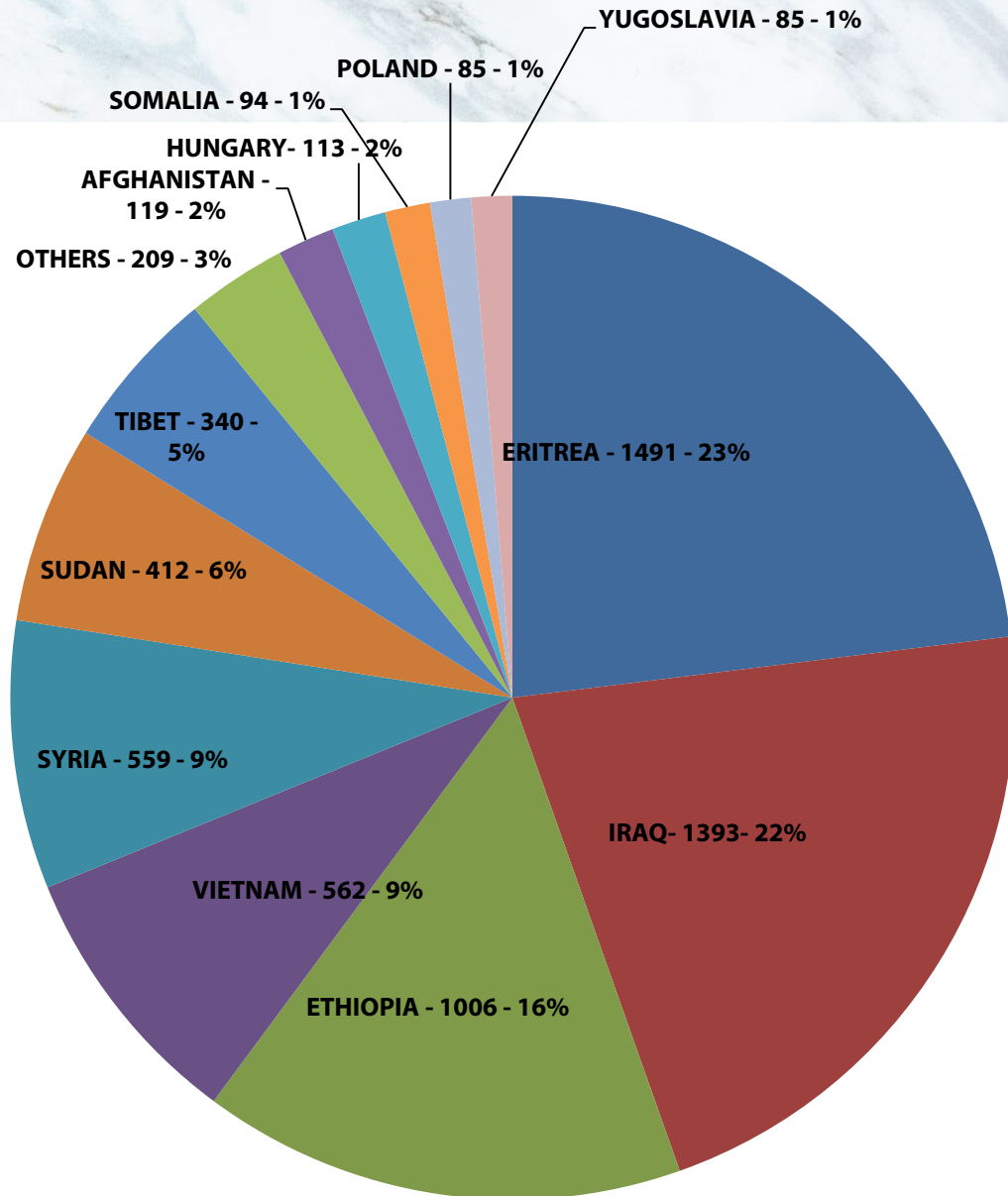
The Odicho family was the first to be sponsored from Syria by St Bonaventure Parish in 2015. In March 2019 they purchased a new home in SE Calgary, clearly demonstrating successful resettlement.

Their son Lionardo became a Canadian citizen in July.

