March 2, 2016

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: AES/004/2016]

On February 8, 2016 the Department of Advanced Education and Skills received your request for access to the following records/information:

All records of information, i.e. correspondence, letters, emails and notes regarding the cost the province has AND will be expected to absorb as a result of the Syrian settlement program. The request will cover the time period between Oct 1, 2015 and February 8, 2016.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to this information has been granted in part and the responsive records are attached. Access to the remaining records, and/or information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the act:

Section 29.(1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal
a. advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister

Section 40.(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of third party personal privacy.

Please note that the province does not have any direct costs associated with the Syrian refugee crisis. The first year of resettlement is the responsibility of the federal government under the Resettlement Assistance Program. However, the provincial government did provide $50,000 to the Association for New Canadians to fund a full-time Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator position. While the province will incur indirect costs (such as healthcare, education and language
supports) it is difficult to provide a dollar value as this will vary depending on the needs of each individual.

In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the documents are enclosed.

As required by subsection 8.(2) of the act, we have severed information that is excepted from disclosure and have provided you with as much information as possible.

Section 42 of the act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this partial refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

In the event you wish to appeal to the Supreme Court, you must do so within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Section 52 of the act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Office of Public Engagement’s website within one day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (709) 729-4276 or SharonSeaward@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

SHARON SEAWARD
ATIPP Coordinator

Attachment
Thanks:

I made some revisions.

O'Neill, Sheldon
From: O'Neill, Sheldon
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 2:51 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: RE: Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL"

Debbie, please see responses prepared below.

Thanks,
Sheldon

Upon reviewing the Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL," I had the following questions/observations:

- What is the purpose of the "Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator at the ANC? As the $50K funding provided this year is one-time funding, how will it be paid for in future?

Support provided to the ANC for a Private Sponsorship Coordinator was prompted by the escalating interest from the NL public to sponsor Syrian Refugees. Canada processes refugees in three categories: Government Assisted Refugees; Privately Sponsored Refugees; and, Blended Visa Office Referrals. The Association for New Canadians (ANC) is the only active provincial private sponsorship agreement holder in NL (although there are national sponsorship agreement holders operating in the province). As such, the ANC can partner with individuals and/or groups interested in sponsoring refugees to NL under either the Private Sponsor or the Blended Visa Office Referrals categories.

Increased media attention on the Syrian crisis, resulted in great interest and support from the NL public. The ANC became the focal point and this increased demand for information resulted in increased pressure for the ANC to respond. The ANC has an individual who administered the private refugee sponsorship program on a part-time basis but really needed to move to a full-time position given the demand for information and interest from the public in sponsoring refugees. The $50K funding from the provincial government, provided the ANC
with the capacity to make the part-time position a full-time position. The work of this position includes providing information sessions on the private sponsorship program, navigating individuals through the application process, and liaising with the federal government on behalf of the applicants.

In terms of continued funding for this position, it is unclear if the demand will warrant a full-time private sponsorship coordinator. If warranted, source of funds is unclear at this time.

- While the note indicates the potential requirement of financial resources from the Province to the ANC and possibly as a result of resource shortfalls within Government Departments (namely the Department of EECD), no range of magnitude was provided should an increase in Syrian refugees up to the federal Government’s requested 500 GARs for 2016 occur. The Province's commitment of up to 250 GARs from all countries including Syria for 2016 differs greatly from the federal government's request. For 2015, NL's GAR total was 273 with only 122 refugees from Syria.

Not sure what is being asked here? If 500 GARs were accepted it may place a strain on provincial resources such as healthcare and education. These resources would not go directly to the ANC. The refugees would be requiring health services, notably to treat potential mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Given that over 50% of the Syrian refugees are children, it could require additional teaching units and additional ESL supports in the school system. If Syrian adults are unable to attach to the labour market there is the potential for some fall back on the provincial income support system.

- Are there funding implications forecasted for the current fiscal year (i.e. ANC requirements or EECD teaching units)?
ANC will probably receive the same funding as they did last fiscal. With respect to teaching units there is a possibility of increased units required. However, EECD will have to speak to this.

- If the number of GARs increase from the committed 250 for 2016, what will be the potential source of funding?  Will there be a budget submission for fiscal 2016-17?

No. Not at this time.

The federal government is responsible for resettling refugees. They are committed to an immediate 25% increase to all Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) delivering Service Providing Organizations (SPOs) such as the ANC. Further funding announcements are forthcoming as IRCC is currently in negotiations with SPOs to determine their need for increase
funding support. The RAP also provided income support to GARs based on provincial income support rates. GARs receive this funding for a period of one year, at which point, they can then receive income support from the Province if required.

- Under Background and Current Status point 3 it states that “The GoC subsequently fell short of its December 31, 2015 target of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to Canada; however, it remains committed to settling 25,000 refugees by the end of February 2016.” Upon review of Appendix A, the Syria GAR to the end of February 2016 is 15,000, with a commitment of 25,000 to the end of December 2016.

The Government of Canada maintains it has a commitment of resettling 10,000 Syrians by December 31st, 2015, and a total of 25,000 by February 29th, 2016. The fell short of their 10,000 target due to circumstances surrounding weather, flight complications, and other external challenges. They remain committed to receiving 25,000 by February 29th, 2016. On a FPT call last week (Jan 22)k, the federal government stated that as of January 21, more than half way to meeting the 25,000 target before end of February 2016 - 12,729 Syrian refugees admitted to date – 55% GARS, 38% PSRs and remainder BVORs. The remainder are already identified.

Thanks,

Dean

Dean Batten, MBA, CPA, CMA
Treasury Board Officer

Treasury Board Support
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Direct Line: (709)729-7416 | Fax: (709)729-3054
Email: DeanBatten@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 3:27 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: O’Neill, Sheldon

Dennis:

For your review.

- What is the purpose of the “Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator at the ANC? As the $50K funding provided this year is one-time funding, how will it be paid for in future?

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• Are there funding implications forecasted for the current fiscal year (i.e. ANC requirements or EECD teaching units)?

ANC will probably receive the same funding as they did last fiscal. With respect to teaching units there is a possibility of increased units required. However, EECD will have to speak to this.

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From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 12:01 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: FW: Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL"

Hi Debbie,

Can you draft a response to Dean's questions?

Thanks,

Dennis

From: Batten, Dean
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 11:54 AM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL"

Good Morning Dennis,
Upon reviewing the Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL," I had the following questions/observations:

- What is the purpose of the "Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator at the ANC? As the $50K funding provided this year is one-time funding, how will it be paid for in future?
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- Are there funding implications forecasted for the current fiscal year (i.e. ANC requirements or EECD teaching units)?
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- Under Background and Current Status point 3 it states that “The GoC subsequently fell short of its December 31, 2015 target of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to Canada; however, it remains committed to settling 25,000 refugees by the end of February 2016.” Upon review of Appendix A, the Syria GAR to the end of February 2016 is 15,000, with a commitment of 25,000 to the end of December 2016.

Thanks,

Dean

Dean Batten, MBA, CPA, CMA
Treasury Board Officer

Treasury Board Support
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Direct Line: (709)729-7416 | Fax: (709)729-3054
Email: DeanBatten@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: O'Neil, Sheldon
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 2:51 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: RE: Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL"

Debbie, please see responses prepared below.

Thanks,
Sheldon

Upon reviewing the Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL," I had the following questions/observations:

• What is the purpose of the "Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator at the ANC? As the $50K funding provided this year is one-time funding, how will it be paid for in future?

Support provided to the ANC for a Private Sponsorship Coordinator was prompted by the escalating Syrian Refugee situation and increased awareness of the dire conditions surrounding those fleeing their home countries. Canada receives refugees under three programs: Government Assisted Refugees; Privately Sponsored Refugees; and, Blended Visa Office Referrals. The Association for New Canadians (ANC) is the only provincial private sponsorship agreement holder in NL (although there are national sponsorship agreement holders operating in the province). As such, the ANC can partner with individuals and/or groups interested in sponsoring refugees to Canada. With the increased attention on the Syrian crisis, there was a mass offering of support from local communities and individuals. This increased demand for information and guidance added pressure to the ANC to respond. Within the ANC existed an individual who administered the private refugee sponsorship program, but as a responsibility of a more broad position. With the $50K funding from the provincial government, this individual was able to focus on the private sponsorship of Syrian refugees on a full-time basis. The work of this individual includes providing information sessions on the private sponsorship program, navigating individuals through the application process, liaising with the federal government on behalf of the applicants.

In terms of continued funding for this position, it is unclear if the demand of assistance will sustain to warrant a full-time private sponsorship coordinator.

• While the note indicates the potential requirement of financial resources from the Province to the ANC and possibly as a result of resource shortfalls within Government Departments (namely the Department of EECD), no range of magnitude was provided should an increase in Syrian refugees up to the federal Government’s requested 500 GARs for 2016 occur. The Province’s commitment of up to 250 GARs from all countries including Syria for 2016 differs greatly from the federal government’s request. For 2015, NL’s GAR total was 273 with only 122 refugees from Syria.

The question here is unclear. Is this referring to what is the “range of magnitude”? Also, is states above that these are observations/questions.
• Are there funding implications forecasted for the current fiscal year (i.e. ANC requirements or EECD teaching units)?

In the past, the Province has provided funding to various service providing organizations (SPOs) and stakeholder groups (such as the ANC, the Multicultural Women’s Organization of Newfoundland and Labrador, Sharing Our Cultures Incorporated, Memorial University, Regional Economic Development Committees, and several other eligible applicants delivering programs and services) which facilitated the successful settlement and integration of newcomers to our province. Delivering English as a Second Language programming including outreach services to areas outside of St. John’s and delivering labour market integration programming, including E-Counselling services (which can be accessed from anywhere in the province) have been focus areas. Creating welcoming and inclusive communities across the province to ensure both newcomers and potential newcomers have settlement supports required for successful integration is paramount to the retention of newcomers to the province. The Province focused on settlement and retention as a priority in past years, with budgets for the Newfoundland and Labrador Settlement and Integration Program (NLSIP) reaching a peak of $705,000 in 2011-12.

As such, funding for initiatives such as those highlighted above will be of great importance in the coming years if the Province is committed to retaining newcomers. With the past two fiscal year budgets providing $145K for the NLSIP, it has been a challenge to support such activities, and in some cases, they have been discontinued.

• If the number of GARS increase from the committed 250 for 2016, what will be the potential source of funding? Will there be a budget submission for fiscal 2016-17?

