

RSTP Bulletin

March 23, 2017

Update from IRCC

Profile on Yazidi Population:

- ◆ Government of Canada plans to bring approximately **1200 government-assisted** Yazidi and other survivors of Daesh by the end of 2017

In addition to the GAR, IRCC will also facilitate private sponsorship of individuals who fall within this vulnerable group:

- ◆ **vulnerable Yazidi women, children, other survivors of Daesh and their family members** who are both inside and outside of Iraq
- ◆ Many Yazidi women and girls have suffered a high level of violence at the hands of Daesh and have experienced severe trauma, specifically, sexual slavery, rape, torture, forced impregnation and marriage, and abortions

Situational Overview

- ◆ Since August 2014 Yazidi people in Iraq and Syria have been subjected to a genocide at the hands of the extremist group known as Daesh
- ◆ Daesh has been eradicating the Yazidi people and culture by committing summary execution, forced conversion and indoctrination, slavery, torture, rape, and the destruction of cultural and holy sites
- ◆ Daesh forces continue to hold approximately 3,200 Yazidis (mostly women and children) in slavery and captivity
- ◆ According to IOM, there are over 3 million internally displaced people in Iraq
- ◆ More than 300,000 internally displaced persons living in camps in Iraqi-Kurdistan
- ◆ Approximately 50,000 Yazidis in camps in Duhok, Iraq and about 60,000 are out of camp living in informal settlements, and in host communities
- ◆ An estimated 5,300 Yazidis are in Syria and about 1,000 to 3,000 people in Turkey and approximately 3,300 Yazidi refugees in Greece



Resettlement Needs

- ◆ These Refugees have experienced trauma, long malnutrition, and physical and psychological effects of sexual and gender-based violence - **Medical and psychological needs are high for adults and children**
- ◆ Literacy supports will be a priority for some even before language training
- ◆ Lack of knowledge of Canada's official languages will pose a challenge in accessing settlement or other community-based supports - availability of professional translation and interpretation services will be important
- ◆ Yazidi culture is close-knit, - successful social and economic integration of Yazidis will likely require resettlement near existing Yazidi communities and coordination of support services by all levels of government and other community actors that are sensitive to their culture

Yazidis in Canada

- ◆ Total population of Yazidis in Canada is between 1,000 to 1,500 people
- ◆ Greatest concentrations in Winnipeg, Toronto, London and Calgary.

New Materials on the RSTP Website:

Courtesy of OCASI, the following RSTP resources:

- Information on Health Coverage
- Transportation Loan
- Sponsorship Dispute
- Rights of PSR
- Child Tax Benefit
- Sponsorship Cost Table

Have been translated to:

- Arabic (Mostly Spoken by Syrian and Iraqi Refugees)
- Armenian (spoken by Syrian and Iraqi Refugees)
- Kurdish—Kumanji (Spoken by Yazidi Refugees)
- Tigrinya (spoken by Eritrean and Ethiopian Refugees)

These documents are posted on the RSTP website:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/resources/information-sheets-2/>

Detailed information on the Yazidi demographic and health characteristics, cultural considerations, and conditions in Iraq can be found on our website: [Yazidi Population Profile](#).

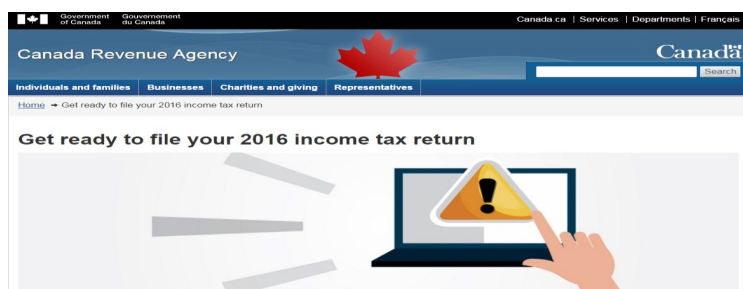
The Canadian Tax System for Newcomers

What is the taxation system in Canada?

All Permanent Residents, including resettled refugees should file income tax

The Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments collect money from individuals and companies to help pay for government programs and services.

Our roads, schools, health care, public utilities, social security, economic development, cultural activities, and public safety are some of the benefits we derive from the taxes we pay.