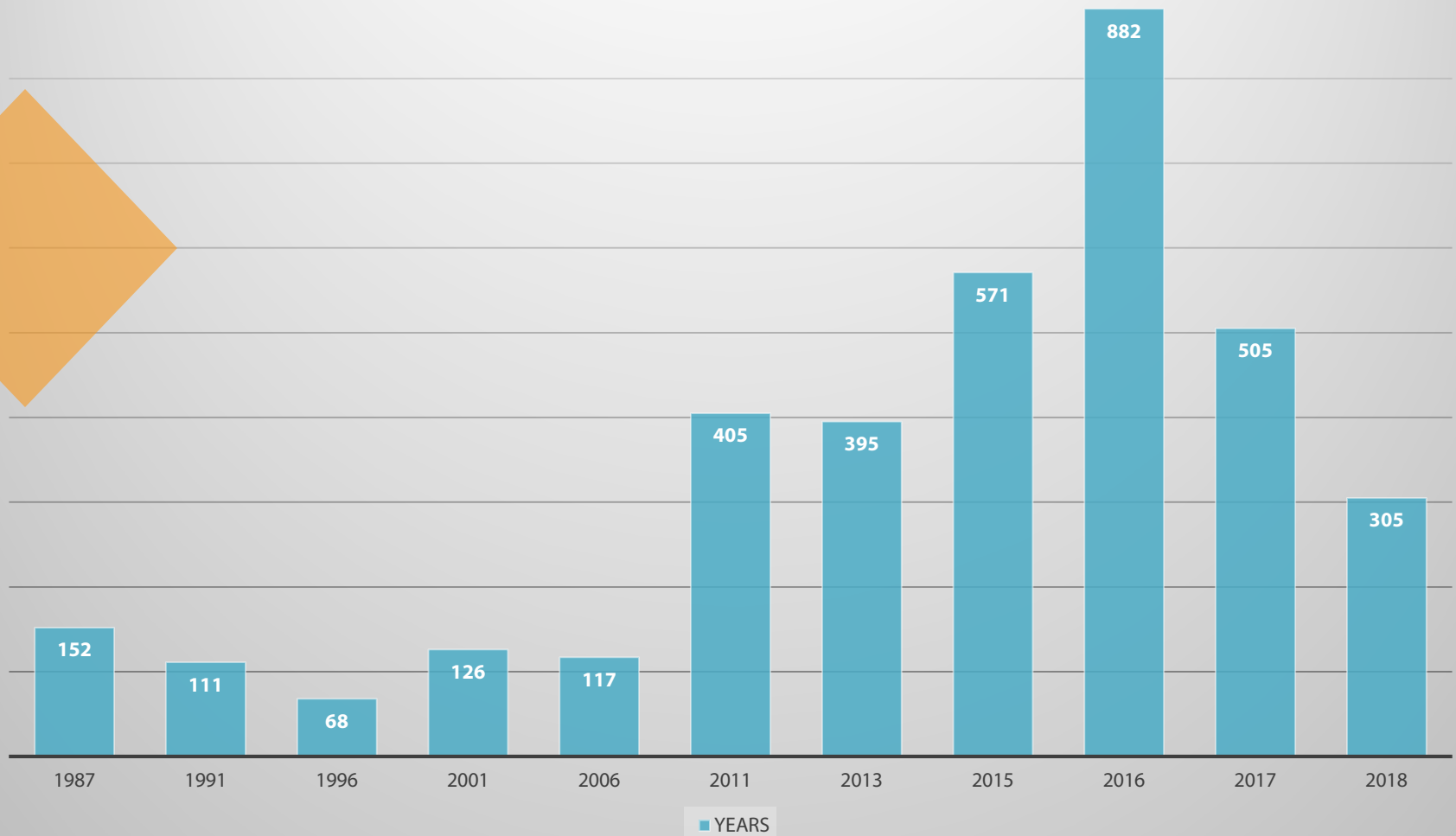
REFUGEE ARRIVALS 2018



REFUGEE ARRIVALS 1987-2018



Refugee Arrivals by Year | Calgary RC Diocese January 1987 - December 2018





Thank you for your on-going support.

BRIDGING BORDERS

"I appeal not to create walls but to build bridges." — Pope Francis

Father Nawras Sammour SJ

Regional Director of Jesuit Refugee Service - Middle East

GivingTuesday



November 27th 2018

Fr. Nawras, from Aleppo, Syria, will give an update on the situation in Syria and in neighbouring countries and speak on why building bridges is crucial for our time.

Organized by:



Friday, November 23, 2018

7:00 - 9:00 pm

St. Stephen Protomartyr Church

4903 - 45 Street, S.W.

Calgary, AB

Join Canadian Jesuits International's
Giving Tuesday Campaign



Visit www.canadianjesuitsinternational.ca or email cji@jesuits.ca 1-800-448-2148