If the number of GARS to the province increase, the financial support for the Federal Government will also increase. Resettlement and Settlement supports provided by the Federal Government’s Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) are based on a three year rolling average of immigrants to the province. With the current influx of Syrian refugees, IRCC has committed to providing an immediate 25% increase to all Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) delivering Service Providing Organizations (SPOs). Further funding announcements are forthcoming as IRCC is currently in negotiations with SPOs to determine their need for increase funding support. The RAP also provided Income support to GARS based on provincial income support rates. GARS receive this funding for a period of one year, at which point, they can then receive income support from the Province if required.

• Under Background and Current Status point 3 it states that “The GoC subsequently fell short of its December 31, 2015 target of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to Canada; however, it remains committed to settling 25,000 refugees by the end of February 2016.” Upon review of Appendix A, the Syria GAR to the end of February 2016 is 15,000, with a commitment of 25,000 to the end of December 2016.

The Government of Canada maintains it has a commitment of resettling 10,000 Syrians by December 31st, 2015, and a total of 25,000 by February 29th, 2016. The fell short of their 10,000 target due to circumstances surrounding weather, flight complications, and other external challenges. They remain committed to receiving 25,000 by February 29th, 2016.

Thanks,

Dean

Dean Batten, MBA, CPA, CMA
Treasury Board Officer
Treasury Board Support
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Thanks Dennis,

Dean

Hi Dean,

As far as I know, the $50,000 for the ANC last Sept came from MIGA’s Special Assistance program and would have been in addition to funds provided by AES.

In total, AES provided about $560,000 last year to the ANC. The $122K was provincial funds while the remaining amount was federally funded under the LMDA.

I’ve copied Debbie for confirmation of last year and anticipated contribution for 2015-16 which I suspect will be roughly the same as last year.

We’re working on your other questions and will get back to you.

Thanks,
Dennis

Hi Dennis,

One other point. $145K is forecasted under Grants and Subsidies under Immigration and Multiculturalism 4.1.10 for the ANC and the Sharing Our Cultures Initiative. Last year, $122K was provided to the ANC from the Office of Immigration. Is the $50K committed in September in addition to the $122K? What is the total anticipated contribution to the ANC for 2015-16?

Thanks again,
Dean
Good Morning Dennis,

Upon reviewing the Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL," I had the following questions/observations:

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Thanks,

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Dean Batten, MBA, CPA, CMA
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Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Direct Line: (709)729-7416 | Fax: (709)729-3054
Email: DeanBatten@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Batten, Dean  
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 12:14 PM  
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.  

Thanks,

Dean

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.  
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 12:13 PM  
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Batten, Dean  

The $122K provincial funds from AES (OIM) was for several programs including ESL, Outreach Tutoring and a small portion for labour market integration. We are expecting to fund the same programs for 2016-17.

The $50,000 was provided by MIGA and is in addition to the funds provided by AES.

From: Hogan, Dennis A.  
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 12:07 PM  
To: Batten, Dean  
Cc: Sheppard, Debbie A.  

Hi Dean,

As far as I know, the $50,000 for the ANC last Sept came from MIGA’s Special Assistance program and would have been in addition to funds provided by AES.

In total, AES provided about $560,000 last year to the ANC. The $122K was provincial funds while the remaining amount was federally funded under the LMDA.

I’ve copied Debbie for confirmation of last year and anticipated contribution for 2015-16 which I suspect will be roughly the same as last year.

We’re working on your other questions and will get back to you.

Thanks,

Dennis

From: Batten, Dean  
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 11:58 AM  
To: Hogan, Dennis A.  

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Thanks again,

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From: Batten, Dean  
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 11:54 AM  
To: Hogan, Dennis A.  
Subject: Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL"

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Treasury Board Officer

Treasury Board Support  
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P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6  
Direct Line: (709)729-7416 Fax: (709)729-3054  
Email: DeanBatten@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 12:09 PM
To: O'Neill, Sheldon
Subject: FW: Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL"

Sheldon:

Please draft responses for my review asap. Thanks

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 12:01 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: FW: Information Note "2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Allocation for NL"

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Dean Batten, MBA, CPA, CMA
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Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
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St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Direct Line: (709) 729-7416 | Fax: (709) 729-3054
Email: deanbatten@gov.nl.ca
This is what we did for the AES newsletter.

Ok I will do that. Thanks.

Lynn
Please note that Sheldon O'Neill authored the Syrian piece and Andrew the other two.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Hello Lynn,

Please see (below) our submissions regarding: Express Entry, the Syria Refugee Crisis and the Working International Expo.

Thanks!

-Andrew Mackey

* Express Entry Update
Express Entry (EE) is a new system to manage how people with skilled work experience apply to immigrate to Canada, including Newfoundland and Labrador. This new system was introduced by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, now called Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), on January 1, 2015.

Potential immigrants apply to Express Entry through an online portal administered by IRCC. If an individual meets the minimum entry criteria, they will be accepted to the Express Entry pool of candidates. Everyone in the pool is assigned points and ranked against one another on the basis of language ability, education and relevant work experience. Candidates will be selected from the pool by either the federal government, by an employer offering a job, or by a province who has nominated the candidate. Those selected will be invited to immigrate to Canada.

On October 7, 2015 AES launched the “Newfoundland and Labrador Express Entry Skilled Worker Category”. To be eligible for this category, applicants must be accepted into the Express Entry pool and have a job offer from a NL employer who has demonstrated challenges in hiring locally. Additionally, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have the intention to permanently reside in NL and the ability to become economically established. AES recently nominated its first Express Entry applicant, who is currently preparing to travel with family to NL to begin work for a local employer. NL has an annual quota of 550 Express Entry nominations.

The Department is currently holding weekly Express Entry information sessions. These sessions are broadcasted from the Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism to all AES regional offices.

- **Syria Refugee Crisis**

The Syrian refugee crisis began in 2011 and to date, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has over four million registered Syrian refugees. In September 2015, provinces and territories (PTs) publically responded to the Syrian refugee crisis by announcing funding supports for settlement services and/or donations to the UNHCR or to the Canadian Red Cross.

The Association for New Canadians (ANC) has indicated a strong outpouring of support from Newfoundlanders and Labradorians for the people of Syria, including the pledging of financial contributions and accommodations, as well as commitments to privately co-sponsor Syrian refugees. This past September a request was made by the province to the federal Government to increase the provincial allocation of Government-assisted refugees (GARs) from 155 to 250 annually. In addition, funding in the amount of $50,000 provided to the ANC to create the full-time position of Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator.

The Association actively promotes the Private Refugee Sponsorship Program as they are currently the only sponsorship agreement holder in the province. The coordinator has facilitated a number of information sessions for the general public and continues to work closely with various groups and organizations to raise funds, promote awareness, and offer expertise.

- **Working International Expo**
This past October, Debbie Sheppard, Director, Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism and Deputy Minister Genvieve (Gig) Dooling participated in the Working International Expo, held in London, UK and in Dublin, Ireland. The Working International Expos are international immigration and job recruitment events. The Department promoted the province as a destination of choice for immigrants, and to spread awareness about the job opportunities that exist in the province. Department officials were accompanied by two provincial employers.

The events were well-attended with approximately 2000 individuals passing through the events venues over a three day period.
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 12:06 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

Dennis:

Sorry . I meant to respond to you earlier but was in a meeting with Candice. I sent an email to Maryse O'Neill, Regional Director for Settlement, on Friday before I left the office. I will follow up with her now.

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 10:47 AM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Dutton, Sean
Cc: Scott, Paul G.; Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

Gig,

According to the Federal Government, other than re-instatement of the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) for refugees, there are no additional federal funds provided to provinces and territories to support health-related costs of Syrian refugees. As far as we can determine, the Province will have to absorb any additional costs, such as immunizations, etc. Upon arrival in NL, refugees are eligible for provincial health insurance (MCP). The IFHP provides additional, supplemental health coverage for refugees for up to one year. My understanding is that the IFHP has been re-activated and is currently available to Syrian refugees.

Hope this helps... Dennis

From: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Dutton, Sean; Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Scott, Paul G.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

Dennis – please check.

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729-3582
Email: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Scott, Paul G.
Subject: Fw: Syrian Refugees
Please see below. The feds had committed to reinstate funding for health coverage for refugees - not sure if that is done?

Sean

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Brewer, Donna <dbrewer@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:17 PM
To: Curtis, Ken; Butt, Chris; Dutton, Sean
Subject: Re: Syrian Refugees

Sean or Chris.

I presume there is no federal pot. Each province / entity absorbs.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Curtis, Ken
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:33 PM
To: Hanrahan, Denise; Brewer, Donna
Subject: FW: Syrian Refugees

Are you aware of any higher level discussions on this? I assume EH would just absorb it.

Thanks

From: Sullivan, Brad
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:15 PM
To: Curtis, Ken
Subject: Fw: Syrian Refugees

Ken,

Have you heard anything on this?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Tizzard, Mike <miketizzard@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Sullivan, Brad
Cc: 'Scott Bishop'; Ardle, Chad; Boland, Linda
Subject: Syrian Refugees

Brad,

Do you know if there is funding available for increased costs associated with the immigration of Syrian refugees? EH has had to hold special clinics for them when they arrive and also they take longer to assess, etc due to language barriers. Just wondering how the province was dealing with this or if there was Federal funding available.

Thanks,
Mike

Mike Tizzard, CPA, CGA
Departmental Controller
Corporate Services
Department of Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

709-729-5287 (t)
709-729-3151 (f)
miketizzard@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 11:15 AM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Cc: Scott, Paul G.; Sheppard, Debbie A.; Brewer, Donna; Clarke, Beverley
Subject: Re: Syrian Refugees

Thanks. I am copying Donna and Bev for information.

Sean

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 10:46 AM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Dutton, Sean
Cc: Scott, Paul G.; Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

Gig,

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Hope this helps... Dennis

From: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Dutton, Sean; Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Scott, Paul G.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

Dennis – please check.

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729-3582
Email: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:52 PM
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From: Tizzard, Mike <mike@tizzard@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Sullivan, Brad
Cc: 'Scott Bishop'; Antle, Chad; Boland, Linda
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Mike Tizzard, CPA, CGA
Departmental Controller
Corporate Services
Department of Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL
A1B 4J6

709-729-5287 (t)
709-729-3151 (f)
miketizzard@gov.nl.ca
Dennis:

I am pretty certain. Unless something has changed. Again today on an FPT call the federal government referred to the resettlement of Syrian refugees as a "national project" and the largest resettlement of its kind since WW2. Refugee resettlement over the past few years, since I have been around immigration, relies on both federal and provincial support. I have never heard tell of pots of fund going to provinces to reimburse for health costs. I can confirm with IRCC if you would feel more comfortable with that?

