

BC REFUGEE HUB BULLETIN

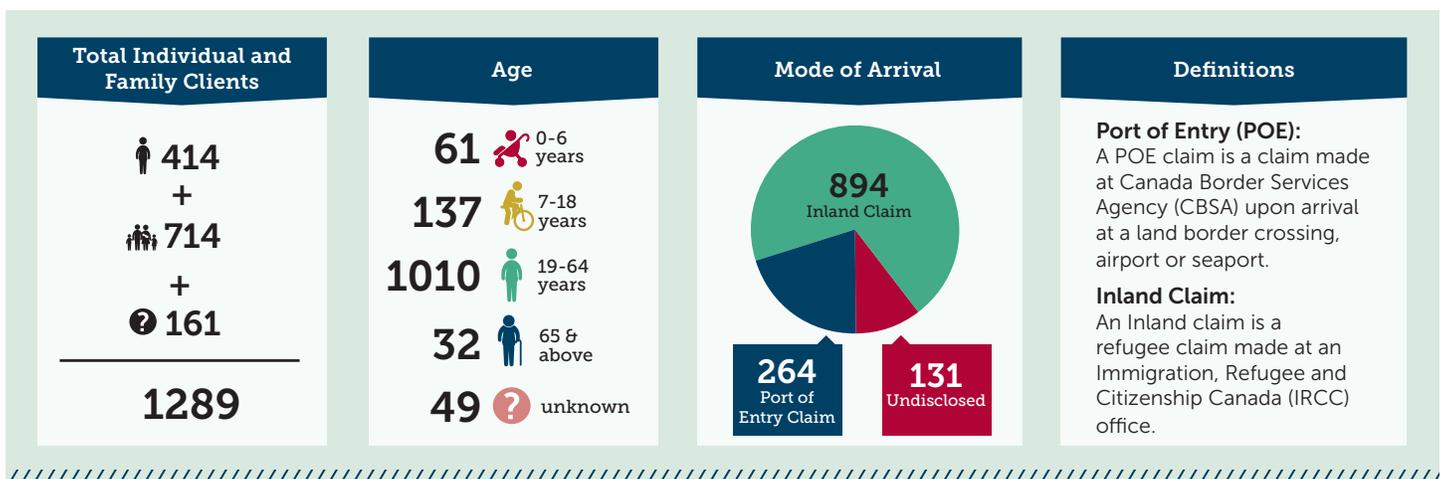
Refugee Claimants // Arrival Highlights: Apr-Jun 2019



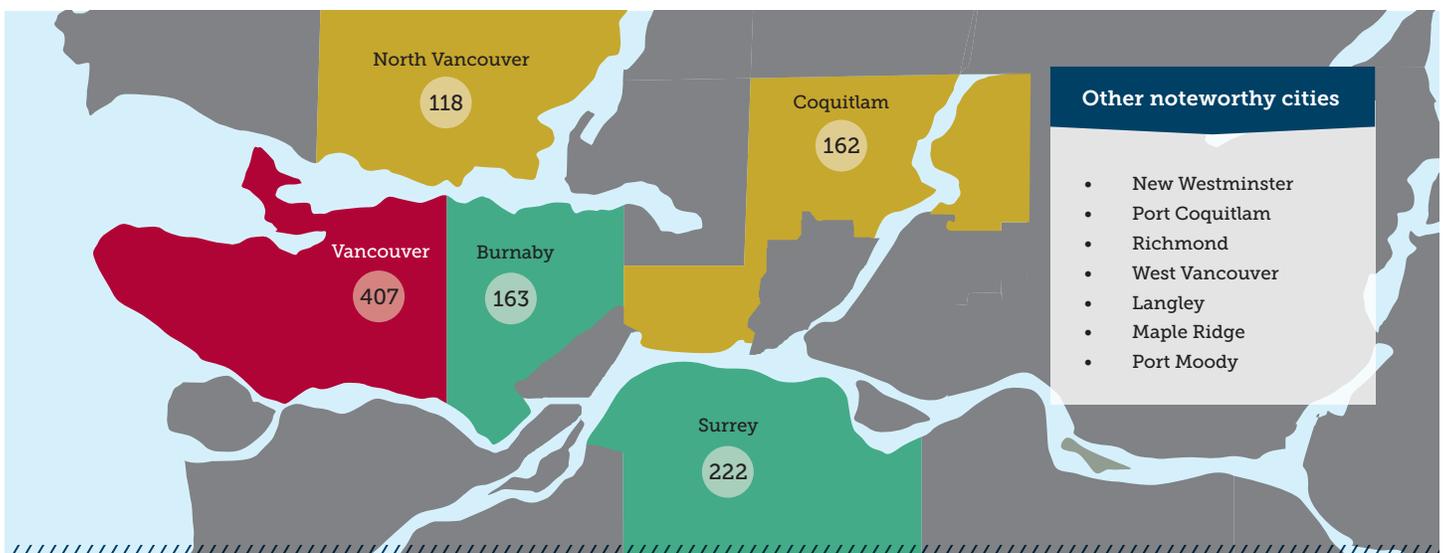
SOS Monthly Statistics of New Refugee Claimant Clients: Apr. to Jun. 2019



