

RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program

Updated 2019-2020 Immigration Levels Plan

On October 31, 2018, IRCC released details on the Government of Canada's updated immigration levels plan for 2019-2021. This 2019-2021 plan includes a small number of adjustments to previously-announced targets that were introduced in 2017.

The updated plan increases admissions targets from 310,000 new permanent residents in 2018 to 350,000 in 2021. The targets for 2019 and 2020, originally set at 330,000 and 340,000, respectively, have now been increased to 330,800 and 341,000.

You'll find the updated level plan for refugee sponsorship bellow. Please note, this does not include Quebec's planned levels for 2019 and beyond.

HOT OFF
the
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Immigration category	2018 Target	2019 Low	2019 Target	2019 High	2020 Low	2020 Target	2020 High	2021 Low	2021 Target	2021 High
Government Assisted (GAR)	7,500	7,500	9,300	9,500	9,000	10,700	11,000	9,000	10,700	11,000
Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)	1,500	1,000	1,650	3,000	500	1,000	2,500	500	1,000	2,500
Privately Sponsored (PSR)	18,000	17,000	19,000	21,000	18,000	20,000	23,000	18,000	20,000	23,000

Note: The levels indicate the number of **arrivals**.

The adjustments

BVOR Target

- Stays at the planned level of 1,650 in 2019; and
- Goes down to 1,000 in 2020 and 2021.

GAR Target

- Goes up to 9,300 (from 8, 500) in 2019;
- Goes up to 10,700 in 2020 and 2021

PSR Target

- Stays at the planned level of 19,000 in 2019; and
- Goes up to 20,000 in 2020 and 2021.

Source: [Supplementary Information 2019-2021 Immigration Levels Plan](#)

LOOKING BACK & MOVING FORWARD

The updated level plan is a reflection of Canada's response to the current global refugee crisis. The increased interest and submissions of private refugee

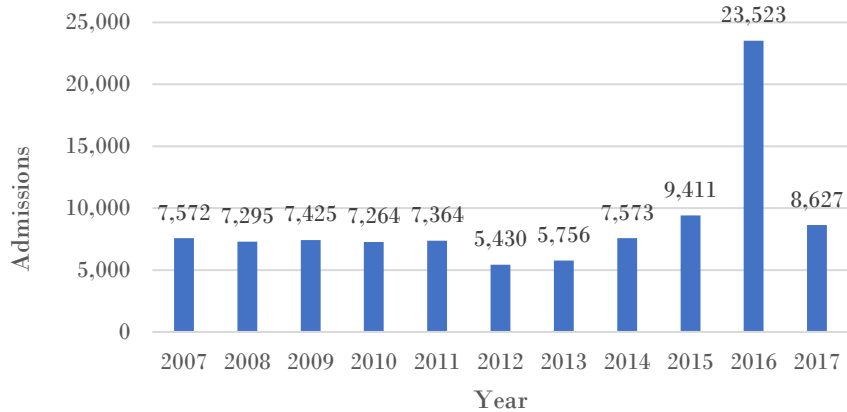
sponsorship applications as well as Canada's effort to clean the backlogs have all added to the higher admissions target levels for each year.

Arrivals in the last 10 years reflect this interest and commitment. This is featured in the chart below and the graphs that follow highlight the arrival per category.

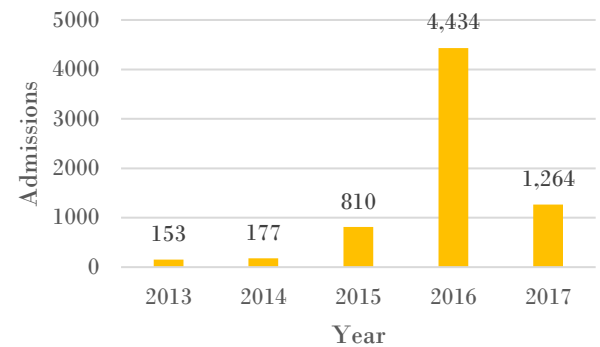
Permanent Residents Admitted to Canada in the last 10 years