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 4:52 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

I guess the key question is whether provincial health authorities are expected to absorb all the extra refugee-associated health costs. Is there any additional funding to PTs or any form of federal reimbursement? I have the earlier note but I am checking to make sure.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

Dennis the Interim Health Program is the only pot of funds. Notes on this was provided to you on this coverage. Federal funds do not support or cover cost of provincial clinic, etc. Those types of funds would have to be absorbed by the province. My understanding from Megan is that Pauline Duke is organizing clinics and I would assume interpreters will be provided by the ANC. I can check with Megan on this.

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 4:02 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: FW: Syrian Refugees

Hi Debbie,

Can you check on the request from HSC below, re: additional funding? Would IRCC know the answer?

Thanks,
Dennis
From: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Dutton, Sean; Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Scott, Paul G.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

Dennis – please check.

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729-3582
Email: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Hogan, Dennis A.
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Subject: Fw: Syrian Refugees

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Mike Tizzard, CPA, CGA
Departmental Controller
Corporate Services
Department of Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

709-729-5287 (t)
709-729-3151 (f)
miketizzard@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 9:38 AM
To: Tompkins, John; Sheppard, Debbie A.
Cc: Robinson, Lynn
Subject: RE: Syrian refugees Q and As
Attachments: QA - Syrian Refugee Response.docx; QAs RAPJan5_2015.docx

John/Lynn,

I've included some edits in tracked changes. I've also attached a copy of the final version of document that the Minister requested on the potential fed/prov costs of refugees. No sure whether you need to add anything into the Q&A for today but I thought the information might be of interest.

Thanks,
Dennis

From: Tompkins, John
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 9:05AM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Sheppard, Debbie A.
Cc: Robinson, Lynn
Subject: Syrian refugees Q and As

Debbie can you please review and suggest updates? I'd like to share these with the Minister and PO asap. Thanks.

John Tompkins
Director of Communications
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
(709) 729-0753 (o) 728-7762 (c)
jtompkins@gov.nl.ca
Resettlement Assistance Program and Settlement Program for Refugees

1) What expenses does the refugee Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) cover?

A. The refugee Resettlement Assistance Program provides immediate and essential support services and income support to assist in meeting the resettlement needs of refugees. Essential services are supported through contributions to service provider organizations. RAP services include, but are not limited to:
   a. Reception services (meeting at the airport);
   b. Assistance with finding temporary and permanent accommodations;
   c. Links to mandatory federal and provincial programs;
   d. Life skills training; and,
   e. Orientation on financial and non-financial information.

This program is generally 4-6 weeks in duration and is funded by the federal government.

RAP funding is also used to provide refugees with RAP income support for up to one year or until individuals become self-sufficient, whichever comes first. Monthly income support entitlements for shelter, food and Incidentals are guided by prevailing provincial social assistance rates, which vary in each province and territory. This program is intended only for permanent residents who arrive as Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) (or privately sponsored refugees under the Blended Visa Officer Referral (BVOR) program). Other permanent residents, such as economic immigrants, are ineligible for this program (including income support).

In certain circumstances, the period of income support eligibility may be extended for up to an additional 12 months. This includes situations of refugees with special needs where there is a joint assistance undertaking signed by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (such as the Association for New Canadians (ANC)). Refugees with special needs may require more support than others in order to settle in Canada. Special needs may arise due to trauma from violence or torture, medical disabilities, the effects of systemic discrimination or a large family unit. Such cases are rare and are adjudicated in consultation with IRCC.

In exceptional circumstances and for Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) cases, RAP income support can be provided for up to 24 months. In rare cases involving separated minors, this support can be provided for up to 36 months.

Personal assets are taken into consideration when determining the level of RAP income support the client requires. The following table shows the maximum personal assets that refugees can retain without affecting the amount of income
support they may receive. Any remaining assets will be factored in when determining the level of income support needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Composition</th>
<th>Maximum amount allotted of personal assets (CAD$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single person</td>
<td>$5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple</td>
<td>$7500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single plus one dependent</td>
<td>$7500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional dependent</td>
<td>$2500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. The RAP is different from the Settlement Program, which simultaneously assists immigrants and refugees as they adapt, settle and integrate into Canadian society.

The Settlement Program focuses on four areas:

1. Information and orientation
2. Language assessment, training and skills development;
3. Labour market access; and,

Most services are designed and delivered by service provider organizations, but certain services (such as some information provision) are delivered directly by IRCC, and some services are delivered overseas.

Clients are typically eligible for this program for up to two years.

2) What happens when RAP funding is exhausted within 12 months?

After the 12 months of income support provided federally through RAP, if the clients are not employed, they can apply for provincial Income Support as well as apply for any provincial program or service for which they meet the eligibility criteria. Resulting costs are covered by provincial funding.

3) When would refugees be eligible for provincial Income Support?

The federal RAP provides income support for GARs based on provincial rates for the initial 12 months following landing as permanent residents in NL. Following the 12 months of federal financial support, GARs can apply for provincial Income Support if they are not employed or self-sustaining, and they meet the provincial eligibility criteria for Income Support.

Private sponsors of refugees (privately sponsored refugees and BVORs) are expected to provide a level of support that is at least equal to that of the prevailing rates for Income Support in the expected community of settlement. When these supports stop, following the one year commitment, refugees can begin receiving provincial Income Support if required.
4) What costs are private sponsors required to cover?

Sponsoring groups agree to provide the refugees with care, lodging, settlement assistance and support for the duration of the sponsorship period. Normally, this is 12 months starting from the refugee's arrival in Canada or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first. Under the BVOR program, support is cost-shared between the sponsor and Government of Canada (each providing six months of funding). In exceptional circumstances, the visa officer may determine that the refugee requires more time to become established in Canada and will ask the sponsoring group to extend the sponsorship period to a maximum of 36 months. The sponsoring group has the option of refusing the request for an extension of the sponsorship period; however, the sponsoring group risks having the case refused as a result. Private sponsors normally support the sponsored refugees by:

- Providing the cost of food, rent and household utilities and other day-to-day living expenses;
- Providing clothing, furniture and other household goods;
- Locating interpreters;
- Selecting a family physician and dentist;
- Assisting with applying for provincial health-care coverage;
- Enrolling children in school and adults in language training;
- Introducing newcomers to people with similar personal interests;
- Providing orientation with regard to banking services and transportation; and,
- Assisting in the search for employment.

5) Do sponsors submit money to the federal government or to Association for New Canadians to administer RAP type benefits?

The ANC requires all sponsoring groups to open an account under the Association's GIC account. All funds required for the 6 or 12-month sponsorship period must be submitted to this account prior to the arrival of the sponsored refugee(s). These funds are held in trust until the refugee(s) arrives and are disbursed by the ANC to the sponsoring groups and sponsored refugee(s) monthly or as required.

6) What healthcare coverage do refugees receive?

Both basic coverage and supplementary healthcare needs are provided by Interim Federal Health Coverage (IFHC) until the individual applies for and receives provincial medical care (MCP). At which point, MCP provides basic coverage, and IFHC continues provision of supplementary coverage up to a period of one year. Following the one-year period, it is the responsibility of the individual to arrange for their own supplementary coverage. The following chart outlines the services provided under each plan.
## Basic Coverage (MCP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical services:</th>
<th>Suplemental Coverage (Federal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>› Doctor visits</td>
<td>› Vision care:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Standard immunizations</td>
<td>› One pair of eyewear (glasses and/or lenses every two years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Prenatal and obstetrical care</td>
<td>› One vision test per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Lab tests and x-rays</td>
<td>› Emergency dental examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospital services:</strong></td>
<td>› Dental X-rays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Emergency room visits</td>
<td>› Extractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Hospital stays</td>
<td>Other services:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Medical and surgical care</td>
<td>› Nursing Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>› Emergency Ambulance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>› Medical devices and supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescription Drug Coverage:</strong></td>
<td>Psycho-social Support Services:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Prescription medications and products</td>
<td>› 10 Visits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GARs and privately sponsored refugees:
- Arrive in NL as permanent residents and are issued a Copy of Permanent Resident (COPR) document (the card will arrive within 6 weeks to 3 months)
- Receive provincial medical care from point of landing
- Usually receive their MCP card within 2-4 days after their arrival
- If they do not have their MCP card at the time of medical care, they present their COPR and the physician then bills MCP

### 7) What is the Interim Federal Health Plan?

The Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) provides limited, temporary, federally-funded coverage of health-care benefits to protected persons, including resettled refugees (GARs and privately sponsored). This coverage supplements provincial healthcare coverage (MCP) that is similar to a mid-level workplace healthcare plan. IFHP coverage is provided for a maximum of one year. Following that one-year period, it is the responsibility of the immigrant or refugee to arrange for their own healthcare coverage to supplement provincial MCP coverage which is funded by the Province.
The IFHP benefits include: Basic coverage (benefits covered by health plans from a province or territory), Supplemental Coverage and Prescription Drug Coverage (benefits similar to those provided to social assistance recipients). GARs and privately sponsored refugees (including those under the BVOR Program) are eligible for basic and supplemental IFHP coverage (see Table 1.1 below).

Healthcare coverage is immediately provided upon arrival at the point of entry into Canada. There is however, a two-day service standard until the individual is registered with the medical insurance company.

8) When does MCP coverage take affect?

As refugees are permanent residents when they land in Canada, they are immediately entitled to provincial/territorial health coverage. As such, refugees receive MCP coverage upon arrival in the province. Typically, refugee applications for MCP are processed within two to four days. All costs incurred by refugees under MCP are covered by the province.

9) What are some of the education-related impacts/costs?

Currently, according to the formula used to allocate resources to the school district, a teaching unit is provided for every 35 children that qualify for English as a Second Language (ESL) services. As of January 6, 2016 approximately 50 school aged children from Syrian refugee families have arrived in NL. Assuming that all 50 children require ESL service, 1.5 teaching units will be required to meet their needs. The need for teaching units for ESL will increase accordingly as the number of school aged children from Syrian refugee families enroll in the school system.

The current deployment of classroom teaching resources in K-9 is based on a “Cap” system. These means that there are a maximum number of children in a particular classroom. Teaching units will be required to split particular classes into two in the event that the enrollment increases beyond the accepted threshold. This would be especially relevant in certain schools in metro St. Johns and other more populated areas in the province.

Immigrant children from refugee families who enroll in the provincial school system may require services provided by LEARN teachers. Students in this program often have significant gaps in formalized education, (i.e., not attended a formal school setting for several years). The LEARN Program is developed to meet the academic needs of these students and often works in concert with the services provided by ESL teachers. There are currently two units providing this service to students in the metro St. Johns region. It can be expected that the need for teaching units in this area will increase as more children from refugee families enroll in the school system.
10) Are refugees eligible for the provincial government's labour market programs?