SOS Total New and Returning Clients Served: Apr. to Jun. 2019

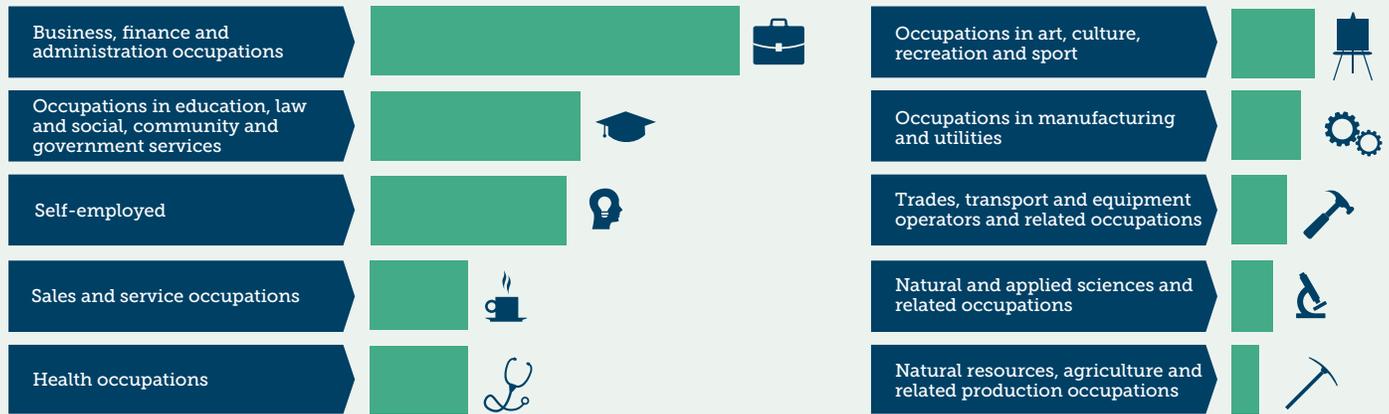


SOS Top 5 Settlement Patterns Based on Residential Addresses: Apr. to Jun. 2019



SOS Pre Arrival Occupation / Education: Apr. to Jun. 2019

The following are highlights of the past occupation and/or education that was reported Apr-Jun 2019 by Refugee Claimants



* May have multiple responses The statistics above were provided by Settlement Orientation Services (sosbc.ca).

