

## Introducing the

# MVRRT / METRO VANCOUVER REFUGEE RESPONSE TEAM

## Origin

In late 2015 the B.C. government created a \$1 million Refugee Readiness Fund, designed to augment federal government efforts in aid of Syrian and other refugees. Half of the funds were earmarked for five regional refugee response teams formed to proactively plan for the settlement of refugees in their communities. The Metro Vancouver Refugee Response Team (MVRRT) is one of the five, responsible for an area that includes nine municipalities in Metro Vancouver: Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, Tsawwassen, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, New Westminster and Port Moody.

## Organization

The MVRRT was established in early 2016, under the leadership of MOSAIC, a multilingual non-profit organization established more than four decades ago and dedicated to addressing issues that affect immigrants and refugees. The MVRRT membership represents organizations spread throughout the region and across a diverse sphere of activities, from ethnic and faith-based organizations, through immigrant and mainstream service providers, through health and education authorities, government and the business community. For a complete list, see page 2.

## Action

The B.C. government provided the following objectives to guide the work of the MVRRT:

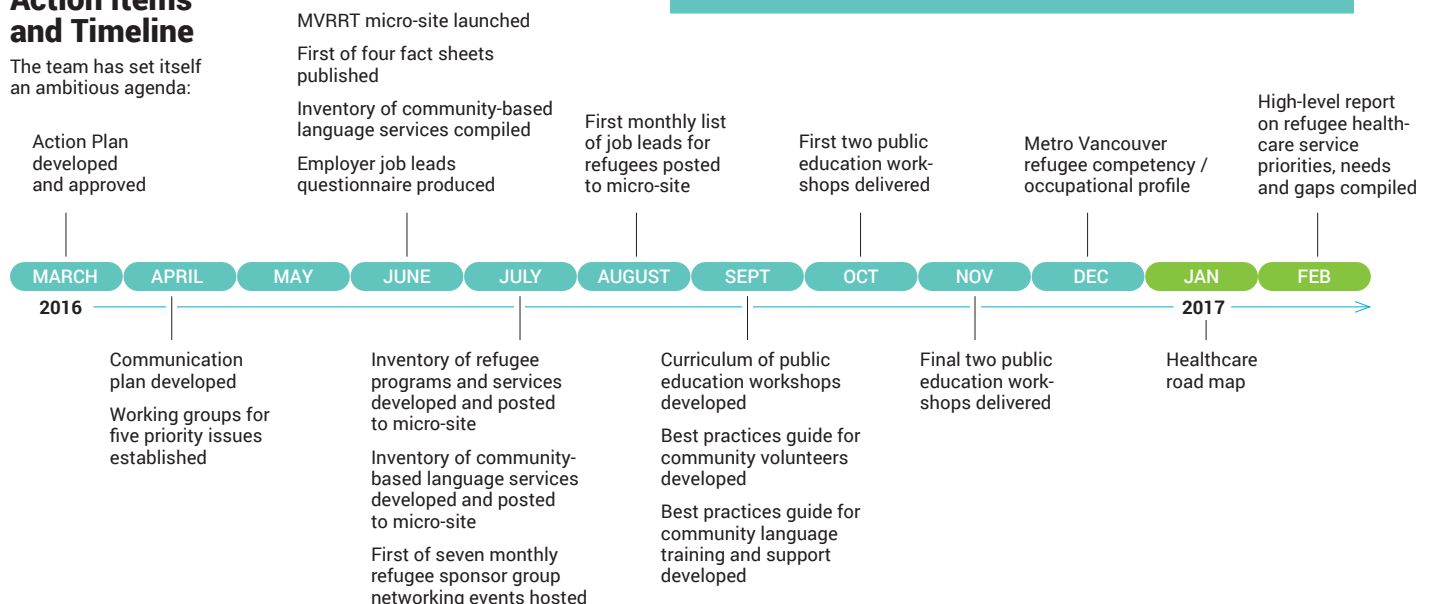
- + To identify and prioritize refugee service needs by community, based on local experience and expertise as well as available federal data on refugee flow and settlement.
  - + To identify existing refugee services and supports to eliminate duplication of provincial and federal settlement and employment services.
  - + To develop a Community Refugee Response
- Action Plan to address urgent, short-term needs or issues in support of refugees.
- + To support the Refugee Readiness Hub operated by ISSofBC through the provision of community data and information.
  - + To oversee a coordinated approach to implementation of the team's action plan. For a summary of our action plan and timeline, see page 2.