Yes, as permanent residents of Canada living in Newfoundland and Labrador, refugees are eligible for government's labour market programs, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria as is required of all program applicants.
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 11:12 AM
To: Robinson, Lynn; Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: RE: For Review: KMs Syrian Refugees Welcome Reception

Hi Lynn:

Suggested changes are in blue. I also update the Syrian refugee number as of January 10. The Association is preparing for arrival on the 10th and given that the reception id=s the 13th I though we could use this number. The highlighted text in yellow, I would suggest deleting.

Thanks

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 10:14 AM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Sheppard, Debbie A.
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: For Review: KMs Syrian Refugees Welcome Reception

Good morning,

Attached are updated KMs for the welcome reception for Syrian Refugees next week. Please have a look and let me know of any changes.

Thanks.
Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
709-729-1795

Key Messages
Syrian Refugee Official Welcome

Issue: Syrian refugees continue to arrive in Newfoundland and Labrador with approximately 1120 arriving in St. John’s as of January 10. The Association for New Canadians is hosting a welcome reception for refugees to meet members of the community sponsors at St. Pius X church. Premier Dwight Ball and Minister Gerry Byrne were invited to participate.

- As we extend a warm welcome to these new families in Newfoundland and Labrador, it is important that they know they are welcome and safe as they embark on new lives.
• Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are known for their compassion and reaching out across the country and the world to those in need. We are always there to lend a hand when needed – we always have, and we always will.

• We applaud the great work of the Association for New Canadians, and value our partnership. The Association has a great expertise in this area; with over 30 years of experience settling refugees in our province and making them feel welcome.

• The Association has been planning for months in anticipation of Syrian refugee arrivals. They have been securing temporary and permanent accommodations for refugees, rallying volunteers, interpreters are in place and resettlement teams are meeting refugees as they arrive in Newfoundland and Labrador and providing continuous support.

• The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador looks forward to working together with the ANC to continue assisting refugees, and helping them settle into their new lives here. Staff have said they have been deeply moved by the amount of support received from individuals, businesses and community groups throughout the province. All wanting to donate or volunteer to assist with the settlement of refugees.

Background

• More than 4.2 million Syrians have been displaced since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011.

• The Association for New Canadians is the only recognized Service Agreement Holder for the Government of Canada to deliver settlement and integration services in Newfoundland and Labrador, which includes language training, social worker support, and health and wellness supports.

• Refugees arrive in Newfoundland and Labrador in one of three categories:
  o Government-assisted refugees (GARs);
  o Privately sponsored refugees (PSRs); and
  o Blended visa office-referred refugees (BVORs – receive up to six months of Federal Government support and six months of private sponsorship support).

• On October 6, 2015, the Association for New Canadians received one-time funding of $50,000 from the province to create a Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator to help with the Syrian relief effort.
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:37 AM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: RE: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Dennis:

What do you want as a package? The meeting notes, Sheldon will have another report from ANC. Anything else? The proposal?

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 10:29 AM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Cc: Reynolds, Sandy
Subject: RE: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

I would just send out a meeting invitation with the date and location with the title: Next Meeting of the Senior Officials Committee on Syrian Refugees.

I think we did some notes from the last meeting – did I get those from Sheldon?

Thanks,
Dennis

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 9:58 AM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Reynolds, Sandy
Subject: FW: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Dennis:

Sandy will arrange for the Intra Dept meeting. Would you like to review the text below. Thanks

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Reynolds, Sandy
Cc: Hogan, Dennis A.; O'Neill, Sheldon
Subject: FW: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Sandy:

Dennis would like another meeting to be organized for some time next week re: Syrian Refugee Response. The same individuals will be invited. Lisa and Sheldon are working on a package of materials and notes from the last meeting. We are hoping to have this finalized by end of day Thursday.
Suggested text for the invite: (Dennis can you also review)

As committed during our previous meeting, we agreed to reconvene once we received information on potential number of GARs destined to NL. While Syrian GARs have started to arrive in the province, the province has yet to respond to a federal proposal for Syrian GARs for 2016. This issue plus an update on current arrivals will be the agenda for our meeting.

Date: 
Time: 
Location: Department of Advanced Education and Skills, 3rd Floor, Main Boardroom, West Block

From: Hogan, Dennis A. 
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 9:58 AM 
To: Reynolds, Sandy 
Cc: Sheppard, Debbie A. 
Subject: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Hi Sandy, can you proof the message below? On Debbie’s list, Colleen Stockley is no longer ADM of Population Health and the ADM of Intergovernmental Affairs is Paul Scott, not Sean Dutton.

Hello everyone,

As you are no doubt aware, the Federal Government has committed to re-settling 25,000 Syrian refugees in Canada by the end of 2015 and the federal Cabinet is currently working on an action plan to achieve this objective. While many details are not yet available with respect to the distribution of these refugees across Canada, or regarding potential additional resources to support this effort, it is expected that all provinces and territories will receive an allocation.

Currently, NL receives an allocation of approximately 155 Government-assisted Refugees (GAR) each year; however, in the wake of the unfolding Syrian refugee crisis in September, Minister Jackman wrote the former federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to request an increase in NL’s GAR allocation of up to 250 people. In addition, the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs provided $50,000 in funding to the Association for New Canadians (ANC) to support the private sponsorship of Syrian refugees to the province. As well, it is also possible that the province may be considered as a port-of-entry to temporarily house hundreds of refugees at the military base in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to allow for in-Canada immigration processing.

Given the potential impact of these scenarios across Government departments, and the need for the Province to have a coordinated response, I am inviting you to attend a meeting of officials to discuss and share information on the forthcoming settlement of Syrian refugees in Canada.

Date: Monday November 16, 2015 
Time: 1:30-3:00 pm
We will follow up with a meeting invite. I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Thanks,
Dennis

---

Dennis Hogan | Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Development and Immigration

Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
p. 709.729.0217 | dhogan@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 10:29 AM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Reynolds, Sandy
Subject: RE: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Lisa is currently reviewing them. Should have them to you today.

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 10:29 AM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Cc: Reynolds, Sandy
Subject: RE: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

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Date: 
Time: 
Location: Department of Advanced Education and Skills, 3rd Floor, Main Boardroom, West Block

Debbie

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 9:58 AM
To: Reynolds, Sandy
Cc: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

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Thanks,
Dennis

Dennis Hogan | Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Development and Immigration

Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
p. 709.729.0217 | dhogan@gov.nl.ca
Sorry about those errors Dennis.

We should also include

Neil Croke, Manager, Public Protection & Enforcement  
Department: Justice and Public Safety  
Division: Public Safety and Enforcement  

Jackie Lake Kavanagh, ADM, Justice and Public Safety.

Thanks  
Debbie

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Dennis Hogan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Development and Immigration

Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
p. 709.729.0217 | dhogan@gov.nl.ca
Dennis:

Response to Gig's questions

Thanks
Debbie

From: O'Neill, Sheldon
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 10:35 AM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Cc: Lindahl, Lisa
Subject: Gig's Qs and Qs

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM GIG:

Slide 1 - when did the conflict start?
The Syrian refugee crisis began in 2011

Slide 2 - 176 refugees in 2014 - where did they come from? what were the key countries?
In 2014, Newfoundland and Labrador received refugees from 24 different countries.
Top five countries are:

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<td>30</td>
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<td>23</td>
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Slide 6 - what benefits would they get under the Interim Health Program - is it all health coverage or just select services?
Government Assisted Refugees = Type One Coverage
Type 1 includes:
- Basic Coverage - Basic services are covered only until the beneficiary qualifies for provincial or territorial health insurance.
- Supplemental Coverage
- Prescription Drug Coverage
Supplemental and drug products and services are covered as long as the beneficiary receives income support from the RAP or its equivalent in Quebec or are under sponsorship, but only up to a maximum of 24 months.

Private Sponsored Refugees = Type Three Coverage
Type 3 includes:
- Basic Coverage - Basic services are covered only until the beneficiary qualifies for provincial or territorial health insurance.
- Public Health or Public Safety (PHPS) Prescription Drug Coverage, which includes prescription medications and related products, only if required to prevent or treat a disease posing a risk to public health or to treat a condition of public safety concern

These medications and vaccines are covered for the duration of the sponsorship.

Slide 6 – date that the Special Cabinet Committee was established.
The ad hoc committee held its first meeting on November 10, 2015.

Slide 6 – need to put in notes the $600 M that will be committed over 5 years.
- Five Stages of Resettlement:
  First Phase – Identification
  - Identify both GARs and PSRs
  - Work with UNHCR and State of Turkey
  - Meet definition of refugee
  - Focus will be on complete family units, vulnerable women, LGBT community, adult men who are identified as LGBT or a part of a family unit
  - Refugees identified at this stage by iris scan.

Second Phase - Immigration Processing
- Immigration processing will occur overseas and refugees will arrive in Canada as permanent residents
- Processing offices located in Beirut and Turkey
- 150 visa officers and security officials deployed to visa processing offices
- Interviews will be conducted by very experienced visa officers
- Full immigration medicals including screening for communicable diseases
- Security checks including biometric and biographs (finger prints and digital photos).
- Permanent visas will be issued in preparation to come to Canada.

Third Phase – Transport to Canada
- Working with international governments to expedite exit visas for refugees destined to Canada
- Private charter aircrafts will be used to transport refugees to Canada.
- Military planes will be used if necessary
- Montreal and Toronto are ports of entry
- CBSA and International Organization for Migration (IOM) will confirm identifies and screen for visual signs of illness before refugees are boarded on planes.

Forth Phase – Arrival to Canada
- CBS will do final identify verification at ports of entry, screen for visual signs of illness.
- GARs will be matched to communities with settlement supports
- PSRs destined to community of residence of the private sponsor
- GARs that are not matched with communities will be provided temporary accommodations on military bases until match is complete.

Fifth Phase – Settlement and Integration
- Refugees will be resettled across Canada
- GARs will receive standard Refugee Assistance (similar to provincial income support) and allowances for basic needs.
- Refugee Assistance will be in place for up to two years or until the refugee is able to support themselves/family, whichever comes first
- Refugees will go to reception centers which are communities equipped with appropriate settlement supports and services (NL will be St. John’s).

- Federal Funding committed is $678 million over six years including funds for contingencies and the Canadian Red Cross.