SOS Trends and Observations: Apr. to Jun. 2019

- The Surrey office has been receiving a **growing number of walk-in claimants who are in need of emergency housing**.
- Both the Surrey and Vancouver offices are receiving a **large number of refugee claimants whose families have substantial needs**. Many of these families are large and include pregnant women, newborns and claimants with critical medical conditions.
- **A growing number of families arriving from different provinces**. These families, who are on income assistance, have to close their files in their original provinces to receive benefits from British Columbia. This process takes a lot of time, and not having income assistance increases the pressure of finding permanent housing.
- Effective March 2019, the **processing time for issuing a work permit is 95 days** according to the latest update from the IRCC website. This delay in issuing work permits is **intensifying the pressure on social programmes** and leads to frustration among refugee claimants.
- **Inconsistencies remain regarding automatic work permits due to a glitch in the IRCC system**. The problem was reportedly solved in February, but claimants are still reporting not receiving their work permits.
- **There is a very long period between a client seeking legal aid and the same client meeting a lawyer**. During this period, clients are left without welfare or IFH and depending on either family or people they have met through religious groups.
- Protected persons and convention refugees who are applying for permanent residence now have to **pay the biometrics fees for themselves and family members abroad**.

The trends and observations above were provided by Settlement Orientation Services (sosbc.ca).

Service Provider Spotlight

LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY (LEGAL AID BC)

The Legal Services Society is BC's legal aid provider. LSS helps British Columbians to resolve their legal problems through information, advice, and representation services.



Resources and Publications To access all resources and publications, visit: lss.bc.ca/publications

Need Help With Your Refugee Claim?¹

Info card that promotes the legal aid immigration phone line and other legal aid services for refugee claimants. *Languages available: English, Dari, French, Kurdish, Pashto, and Spanish.*



Sponsorship Breakdown²

A booklet for permanent residents who need help when the person sponsoring them in Canada will no longer support them, and they are unable to support themselves. *Languages available: Arabic, English, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Farsi (Persian), Punjabi, and Spanish.*



Working with Your Legal Aid Lawyer³

A fact sheet that describes client and lawyer responsibilities to help them both know what to expect from a legal aid contract. *Languages available: English, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Punjabi, and Spanish.*



Your Welfare Rights⁴

How to Apply for Welfare – Explains the application process to get welfare.



Legal Aid Immigration Line

For more information or to apply for legal aid, call the Legal Aid immigration line: 604-601-6076 or 1-888-601-6076 (no charge) or visit lss.bc.ca

¹lss.bc.ca/publications/pub/need-help-your-refugee-claim

²lss.bc.ca/publications/pub/sponsorship-breakdown

³lss.bc.ca/publications/pub/working-your-legal-aid-lawyer

⁴legalaid.bc.ca/publications/pub/your-welfare-rights-how-apply-welfare

Refugee Success Story Videos



Samuel and Johanna arrived in Canada as Refugee Claimants from Honduras. Once their refugee claim was accepted and they became Permanent Residents, Samuel and Yohana started their own painting company: Samyoh Honcan Painting Ltd. Their business has grown, and they've completed large-scale projects in new developments throughout the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan.

youtu.be/JXruAQVw-wo



Saiwan received help from Settlement Orientation Services (SOS) and The Legal Services Society during his refugee claim process. After receiving his work permit, to support himself, he started working for a moving company. One year later, Saiwan started his own successful moving company, Falcon Movers, and has worked with clients across Canada.

youtu.be/XrYTtUIrK0I



Successful refugee claimant arrived in Canada from Afghanistan. His refugee claim was accepted, and he is now awaiting family reunification with his wife and two children.

youtu.be/TlM4Cua2W2I

Refugees Welcome



Canadians concerned for refugees and migrants have worried that we might see an increase in racist, xenophobic and toxic anti-refugee language during the upcoming October 2019 elections. To address this, the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) has joined with three partner organizations (Amnesty International, the Canadian Council of Churches and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers) to work on a campaign designed to shift public opinion by focusing on positive messages.

Interested in getting involved? Visit refugees-welcome.ca to learn how you, your organization and your community can contribute to this campaign.

“ We hope to count on your support in working to keep public opinion about refugees and vulnerable migrants as positive as possible in Canada during the 2019 federal election and beyond. ”

– Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)