Take a look at the CRA series on: [Canadian Tax System for newcomers](#) to get information on why it's important to file your income tax every year.

CRA also recently hosted a webinar for newcomers, and their [PowerPoint slides from this webinar](#) are publicly accessible.

Documents needed to file income tax:

Slips

- Universal Child Care Benefit (RC62)
- Tuition / education receipts (T2202A)
- Social assistance payments (T5007)
- Workers' compensation benefits (T5007)
- All other information slips

Receipts

- RRSP contribution receipts
- Support for a child, spouse or common-law partner
- Medical expenses
- Transit pass receipts
- Child care expenses
- Exams for professional certification
- Children's arts and sports programs
- Moving expenses

Other documentation

- Notice of Assessment/Reassessment
- Rental income and expense receipts
- Automobile / Travel logbook and expenses
- Disability Tax Credit Certificate
- Declaration of Conditions of Employment (T2200)

Some of the Benefits and Credits you could receive by filing your Income Tax:

- ✓ Canada child benefit
- ✓ Goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit
- ✓ Disability tax credit
- ✓ Child disability benefit
- ✓ Working income tax benefit
- ✓ Additional benefit and credit payments from the provincial and territorial programs that the CRA administers

IMPORTANT DATES:

- ◆ Income tax and benefit returns for 2016 are due on **April 30, 2017**
 - ◆ April 30th falls on Sunday this year - the CRA will consider return filed on time and payment made on time if they receive it by midnight on May 1, 2017, or if it is postmarked May 1, 2017.

Free Tax Preparation Clinics:

Community organizations across Canada host tax clinics where volunteers complete tax returns for **eligible individuals**. To be eligible you must have a modest income and a simple tax situation.

Suggested family income (except for Quebec)	
Marital status	Family income
Individual	\$30,000
Couple	\$40,000
Individual with a dependant	\$35,000

Please click on the on the provinces below to find a tax preparation clinic listed for your area:

[British Columbia](#)

[Alberta](#)

[Saskatchewan](#)

[Manitoba](#)

[Ontario](#)

[Quebec](#)

[New Brunswick](#)

[Nova Scotia](#)

[Prince Edward Island](#)

[Newfoundland and Labrador](#)

[Yukon](#)

[Northwest Territories](#)

[Nunavut](#)

* [All of this information can found on the CRA website](#)

REFUGEE NEWS CORNER

Global Refugee Update:



Image: UNHCR

“GENEVA – Driven by fresh fighting, horrendous acts of violence and facing drought and famine, thousands of people are fleeing **South Sudan**, making it the **world’s fastest growing refugee crisis.**”

- UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/>

“Human Rights Watch released a question-and-answer document on “Safe Zones” - The document answers questions regarding the international law applicable to safe zones; highlights dangers of past safe zones, discusses the problems safe zones cause for refugees and asylum seekers; and examines what warring parties would need to do to make safe zones safer”

- HRW: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/03/16/syria-questions-and-answers-safe-zones>



MEDITERRANEAN UPDATE MIGRATION FLOWS EUROPE: ARRIVALS AND FATALITIES



“IOM’s Missing Migrants Project reports that the number of Mediterranean deaths – 525 – exceeds by 29 the total of 496 reported during the same period in 2016”

- IOM: <https://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-reach-19722-deaths-525>

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Demystifying Misconceptions about Refugees

Date: Thursday April 06, 2017

Time: 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm EST

Description: This webinar will clarify some of the misconceptions about refugees, focusing on debunking common myths and examining the differences between refugees and migrants. The webinar will also provide information on the demographic of Syrian refugees that were sponsored and resettled to Canada in 2015/2016. It is designed for experienced sponsors across Canada, as well as sponsors new to the sponsorship process, and for individuals that are interested in learning more about refugees.

To register for this webinar, please visit the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2760145102316397571>

EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Refugee Rights Day 2017

April 4, 2017

For information on Refugee Rights Day activities, please see: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-rights-day>

National SAH Conference 2017

May 29 to May 31, 2017

Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel

Registration Deadline: April 10, 2017

Canadian Council for Refugees Spring Consultation

June 1-3, 2017, Edmonton

Registration Deadline: 12 May 2017

This document has been prepared for Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) by The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP)

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