Funding across all five phases of plan;
- Phase 1: 21 million
- Phase 2: 26-36 million
- Phase 3: 94-121 million
- Phase 4: 61-77 million
- Phase 5: 325-377 million

---

Slide 8 – How Much $ do we give ANC annually?
For 2015-2016, the provincial government provided the ANC with
Community Partnership Agreement (Prov) - AXIS Career Services
31, 2016
Labour Market Partnerships Agreement (LMDA) $117,192.00 April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016
March 31, 2016
Student Summer Employment – High School (Prov) $260,800.00 April 1, 2015 to
Nov 30, 2015
Workforce and Language Connections Project (Prov) $3,300.50 June 29, 2015 to
March 31, 2016
Multicultural Family Sports Day (Prov) $125,700.00 April 1, 2015 to
March 31, 2016
Private Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator (Prov) $500.00 April 1, 2015 to
March 31, 2016
Private Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator (Prov) $50,000.00

Slide 8 – notes should reference if you have engaged SA or Red Cross
AES officials have been in engaged in discussions with the Red Cross. Red Cross has advised that they are prepared to respond if required, i.e., influx of Syrian Refugees at S Wing Goose Bay or elsewhere.

Slide 9 – If we are identifying accommodations as a pressure – how are ANC addressing this? What will likely be their plan?
ANC have engaged with their accommodations network including Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC), various apartment building owners, and individuals. The NLHC has provided an additional housing unit, many apartment owners have vacancies and agreed to rent at a reduced rate, and some private accommodations are also available for rent. The ANC has advised that while housing pressures are a concern, they believe that it will be manageable.
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Upon initial confirmation of the increased Syrian refugee population to be received by the Association for New Canadians, accommodation was indicated as a pressure point for resettlement.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM DENNIS: PENDING

In the “Provincial and Territorial Commitments” table that we added, it states that NL has received 9 Syrian refugees since Nov. 4, 2015. Is this accurate, or is this the total for the entire year up to Nov. 4 for 2015 or the total number since the conflict began 5 years ago?

Can we find out the total population of Syrians in NL? Also, do we know the total number of all refugees currently in NL and countries of origin?

The same slide indicates that ON has received 3,318 Syrian refugees up to Nov. 4th – is that for 2015 or a cumulative total over a number of years?

Is Refugee Capacity column for GARs only?
Thanks Debbie, appreciate it.

Mark

Mark C. Hunter, PhD  
Post-Secondary Policy and Program Specialist  
Literacy and Institutional Services Division  
Department of Advanced Education and Skills  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1B 4J6  
markhunter@gov.nl.ca  
T: +1 709 729 2450 / F: +1 709 729 6246

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.  
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 4:20 PM  
To: Hunter, Mark C.  
Subject: RE: PNP International Graduate Category

Here is NL's current response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

• Public awareness of the Syrian refugee crisis peaked in late August 2015 resulting in a variety of responses from all levels of government, stakeholder groups, and citizens from across the country. In September 2015, provinces and territories (PTs) began to respond by announcing funding and other supports. See Annex A for an overview of PT responses.

• NL’s response to the crisis was two-fold and included: 1) an official request to the previous Federal Government to increase the provincial allocation of GARs from 155 to 250 annually; and, 2) funding in the amount of $50,000 provided to the ANC to support a full-time position of Private Sponsorship Coordinator whose primary role will be to assist residents in their efforts to sponsor refugees from Syria.

Thanks
Debbie
Hi Debbie,

Due to the impending storm and the possibility that we will be closed tomorrow we're now prioritizing other items for executive so feel free to do the same if you need to pull folks on other things.

Thanks,

Mark

Mark C. Hunter, PhD
Post-Secondary Policy and Program Specialist
Literacy and Institutional Services Division
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1B 4J6
markhunter@gov.nl.ca
T: +1 709 729 2450 / F: +1 709 729 6246

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 3:14 PM
To: Hunter, Mark C.
Cc: Reid, Eric S; Lindahl, Lisa
Subject: Re: PNP International Graduate Category

Hi mark

Eric. Reid can provide the data.
Lisa is Eric at his desk?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Hunter, Mark C.
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2015 1:45 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: PNP International Graduate Category

Hi Debbie,

Do you happen to have any data on how many international students have availed of their PNP category say in the past 4 or 5 years? Or last year?

Thanks,

Mark

Mark C. Hunter, PhD
Post-Secondary Policy and Program Specialist
Literacy and Institutional Services Division
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1B 4J6
markhunter@gov.nl.ca
T: +1 709 729 2450 / F: +1 709 729 6246
The Syrian refugee crisis began in 2011 and to date, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has over four million registered Syrian refugees. In September 2015, provinces and territories (PTs) publicly responded to the Syrian refugee crisis by announcing funding supports for settlement services and/or donations to the UNHCR or to the Canadian Red Cross.

The Association for New Canadians (ANC) has indicated a strong outpouring of support from Newfoundlanders and Labradorians for the people of Syria, including the pledging of financial contributions and accommodations, as well as commitments to privately co-sponsor Syrian refugees. This past September a request was made by the province to the federal Government to increase the provincial allocation of Government-assisted refugees (GARs) from 155 to 250 annually. In addition, funding in the amount of $50,000 provided to the ANC to create the full-time position of Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator.

The Association actively promotes the Private Refugee Sponsorship Program as they are currently the only sponsorship agreement holder in the province. The coordinator has facilitated a number of information sessions for the general public and continues to work closely with various groups and organizations to raise funds, promote awareness, and offer expertise.
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: O'Neill, Sheldon
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 9:57 AM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.; Mackey, Andrew
Cc: Lindahl, Lisa
Subject: RE: Departmental Newsletter

This is what I prepared for the newsletter:

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 9:55 AM
To: Mackey, Andrew; O'Neill, Sheldon
Cc: Lindahl, Lisa
Subject: Fw: Departmental Newsletter
Importance: High

Can you send me the updated EE article. Sheldon did you do your piece on syrian refugee crisis and Ni commitments

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Robinson, Lynn <LynnRobinson@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 9:52 AM
To: Ennis-Williams, Candice; Connolly, Krista; Sheppard, Debbie A.; Bishop, Sandra E; Feaver, Robert; King, Cynthia; Sutton, Alicia L.; Drover, Agnes; Knott, Sharon; Hanlon, Bren M.; Moore, Dave
Cc: Tompkins, John; Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Hogan, Dennis A.; Wheaton, Roxie T.; Pike, David; Gardiner, Bob B
Subject: RE: Departmental Newsletter

Good morning.

This is a reminder that all articles for the newsletter are due by end of today. The next edition will be issued during the week of December 7 and we need to start editing and developing content to meet the deadline - which is fast approaching.

Please send along submissions to LynnRobinson@gov.nl.ca today along with the topic of your article and staff member responsible for drafting.

Thank you to everyone who have submitted articles and photos so far.

Thanks for your assistance.

Lynn

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Ennis-Williams, Candice; Connolly, Krista; Sheppard, Debbie A.; Bishop, Sandra E; Feaver, Robert; King, Cynthia; Sutton, Alicia L.; Drover, Agnes; Knott, Sharon; Hanlon, Bren M.; Moore, Dave
Cc: Tompkins, John; Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Hogan, Dennis A.; Wheaton, Roxie T.; Pike, David; Gardiner, Bob B
Subject: RE: Departmental Newsletter
Importance: High
Good morning,

Just a friendly reminder about submitting articles for the next edition of the Advanced Education and Skills newsletter. It will be issued during the week of December 7. Please have outstanding articles submitted by Monday, November 30.

Please let us know (lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca) by end of day tomorrow the topic of your article and the staff person responsible for drafting.

Thank you to those who have submitted topic ideas and articles so far.

Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
709-729-1795
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 2:28 PM
To: Ennis-Williams, Candice; Connolly, Krista; Sheppard, Debbie A.; Bishop, Sandra E; Feaver, Robert; King, Cynthia;
Sutton, Alicia L.; Drover, Agnes; Knott, Sharon; Hanlon, Bren M.; Moore, Dave
Cc: Tompkins, John; Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Hogan, Dennis A.; Wheaton, Roxie T.; Pike, David; Gardiner, Bob B
Subject: Departmental Newsletter

Good Afternoon Everyone,

We are planning the third edition of the Advanced Education and Skills newsletter, AES Connections, and it is scheduled to out during in December.

In an effort to make the drafting of our newsletter run smoother for all involved, the following guidelines, suggested topics and deadlines are listed below.

Guidelines:

ADM's/Program and Regional Directors will be responsible for assigning articles to their staff, setting deadlines with their staff, and approving all articles and photos before they are submitted to the Communications Division. Feedback is welcomed and encouraged. If there are additional topics you would like to see in an issue, please let us know. As well, if you would prefer to write on another topic other than the ones suggested by the Communications Division, please advise us. We would also accept any short reminders or tidbits of information that you would like to include...a 'did you know section' for example.

Once articles are confirmed and assigned, please advise the Communications Branch so the person(s) responsible can be included in subsequent follow-up emails.

Each newsletter will have a few recurring sections...the Deputy's Message, Minister on the Road and an employee profile. For the employee profile, we would like to have a profile of someone from a specific region. It will be up to the ADM's/Directors to identify someone to be profiled and another staff member to write the profile. Communications can certainly assist in writing any articles or giving guidance.
Some other general ideas for the newsletter — updates on programs, reminders/updates on policies, tips and tools, OHS information, events happening in regions, training, etc. We would love to receive any interesting charts/infographics/illustrations that would be great to include and we want to try to include pictures with as many of the articles as is fitting.

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Thank you for your help!

Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
lynrobinson@gov.nl.ca
709-729-1795
Uple weeks ago. I sent it to you, andrew and lisa. It was a five page note

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

I don't see that BN anywhere in my emails. Do you know what date that would have been sent? I have done several searches.

Sheldon see below. Close but a bit bureaucratic.  
I took out some of the lines we didn't need. Note I also placed marker for NL public reaction to srrian crisis. If you go back to the note there are key messages at the end that sums this up nicely. Basically staing how the anc received huge amount inquiries and donations and how NI residents wanted to help. Use this as the bullet. 

Reference to Alan Kurd removed, bullets from BN included in text.

The Syrian refugee crisis began in 2011 and to date, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR ) has over four million registered Syrian refugees. In September 2015, provinces and territories (PTs) publically responded to the Syrian refugee crisis by announcing funding supports for settlement services and/or donations to the (UNHCR or to the Canadian Red Cross.
Newfoundland and Labrador also response to the crisis. This past September a request was made to the federal Government to increase the provincial allocation of Government-assisted refugees (GARs) from 155 to 250 annually. In addition funding in the amount of $50,000 provided to the ANC to create the full-time position of Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator. The Association actively promotes the Private Refugee Sponsorship Program as they are currently the only sponsorship agreement holder in the province. The coordinator has facilitated a number of information sessions for the general public and continues to work closely with various groups and organizations to raise funds, promote awareness, and offer expertise.