Category	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Government-Assisted Refugees	7,572	7,295	7,425	7,264	7,364	5,430	5,756	7,573	9,411	23,523	8,627
Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees	The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) program was launched by the Canadian government in 2013						153	177	810	4,434	1,264
Privately Sponsored Refugees	3,588	3,512	5,036	4,833	5,582	4,220	6,277	4,560	9,350	18,362	16,705

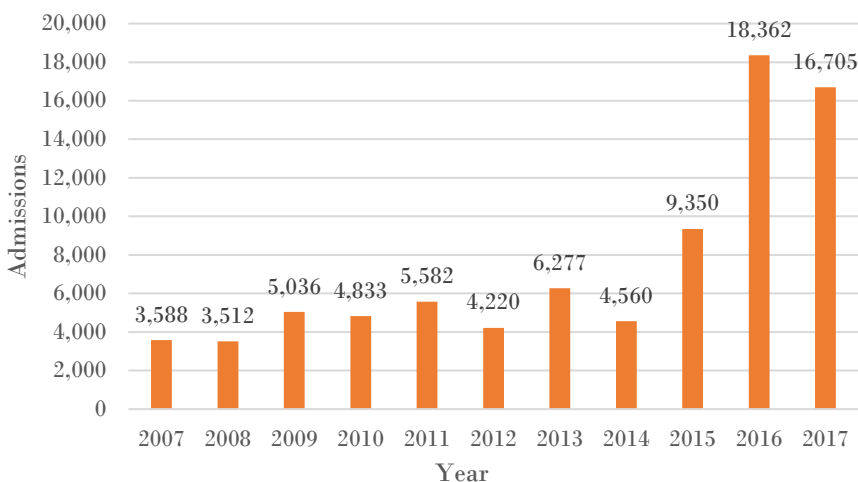
Government-Assisted Refugees



Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees



Privately Sponsored Refugees



Sources

- [1. Permanent Residents Admissions to Canada, between 2001 to 2010](#)
- [2. Annual Report To Parliament On Immigration 2012 Permanent Residents Admitted in 2011](#)
- [3. Annual Report To Parliament On Immigration 2013 Permanent Residents Admitted in 2012](#)
- [4. Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration 2014 Permanent Residents Admitted in 2013](#)
- [5. Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration 2015 Permanent Residents Admitted in 2014](#)
- [6. Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration 2016 Admissions of Permanent Residents in 2015](#)
- [7. 2017 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration Admissions of Permanent Residents in 2016](#)
- [8. IRCC's 2017 PSR 4th Quarterly Update and the Mission-Specific Update](#)

The “Immigration Matters” Campaign



Serious Criminality & Marijuana



On October 22, 2018, the purchase, possession and use of marijuana ([cannabis](#)) was [legalized](#) in Canada.

How does this impact privately sponsored refugees?

The legalization of marijuana brought about strict marijuana-related penalties, which could **affect immigration status** for permanent and temporary residents. **This includes privately sponsored refugees**, before and after arrival.

Most **cannabis-related crimes** are considered **serious crimes** because they could have a maximum penalty of 14 years. The crime could have happened either inside or outside of Canada. This means:

