



POSITION STATEMENT ON THE NEEDS AND RIGHTS OF REFUGEES

Canada resettles about one out of every 10 of the approximately 100,000 refugees resettled every year around the globe. We have a long history of compassion, fairness, and acceptance for refugees from all parts of the world escaping persecution, risk to their lives, or cruel and unusual treatment. Admitting such people to our country comes with great responsibility.

Many refugees lack the resources required for accommodation, basic needs, transportation, and childcare. They may rely on the assistance of government and/or private sponsors to help meet these needs. Beyond such needs, refugees may need assistance accessing language learning, education, skill development, employment, healthcare, and forging community connections. However, many refugees find it difficult to gain such assistance in a timely fashion and may experience long wait lists for language training and resettlement services. This can have a negative impact on their health and well-being, their employability, and their overall integration into Canadian society.

It is BC TEAL's position that - in keeping with our country's commitment to compassion and fairness - governments, educational institutions, and community agencies must ensure appropriate support, services, and programming, as well as adequate funding for and timely access to language training and settlement services. Long wait lists, prohibitively complex procedures for accessing services, as well as inadequate facilities and training resources are unacceptable as they undermine the humanitarian goals of Canada's refugee program. In particular, BC TEAL supports robust language support for refugees since language is a cornerstone of cultural and economic integration.

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