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Cc: Lindahl, Lisa
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Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 9:55 AM
To: Mackey, Andrew; O'Neill, Sheldon
Cc: Lindahl, Lisa
Subject: Fw: Departmental Newsletter
Importance: High

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reduced the references to boy washing up on beach. Just include a reference to public outcry including NL in the time period of... The briefing note that I referred you to has a bullet on the public reaction here and the amount of inquiries anc received etc. Trying put a more NL focus to it.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

The Syrian refugee crisis began in 2011 and to date, the UNHCR has over four million registered Syrian refugees. On September 3rd, 2015 the image of three year old Alan Kurdi washed ashore on a Turkish beach quickly penetrated social media and became an instant iconic campaigning tool. The viral spreading of the image raised awareness of the dire situation which in turn, sparked a massive call to action from Canadians, and Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments. In September 2015, provinces and territories (PTs) publically responded to the Syrian refugee crisis by announcing funding supports for settlement services and/or donations to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (also known as the UN Refugee Agency) or to the Canadian Red Cross.

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Yes. Can take care of this

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Thanks Debbie. We should also pull together some high level notes from the last meeting to summarize the discussion of the last meeting. Going forward, we should have Lisa and Sheldon sit in to take notes.

Thanks,
Dennis

Sandy:

Dennis would a meeting organized for some time next week re: Syrian Refugee Resettlement Plan. The same individuals will be invited.

Suggested text for the invite: (Dennis can you also review)

During our November 16, 2015 meeting to discuss a provincial approach to the resettlement of Syrian Refugees and possible challenges, it was agreed that a second meeting would be convened following the federal announcement of the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Plan. The details of the plan was released this week. In addition, a Syrian Resettlement Forum is taking place this weekend (November 28-29), bringing together service providers and all levels of government to address the finer needs of the resettlement plan. The Association for New Canadians will be attending these meetings and information will be shared.

It is important that all relevant departments remain engaged on this issue. The meeting will allow for the sharing of information and continued engagement of provincial officials.
Hi Sandy, can you proof the message below? On Debbie’s list, Colleen Stockley is no longer ADM of Population Health and the ADM of Intergovernmental Affairs is Paul Scott, not Sean Dutton.

Hello everyone,

As you are no doubt aware, the Federal Government has committed to re-settling 25,000 Syrian refugees in Canada by the end of 2015 and the federal Cabinet is currently working on an action plan to achieve this objective. While many details are not yet available with respect to the distribution of these refugees across Canada, or regarding potential additional resources to support this effort, it is expected that all provinces and territories will receive an allocation.

Currently, NL receives an allocation of approximately 155 Government-assisted Refugees (GAR) each year; however, in the wake of the unfolding Syrian refugee crisis in September, Minister Jackman wrote the former federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to request an increase in NL’s GAR allocation of up to 250 people. In addition, the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs provided $50,000 in funding to the Association for New Canadians (ANC) to support the private sponsorship of Syrian refugees to the province. As well, it is also possible that the province may be considered as a port-of-entry to temporarily house hundreds of refugees at the military base in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to allow for in-Canada immigration processing.

Given the potential impact of these scenarios across Government departments, and the need for the Province to have a coordinated response, I am inviting you to attend a meeting of officials to discuss and share information on the forthcoming settlement of Syrian refugees in Canada.

Date: Monday November 16, 2015
Time: 1:30-3:00 pm
Location: Department of Advanced Education and Skills, 3rd Floor, Main Boardroom, West Block

We will follow up with a meeting invite. I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Thanks,
Dennis

_______________________________________
Dennis Hogan | Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Development and Immigration
From: Seaward, Sharon M.  
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2015 10:06 AM  
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Sheppard, Debbie A.  
Subject: FW: AES Note for Comment

This is just FYI.

From: Bodnar, Cameron  
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 4:59 PM  
To: Allison, David; Coombs, Dorriann; Harvey, Michael  
Subject: RE: AES Note for Comment

Hi David,

I am seeking clarification on this point. The information we have received from PHAC to date suggests that all of the Syrian refugees will be eligible for the IFHP. Minister Philpott, the PHAC President and the CPHO all stated this earlier this week. This was also reiterated by PHAC officials on a PT Health Emergency Managers call this afternoon. The protocol noted by AES appears to be standard, but there are exceptions. Notably, the Minister has the authority to provide coverage to “Certain people who are being resettled in Canada as a result of a public policy or humanitarian and compassionate considerations...” Such individuals would be eligible for Basic, Supplemental and Prescription benefits as per the terms and conditions of the IFHP. This is consistent with the coverage that Minister Philpot, the PHAC President and CPHO indicated all Syrian refugees would be eligible for. I will advise when I hear from PHAC on this point.

Regards,

Cam

From: Allison, David  
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 4:50 PM  
To: Coombs, Dorriann; Harvey, Michael  
Cc: Bodnar, Cameron  
Subject: RE: AES Note for Comment

So would Government Assisted Refugees (GARS) also be eligible for MCP on arrival, as they also should be arriving as Permanent Residents?

And would both GARS and PSRs be receiving the extended benefits under the IFHP?

David Allison  
729-3433

From: Coombs, Dorriann  
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 4:05 PM  
To: Harvey, Michael  
Cc: Bodnar, Cameron; Clarke, Beverley; Allison, David  
Subject: FW: AES Note for Comment  
Importance: High

Michael – thanks for the feedback. Kindly see the responses from AES that will be incorporated in the Note. Any further questions or concerns, happy to address.
Hi Doriann,

We've reviewed the comments from HSC and offer our thoughts below (in red).

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,
Dennis

Folks – more comments on the Syrian note. Please below from HCS. Would appreciate your thoughts on each of the points they raise below as soon as you are able.

Thanks,
Doriann

HCS officials have reviewed the note and we offer the following comments:

- The note references that the health costs (among other costs) incurred by government-sponsored refugees are covered by the federal government. However, it does not reference (and to date HCS officials do not know) if the same is true for private-sponsored refugees. Perhaps AES can answer that question.
  
  We offer the following points for consideration:
  
  Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR):
  - These individuals arrive as permanent residents and are issued a Permanent Resident Card
  - From the point of landing they receive provincial medical care.
  - They usually receive their MCP card the morning after their arrival.
  - If they do not have their MCP card at the time of medical care, they present their Permanent Resident Card and the doctor will then bill MCP.
Blended VISA Office Referral (BVOR):

- These individuals qualify for the Interim Federal Health Care Program for a period of one year (then switch over to MCP)
- This covers:
  - Emergency dental for adults
  - Full dental for children under 16
  - Optometry (eye exam and one pair of glasses)
  - All prescriptions

- The note may overstate the health challenges. Information provided to date by the federal government indicates that the overall health status of the population is generally good, with the possible exception of mental health issues, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, arising from what the refugees have experienced. Since these issues may only gradually come to light after the settlement process is complete, they are not expected to pose an immediate challenge to integration. In addition, HCS has not received any information indicating that chronic health conditions specific to the population will pose any significant challenges. HCS is working with the Public Health Agency of Canada to gain a better understanding of the demographics, population and individual health status of the refugees. As new information becomes available, HCS will distribute it to health care providers as appropriate.
  (The health challenges information came from the ANC; however, we would defer to HCS’s comments as more authoritative)

- The note does not completely reflect the extent to which HCS has been involved in discussions with our federal counterparts and actions being taken as a consequence. In addition to the Health Ministers Meeting referenced in the note, a Deputy Ministers call has taken place and the Special Advisory Committee of the F/P/T Public Health Network Council is meeting regularly to discuss new developments and coordinate on a pan-Canadian basis, as appropriate. Recent discussions have focused on coordination around childhood and flu vaccinations, including procurement of additional supply to meet the demand the Syrian refugees may pose, and integration of the refugees into the Primary Health Care system. The P/T Health Emergency Management Council has also been engaged on this issue.
  (This information provides greater context and enhances the note)

- Finally, it should be noted that the note may leave the impression that HCS has been directly involved with the FPT communication occurring through SOREM. HCS has not been involved with this forum and has not received updates on its proceedings. HCS FPT engagement has, as noted above, been through the Special Advisory Committee of the Public Health Network Council.
  (We note the clarification)

Also, I expect that you will catch this on your own and they are not HCS specific issues, but:

- The note refers to the federal department responsible for by its former name. Associated federal documentation, including news releases and backgrounders are using the new name: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
  (Agree with this edits)

- On page 1, the note indicates that federal government services and supports, including income support, are for up to two years post arrival. Information from the federal government provided to HCS on this Issue indicates that income support is only for one year, or until the refugee is able to support themselves and their families, whichever happens first. Other services and supports, such as extended benefits under the Interim Health Plan, may be available for up to two years.
  (Two years was stated in error. One year is correct in the context)
Hi there:

Please find attached an emerging issues note from AES on the Federal Government's commitment regarding the Syrian refugee crisis. If you could kindly review and provide me with any comments you may have by 2 pm tomorrow, it would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

Doriann

Doriann Coombs | Cabinet Officer
Cabinet Secretariat, Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709-699-4048
Thanks Sheldon.

From: O'Neill, Sheldon
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 3:20 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: RE: AES Note for Comment

HI Dennis,

With respect to the first question re: health care and federal support:

Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR):
- These individuals arrive as permanent residents and are issued a Permanent Resident Card
- From the point of landing they receive provincial medical care.
- They usually receive their MCP card the morning after their arrival.
- If they do not have their MCP card at the time of medical care, they present their Permanent Resident Card and the doctor will then bill MCP.

Blended VISA Office Referral (BVOR):
- These individuals qualify for the Interim Federal Health Care Program for a period of one year (then switch over to MCP)
- This covers:
  - Emergency dental for adults
  - Full dental for children under 16
  - Optometry (eye exam and one pair of glasses)
  - All prescriptions

Hope this helps!
Sheldon

Debbie/Sheldon,

We also need to respond asap to the comments from HCS below. Can you review and add anything relevant to the text I provided in red below?
Folks – more comments on the Syrian note. Please below from HCS. Would appreciate your thoughts on each of the points they raise below as soon as you are able.