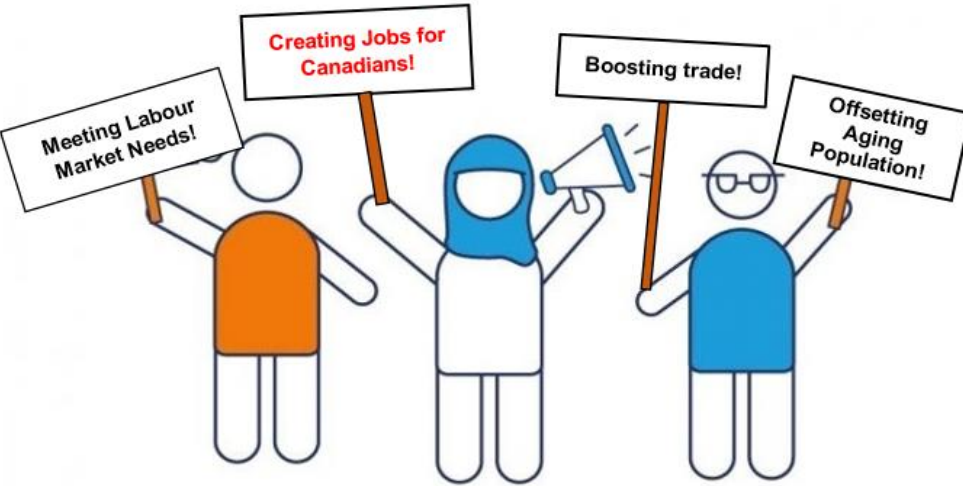
Pre-Arrival

If a person has committed cannabis-related crimes outside of Canada, they can be found inadmissible **to Canada for serious criminality** and **may not be able to enter Canada**.

Post arrival

A permanent resident who commits a cannabis-related crime, inside or outside of Canada, **may lose their status and have to leave the country**.

For more information on laws relating to cannabis, please click [here](#)



The federal government has launched a [communications campaign](#) to counter the anti-immigrant and anti-refugee comments played up in some media.

The campaign counters critical comments about immigration by showcasing success stories and statistics that show immigrants help the economy and create jobs for Canadians. It communicates the benefits of immigration, while addressing the concerns of people who fear immigrants will take jobs from Canadians.

INQUIRIES

You Asked

What are the steps required to apply for a request for reconsideration of a refused case?

Our Answer

If you believe that the migration officer made a mistake, then you can take any of the following three steps:

1. Contact the mission directly

- You can contact the migration office directly via email and address your concerns.
- The migration office would normally responds within 30 days


2. Contact the Case Management Branch (CMB)

- If the migration office has not responded within 30 days, you can contact the CMB national HQ at Case-Review-im-enquiry@cic.gc.ca and CMB will follow up with the migration office. (When you email CMB, make sure to send a [Consent Form](#) signed by the applicant.)

3. Seek Judicial Review

- You have 60 days after being notified of the decision to apply for a judicial review. In a judicial review, the court will examine the process that led to the negative decision and determine whether the process was fair and reasonable. This may result in a reassessment of the case.

For more: [Refusal Enquiries](#) & [Judicial Review](#)



Refugees sponsored under the **Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)** program have special or enhanced needs that will likely result in a longer or more difficult period of integration in Canada, due to:

- Trauma from violence or torture;
- Medical disabilities;
- Effects of systemic discrimination; or,
- Large family units (such as a single parent with several children).

Photo: Joseph Eid /Getty

Under the JAS program, the government and private sponsors support refugees for up to 24 months, depending on the need of the resettled refugee. In a few cases, the private sponsor may support refugees for up to 36 months. These refugees get income support from the Government of Canada. They are matched with a private sponsorship group to help them adjust to life in Canada through settlement help and emotional support.

Some refugees are identified overseas for the JAS program due to special needs. Others are converted into JAS cases after they arrive in Canada if it becomes clear that they need more support.

JAS refugee profiles can only be picked up by SAHs and their constituent groups.

The family now faces the challenges of a new country: people, culture and language. The mother has difficulties managing her daily activities with her children, especially as they prepare to attend school. The children are afraid to interact with other people. This has made the settlement process challenging.

Special needs: The mother struggles with resettlement due to mental health issues. These are the result of her severe past trauma. She also has acute concerns for her husband who remains in captivity.

Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)

Many In-Canada JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

Including

Refugee PROFILE #: 1830-10-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Residing in London, ON

IRCC Local Office: London, ON

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: 8

Family composition: A single mother from Iraq with seven children between the ages of three and 16.

Background: This family arrived in London, ON in September 2018. Upon arrival, the family underwent their first medical screening, including a dental examination. The family is living in temporary housing. The mother has been partnered with a Life Skills Worker to learn the basic skills required for day-to-day life in Canada.