## Our Vision

**"All refugees in Metro Vancouver have access to the information, services and supports to ease their settlement and expedite their integration into the community."**

## Action Items and Timeline

The team has set itself an ambitious agenda:



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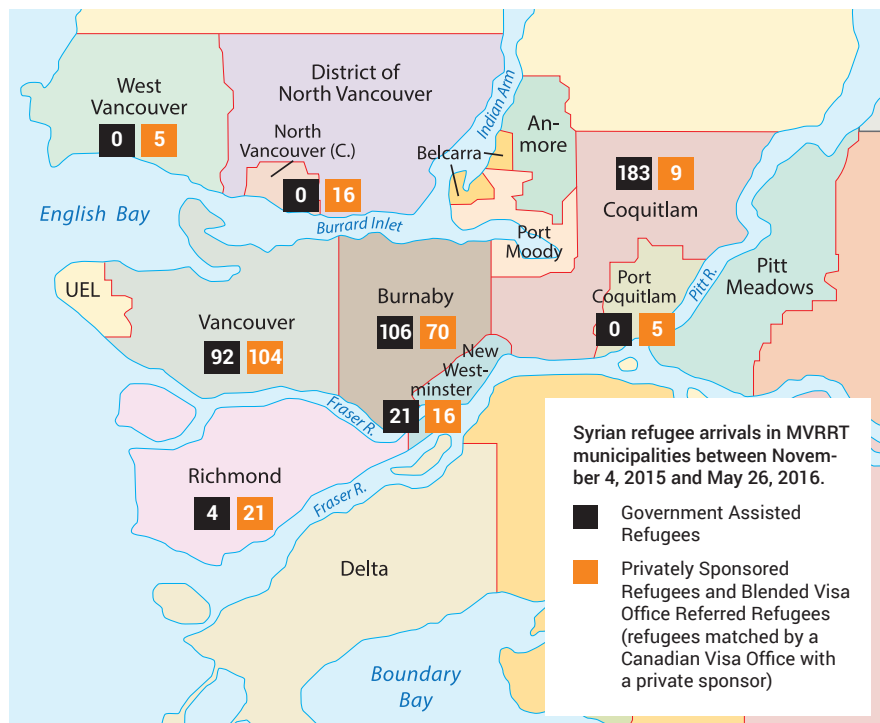
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## Refugees in Metro Vancouver

**British Columbia - A Major Destination** B.C. is the third highest recipient of Syrian refugees among provinces. To date, more than 2,400 have arrived in B.C. and the province is on track to receive another 3,500 Syrian refugees by December 31, 2016.

**Growing Numbers of Syrians in Metro Vancouver** Metro Vancouver has welcomed and will continue to welcome a large number of refugees. At the end of May 2016, four MVRRT communities (Burnaby, Coquitlam, Vancouver and New Westminster) received 32% of all Syrians refugees to the province.

**Settling is Complex** Lower than anticipated English language skills, significant health issues and larger than expected family units have impacted settlement of the latest wave of Syrian refugees. The MVRRT and its partners are working to identify refugee needs and provide appropriate services and supports.



## Tell Us What You Think

Was this information helpful?

Email us at:  
[sspindari@mosaicbc.com](mailto:sspindari@mosaicbc.com)  
to let us know if this fact sheet was useful to you, or if you have suggestions for further content.

## More Info

For more info on the MVRRT, check out our website at <http://metrovanrrt.ca> or contact  
**Saleem Spindari, MVRRT Project Manager.**  
T: 604.254.9626 ext. 226  
E: [sspindari@mosaicbc.com](mailto:sspindari@mosaicbc.com)

To find out more about refugee resettlement in B.C., visit the BC Refugee Readiness Hub at <http://refugeehub.issbc.org>

## The Metro Vancouver Refugee Response Team

*These Member Organizations provide guidance, leadership and oversight to the MV RRT. Collectively they developed the Action Plan that will guide the activities of the MV RRT for 2016-17.*

MOSAIC – MV RRT Contract Manager  
PEERs Inc. – Project Consultants  
Back in Motion Rehab, Inc.  
BC Alliance for Manufacturing  
BC Centre for Ability  
BC Construction Association (BCCA)  
BC Muslim Association  
Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC  
Burnaby Board of Trade (BBOT)  
Burnaby Community Services  
Burnaby Family Life  
Burnaby Public Library  
Burnaby School District 41  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief  
City of Burnaby  
City of New Westminster  
City of Vancouver  
Coast Mental Health  
Coquitlam Public Library (CPL)  
Douglas College  
Fraser Health  
Immigrant Employment Council of BC  
Islamic Society of British Columbia  
ISSofBC  
Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver  
Lower Mainland Purpose Society for Youth and Families  
New Westminster School District 40  
North Shore Multicultural Services (NSMS)  
Pacific Immigrant Resources Society  
Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS)  
Richmond School District 38  
Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)  
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.  
South Asian Community Coalition  
Against Youth Violence  
Syrian Canadian Council of BC  
Syrian Community Network  
United Church  
Vancity  
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Society  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
Vancouver School Board (VSB)  
YWCA Metro Vancouver



MOSAIC



WelcomeBC