Thanks,
Doriann

---

From: Harvey, Michael
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 12:03 PM
To: Coombs, Doriann
Cc: Allison, David; Clarke, Beverley; Bodnar, Cameron
Subject: RE: AES Note for Comment

Doriann,

HCS officials have reviewed the note and we offer the following comments:

- The note references that the health costs (among other costs) incurred by government-sponsored refugees are covered by the federal government. However, it does not reference (and to date HCS officials do not know) if the same is true for private-sponsored refugees. Perhaps AES can answer that question.
  (Sheldon – can you provide the answer?)

- The note may overstate the health challenges. Information provided to date by the federal government indicates that the overall health status of the population is generally good, with the possible exception of mental health issues, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, arising from what the refugees have experienced. Since these issues may only gradually come to light after the settlement process is complete, they are not expected to pose an immediate challenge to integration. In addition, HCS has not received any information indicating that chronic health conditions specific to the population will pose any significant challenges. HCS is working with the Public Health Agency of Canada to gain a better understanding of the demographics, population and individual health status of the refugees. As new information becomes available, HCS will distribute it to health care providers as appropriate.
  (The health challenges information came from the ANC; however, we would defer to HCS's comments as more authoritative)

- The note does not completely reflect the extent to which HCS has been involved in discussions with our federal counterparts and actions being taken as a consequence. In addition to the Health Ministers Meeting referenced in the note, a Deputy Ministers call has taken place and the Special Advisory Committee of the F/P/T Public Health Network Council is meeting regularly to discuss new developments and coordinate on a pan-Canadian basis, as appropriate. Recent discussions have focused on coordination around childhood and flu vaccinations, including procurement of additional supply to meet the demand the Syrian refugees may pose, and integration of the refugees into the Primary Health Care system. The P/T Health Emergency Management Council has also been engaged on this issue.
  (This information provides greater context and enhances the note)
• Finally, it should be noted that the note may leave the impression that HCS has been directly involved with the FPT communication occurring through SOREM. HCS has not been involved with this forum and has not received updates on its proceedings. HCS FPT engagement has, as noted above, been through the Special Advisory Committee of the Public Health Network Council.
(We appreciate the clarification)

Also, I expect that you will catch this on your own and they are not HCS specific issues, but:

• The note refers to the federal department responsible for by its former name. Associated federal documentation, including news releases and backgrounders are using the new name: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
(Agree)

• On page 1, the note indicates that federal government services and supports, including income support, are for up to two years post arrival. Information from the federal government provided to HCS on this issue indicates that income support is only for one year, or until the refugee is able to support themselves and their families, whichever happens first. Other services and supports, such as extended benefits under the Interim Health Plan, may be available for up to two years.
(Two years was stated in error. One year is correct in the context)

Thanks,
Michael

Michael Harvey
3103

From: Coombs, Doriann
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 6:52 PM
To: Barfoot, Scott; Brown, Milly; Dutton, Sean; Harvey, Michael; Nolan, Paul; Cochrane, Rachelle; Gover, Aubrey; Vivian-Walsh, Janet
Subject: AES Note for Comment
Importance: High

Hi there:

Please find attached an emerging issues note from AES on the Federal Government's commitment regarding the Syrian refugee crisis. If you could kindly review and provide me with any comments you may have by 2 pm tomorrow, it would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,
Doriann

Doriann Coombs | Cabinet Officer
Cabinet Secretariat, Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
709-699-4048
Great, thanks Debbie.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 4:57 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: RE: Can you call me

Dennis:

Just a small revision. I also added the acronym for Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) the Federal Minister may or may not use the acronym but thought should include it.

Thanks
Debbie

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: RE: Can you call me

Debbie,

As discussed.

NL Response to Syrian Refugee Crisis

- The Provincial Government has provided $50,000 in funding for the Association for New Canadians (ANC) to support the private sponsorship of Syrian refugees to the province.

- This funding is available under the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs Special Assistance Grant program and will be used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator.

- The Government of Canada's current allocation to Newfoundland and Labrador, for Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) relocating to the province, is currently 155 people. The Provincial Government has sent a letter to the former federal Minister of Immigration and Citizenship to request an increase in that allocation to up to 250 people.

- Any request from the Federal Government to NL to increase funding and/or the allocation level for refugees beyond that already committed by the Province will be taken under consideration.
The ANC delivers five programs to assist refugees' transition into Canadian society and has indicated they have the capacity to support at least 200 Government-Assisted Refugees annually.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada has also designated the ANC as this province's Sponsorship Agreement Holder which means that this association can work with local individuals and groups to privately sponsor refugees (including those from Syria) through its Private Refugee Sponsorship Program. This is in addition to the Government-Assisted Refugee allocation for Newfoundland and Labrador.

In anticipation of forthcoming action from the Government of Canada concerning the resettlement of Syrian refugees to Canada, Provincial Government departments and agencies, including AES, are in the process of coordinating efforts to respond to this humanitarian crisis. In addition, AES has reached out to external groups, such as the ANC, Canadian Red and other providers of settlement and emergency services, to ensure the province is ready to respond appropriately.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 4:46 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: Can you call me

Thanks
Debbie

From: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 4:23 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Sheppard, Debbie A.
Cc: Tremblett, Anne
Subject: FW: Emerging Issues

Dennis:

This is in addition to what we just spoke about. This is the note for the incoming Premier as discussed yesterday. I will need the note by Nov 18 so as to ensure review and sign-off.

Anne – please KIV.

Thanks

Gig

Genevieve [Gig] Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729-3582
Email: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

From: King, Tracy
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 4:20 PM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Cc: Norman, Katie; Collins, Megan
Subject: Emerging Issues

Good evening Gig,
Cabinet Secretariat has considered the list of emerging issues submitted by your Department. Please prepare an information note on the status of the Syrian refugee situation. That note should be submitted to Cabinet Secretariat by Friday, November 20. I recognize that this issue is on the agenda for the upcoming FMM, so this note may need to be updated following that meeting in consultation with MIGA. You should proceed to prepare notes on the other topics for your incoming Minister. If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please let me know.

Regards,
Tracy

Tracy King
Assistant Secretary to Cabinet
Cabinet Secretariat, Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
(709) 729-2850
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Murphy, Marina
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 4:48 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Cc: Syrian Refugee Crisis

Subject: Syrian Refugee Crisis

Please see response below from the Hon. Clyde Jackman, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills:

______________________________

Dear [Name]

On behalf of the Honourable Paul Davis, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, and as Minister Responsible for Immigration, I wish to thank you for your recent email correspondence concerning the Syrian refugee crisis.

In Canada, primary support for refugees is a Federal Government responsibility, administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). CIC determines the annual number of refugees to be admitted to Canada and all refugees who arrive in Canada are either Government-assisted or private sponsorship refugees. During the first twenty-four months in Canada, Government-assisted refugees receive Federal Government financial support and services to assist with resettlement.

All refugees who arrive in Canada are granted immediate Permanent Resident status. As Permanent Residents, refugees who arrive and settle permanently in Newfoundland and Labrador can avail of the same provincial public services and programs available to all residents of our province, including social, healthcare, and education-related services. My Department also provides funding to the Association for New Canadians (ANC) to deliver settlement services to assist new immigrants and Permanent Residents to settle successfully in our province.

The ANC is the province’s only Private Sponsorship Agreement Holder, a designation that allows the ANC to work with local individuals and groups to privately sponsor refugees from Syria and other countries. My officials have advised that many residents are providing donations to the ANC to assist with the financial commitments required to sponsor refugees. For more information on the ANC, their website can be viewed at http://www.ancnl.ca/ or you can contact them at (709) 722-9680.

In response to the Syrian refugee crisis, I have made a request to the federal minister responsible for immigration seeking an immediate sixty per cent increase to Newfoundland and Labrador’s allocation of Government-assisted refugees which is approximately 155 annually. If we are granted the increase, we could see an additional 90 to 100 Government-assisted refugees settle in our province. In addition, the Provincial Government has recently provided $50,000 in funding to the ANC to support the hiring of a refugee sponsorship coordinator who will be responsible for supporting sponsors, community groups and sponsored individuals and families.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information on supports provided to refugees in this province, please contact Ms. Debbie Sheppard, Director, Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism, at (709) 729-6607 or dsheppard@gov.nl.ca.
Sincerely,

CLYDE JACKMAN, MHA
Burin-Placentia West
Minister

cc: Honourable Paul Davis, Premier
    Ms. Debbie Sheppard, Director

Marina Murphy
Administrative Assistant to the Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
3rd Floor, West Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
p (709) 729-3580
f (709) 729-6996
e marinamurphy@gov.nl.ca
From:  Murphy, Marina  
Sent:  Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:13 PM  
To:  Sheppard, Debbie A.  
Cc:  Syrian Refugee Crisis  

Subject: Request for increase to Government-assisted refugees in Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Honourable Clyde Jackman,

On behalf of the Honourable Paul Davis, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, and as Minister Responsible for Immigration, I wish to thank you for your recent email correspondence concerning the Syrian refugee crisis.

In Canada, primary support for refugees is a Federal Government responsibility, administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). CIC determines the annual number of refugees to be admitted to Canada, and all refugees who arrive in Canada are either Government-assisted or private sponsorship refugees. During the first twenty-four months in Canada, Government-assisted refugees receive Federal Government financial support and services to assist with resettlement.

On September 12, 2015 the Federal Government announced a Syrian emergency relief fund that will match donations from Canadians to registered Canadian charities, up to $100 million. This fund will assist conflict-affected people in Syria and neighbouring countries, and will be used to provide basic needs such as food, clothing and healthcare.