Support needed: The support network of a sponsor would help the family feel less alone. Sponsors would help the family access further resources to promote successful integration. Currently, the mother uncomfortable accessing resources and facilities in the community. A sponsor would help her form those connections. A sponsor would be able to provide emotional and social support to the family and ongoing companionship moving forward.

Refugee PROFILE #: 1777-10-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Calgary, AB

Linked Applications: 1775-10-18 (Niece) and 1776-10-18 (Brother)

IRCC Local Office: Calgary, AB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: One



Photo: UNHCR

Family composition: A 28- year old Woman from Iraq. Her brother and niece are included in linked profiles.

Background: She has limited education and has been attending LINC classes. She has appropriate community resources to ensure that she has access to the required settlement programs.

Special needs: She is a survivor of violence and/or torture and continues to suffer from both physical and mental trauma. The physical and mental trauma she has endured, the responsibility of caring for her disabled niece (who struggles with adapting to life in Canada as a teenager) and her concerns for her remaining family in Iraq, have slowed her settlement process.

Support needed: Although she has been receiving support, she feels the pressure of supporting her niece. She would greatly benefit from the assistance of a sponsor, who can provide her with the necessary social and emotional support to properly integrate into Canadian society and reduce her feelings of being overwhelmed.

Refugee PROFILE #: 0969-02-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Calgary AB

IRCC Local Office: Calgary AB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria

FAMILY SIZE: One

Family composition: An elderly Yazidi man from Syria who arrived in Calgary in 2017.

Background: Since arriving in Canada, he has experienced difficulties due the fact that he is an elderly man with limited education, and speaks no English. He attends English classes part time. He depends on his counselor and a Life Skills Worker to get to ongoing medical appointments, grocery shopping etc.

Special needs: His counselor has encouraged him to complete daily tasks on his own and connect with people from his community. His lack of confidence has made him uncomfortable. He feels very lonely and isolated.

Support needed: He would benefit from the additional support of a sponsor. This would help boost his self-confidence so that he could integrate better into society and connect with people from his community.

For more information about the JAS program or to get more on these JAS Refugee Profiles, contact our Refugee Resettlement Project Worker at paznavhezadeh@rstp.ca or visit the RSTP website - [BVOR page](#)

Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

Workshops

Overview of Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR)

Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Time: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EST

Where: Catholic Crosscultural Services
Mississauga, 3660 Hurontario Street, 7th floor,
Mississauga, ON L5B 3C4.

Description: In this session, the following topics will be covered:

- Who can be sponsored to Canada;
- Who can sponsor;
- PSR process;
- PSR obligations and rights of sponsored refugees; and Q & A.

To register, please click [here](#) or contact: Inas Hamid (RSTP Ontario Trainer) by telephone 905.273.4140 ext. 6239 or via email at ihamid@rstp.ca.

Family Reunification under Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR)

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2018

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm EST

Where: Catholic Crosscultural Services
Mississauga, 3660 Hurontario Street, 7th floor,
Mississauga, ON L5B 3C4.

Description: In this session, the following topics will be covered:

- IRCC family definition;
- Adult children;
- De facto dependants;
- Accompanying and non-accompanying family members;
- One Year Window; and
- Q & A.

To register, please contact: Inas Hamid (RSTP Ontario Trainer) by telephone 905.273.4140 ext. 6239 or via email at ihamid@rstp.ca.

Webinars

The PSR Program: Who Can Sponsor and Who Can be sponsored

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Time: 1:00 PM MST (3:00 PM EST)

For more information & to register, please click: [here](#)

The PSR Program: How to Prepare and Submit a Successful Application Package

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2018

Time: 1:00 PM MST (3:00 PM EST)

For more information & to register, please click: [here](#)

The PSR Program: Adding Dependents Post-Submission and Updating Applications

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Time: 1:00 PM MST (3:00 PM EST)

For more information & to register, please click: [here](#)

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/>



RSTP Trainer Laura Hambleton with refugee sponsors at the Cape Breton Island Centre for Immigration