In response to the Syrian refugee crisis, I have made a request to the federal minister responsible for immigration seeking an immediate sixty per cent increase to Newfoundland and Labrador’s allocation of Government-assisted refugees which is approximately 155 annually. If we are granted the increase, we could see an additional 90 to 100 Government-assisted refugees settle in our province. In addition, the Provincial Government has recently provided $50,000 in funding to the Association for New Canadians to support the hiring of a refugee sponsorship coordinator who will be responsible for supporting sponsors, community groups and sponsored individuals and families.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information on supports provided to refugees in this province, please contact Ms. Debbie Sheppard, Director, Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism at (709) 729-6607 or dsheppard@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

CLYDE JACKMAN, MHA  
Burin-Placentia West  
Minister
Marina Murphy
Administrative Assistant to the Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
3rd Floor, West Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
p (709) 729-3580
f (709) 729-6996
e marinamurphy@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Gaël Corbineau <dg@fftnl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 11:50 AM
To: M Clair, alison.crawford@servicecanada.gc.ca; andrea.childs@cic.gc.ca; Craig Pollett (copollett@municipalnl.ca); Dr. Kathleen Parewick (kparewick@municipalnl.ca); Sheppard, Debbie A.; elf@nfld.net; Fang, Tao; jbaker@nfld.net; Knutson, Sonja; mmorris@nfld.net; Dinn, Paul; Tracey Hennessey; Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (tracey.hennessey@canada.ca); wmg ford@stjohns.ca

Subject: TR: NUS 3 - Provincial Government Announces Funding for Association for New Canadians to Assist Syrian Refugees

FYI

Cordialement,

Gaël Corbineau
Directeur général
Fédération des Francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador

De : Releases, News [mailto:news@gov.nl.ca]
Envoyé : 6 octobre 2015 11:40
À : Releases, News <news@gov.nl.ca>
Objet : NUS 3 - Provincial Government Announces Funding for Association for New Canadians to Assist Syrian Refugees

NUS 3
Advanced Education and Skills
Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs
October 6, 2015

Supporting Our Communities

Provincial Government Announces Funding for Association for New Canadians to Assist Syrian Refugees

The partnership between the Provincial Government and the Association for New Canadians has been strengthened through a contribution to the organization's efforts to support Syrian refugees. Today, the Provincial Government is announcing $50,000 in funding for the association to assist Syrian refugees.
"We have been in regular communication with the Association for New Canadians during the Syrian refugee crisis. Through the association, we have heard about a strong outpouring of support from Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, including the pledging of financial contributions and accommodations, as well as commitments to privately co-sponsor refugees. This funding will help the association in its efforts to assist the people of Syria. Like all Canadians, we are disturbed by the images that are appearing in the media and we will continue to work with our Federal Government partners to do whatever we can to help."

- The Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills

This funding will be used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator who will be responsible for working with, and providing support to, sponsors, community groups, and sponsored individuals and families during all aspects of the process. Funding may also be used towards programming to help support the settlement of refugees arriving in the province, in areas such as health services, educational services, and family and social services.

"The people of our province have a long-standing history and reputation for providing assistance to various parts of the world when it is needed. After consultation with the Association for New Canadians, and in recognition of the current crisis our government has requested an increase in the government-assisted refugee allocation from the Government of Canada for Newfoundland and Labrador."

- The Honourable Keith Hutchings, Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Canadian refugee system is the responsibility of the Government of Canada and administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The current allocation to Newfoundland and Labrador, for government-assisted refugees relocating to the province, is 155 people. The Association for New Canadians delivers many programs to assist refugees’ transition into Canadian society and has indicated they have the capacity to support up to 250 government-assisted refugees annually.

"We are pleased to receive this funding from the Provincial Government as it will help our efforts to support refugees as they arrive in this province seeking a new life. The Association for New Canadians has held public information sessions about the Syrian refugee crisis and how people can help in sponsoring a refugee or a family. We encourage the public to keep contacting us with ways they wish to help."

- Megan Morris, Executive Director, Association for New Canadians

For more information on programs and services available through the Association for New Canadians, visit: www.ancli.ca.

QUICK FACTS
- The Provincial Government is providing $50,000 in funding for the Association for New Canadians to support Syrian refugees in this province.
- This funding will be used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator.
- The Government of Canada’s current allocation to Newfoundland and Labrador, for government-assisted refugees relocating to the province, is currently 155 people. The Provincial Government has sent a letter to the federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration requesting an increase in that allocation.
- The Association for New Canadians delivers many programs to assist refugees’ transition into Canadian society and has indicated they have the capacity to support up to 250 government-assisted refugees annually.
Media contacts:
John Tompkins
Director of Communications
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
709-729-0753, 728-7762
jtompkins@gov.nl.ca

Megan Morris
Executive Director
Association for New Canadians
709-726-6885
mmorris@nfld.net

Kevin Guest
Director of Communications
Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs
709-729-1983, 730-2320
keviniguest@gov.nl.ca

2015 10 06  11:40 a.m.

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Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Tompkins, John
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 4:27 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.; Robinson, Lynn; Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: RE: For Review: NR Funding for ANC

Thanks Debbie. When Dennis approves, I will provide to Gig and Minister.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 4:25 PM
To: Robinson, Lynn; Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: RE: For Review: NR Funding for ANC

This looks good.

Thanks
Debbie

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:31 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Sheppard, Debbie A.
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: For Review: NR Funding for ANC
Importance: High

Hi,

Attached is the draft news release on funding for the ANC to help Syrian Refugees. It is scheduled to be issued Monday.

Please advise of any changes.

Thanks.
Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
709-729-1795

Advanced Education and Skills
Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs
October 5, 2015

Supporting the People of Syria
Provincial Government Announces Funding for Association for New Canadians to Assist Syrian Refugees

Today, the Provincial Government is announcing $50,000 in funding for the Association for New Canadians to support Syrian refugees in this province.

"We have been in constant communication with the Association for New Canadians during the Syrian refugee crisis. Through the association, we have heard about a strong outpouring of support from Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, including the pledging of financial contributions and accommodations, as well as commitments to privately co-sponsor refugees. This funding will help the association in its efforts to assist the people of Syria. Like all Canadians, we are disturbed by the images that are appearing in the media and we will continue to work with our federal partners to do whatever we can to help."

- The Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills

This funding will be used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator who would be responsible for working with, and providing support to, sponsors, community groups, and sponsored individuals and families throughout all aspects of the process. Funding may also be used towards programming to help support the settlement of refugees arriving in the province, which may include but not be limited to: health services; educational services; and family and social services.

"The people of our province have a long-standing history and reputation for providing assistance to various parts of the world when assistance is needed. After consultation with the Association for New Canadians, our government has requested an increase in the Government-Assisted refugee allocation from the Government of Canada for Newfoundland and Labrador."

- The Honourable Keith Hutchings, Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Canadian refugee system is the responsibility of the Government of Canada and administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The current allocation to Newfoundland and Labrador, for Government-Assisted Refugees relocating to the province, is 155 people. The Association for New Canadians delivers five programs to assist refugees' transition into Canadian society and has indicated they have the capacity to support at least 200 Government-Assisted Refugees annually.

"We are pleased to receive this funding from the Provincial Government as it will help our efforts to support refugees as they arrive in this province seeking a new life. The Association for New Canadians has held public information sessions about the Syrian refugee crisis and how people can help in sponsoring a refugee or a family. We encourage the public to keep contacting us with ways they wish to help."

- Megan Morris, Executive Director, Association for New Canadians

QUICK FACTS
- The Provincial Government is announcing $50,000 in funding for the Association for New Canadians to support Syrian refugees in this province.
- This funding is available under the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs Special Assistance Grant program and will be used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator.
• The Government of Canada's current allocation to Newfoundland and Labrador, for Government-Assisted Refugees relocating to the province, is currently 155 people. The Provincial Government has sent a letter to the federal Minister for an increase in that allocation.

• The Association for New Canadians delivers five programs to assist refugees' transition into Canadian society and has indicated they have the capacity to support at least 200 Government-Assisted Refugees annually.

Media contacts:

John Tompkins
Director of Communications
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
709-729-0753, 728-7762
tompkins@gov.nl.ca

Megan Morris
Executive Director
Association for New Canadians
709-726-6848, 728-7762
mmorris@nfld.net

Kevin Guest
Director of Communications
Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs
709-729-1983, 730-2320
kevinguest@gov.nl.ca
From: Healey, Rick M.
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 03:04 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Cc: Cochrane, Rachelle; O'Brien, Donna; Shallow, Michelle
Subject: FW: Draft Wording

Hi Gig,

As a follow up to our conversation, I further discussed with Rachelle and Donna, and below is CYFS's comments for the note on the Syrian refugees to NL.

CYFS advises that potential cost increases, resulting from an increase in the number of GAR for NL, is unknown. However, should a family become involved with the Protective Intervention Program and the child requires out of home care, the cost to CYFS could range between $30,000 - $300,000 annually (depending on the needs of the child). At this point in time, CYFS does not anticipate the need for further funding to support these refugees, but CYFS will monitor the issue.

Rick

Rick M. Healey BSc (Hons) MSc
Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy and Programs
Department of Child Youth and Family Services
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Office (709) 729-0088
Thanks Ed. I appreciate your quick response.

Dennis

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Potential impacts in the education system.

Exact allocations required to meet the needs of the anticipated influx of students into the school system is difficult to ascertain at this point. EECD predicts that, based on the ratio of school aged children to Syrian adults that have arrived so far, up to 12 teaching units will be required to meet educational needs of these students this school year should the proposed number of Syrian refugees be resettled to Newfoundland and Labrador. These would be allocated in the following areas:

1. Currently, according to the formula used to allocate resources to the school district, a teaching unit is provided for every 35 children that qualify for English as a Second Language (ESL) services. As of January 6, 2016 approximately 50 school aged children from Syrian refugee families have arrived in NL. Assuming that all 50 children require ESL service, 1.5 teaching units will be required to meet their needs. The need for teaching units for ESL will increase accordingly as the number of school aged children from Syrian refugee families enroll in the school system.

2. The current deployment of classroom teaching resources in K-9 is based on a “Cap” system. These means that there is a maximum number of children in a particular classroom. Teaching units will be required to split particular classes into two in the event that the enrollment increases beyond the accepted threshold. It appears as if certain St. John’s schools will be preferred options for enrolling Syrian students. Enrolling approximately 150 children this school year across these schools will require extra teaching resources to prevent classes from exceeding the accepted caps.
3. Immigrant children from refugee families who enroll in the provincial school system may require services provided by LEARN teachers. Students in this program often have significant gaps in formalized education, (ie not attended a formal school setting for several years). The LEARN Program is developed to meet the academic needs of these students and often works in concert with the services provided by ESL teachers. There are currently two units providing this service to students in the metro St. Johns region. It is expected that the need for teaching units in this area will increase as more children from refugee families enroll in the school system.

4. Outside of the specifics noted above, extra pressure may be placed on Guidance and Special Education services in schools.

5. There may be extra costs associated with bussing (each busing contract is costed at approx. 65 k) dependent on the where the permanent residence for the families is within the catchment zone for each school.

Ed Walsh
Assistant Deputy Minister
Kindergarten to Grade Twelve Education and Early Childhood Development
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Phone: (709) 729-5720
Fax: (709) 729-0987
From: Walsh, Ed
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Vivian-Walsh, Janet
Subject: Updated comments

Dennis,

Please find below updated comments from EECD. Please feel free to call to discuss.

Ed

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Exact allocations required to meet the needs of the anticipated influx of students into the school system is difficult to ascertain at this point. EECD predicts that, based on the ratio of school aged children to Syrian adults that have arrived so far, up to 12 teaching units will be required to meet educational needs of these students this school year should the proposed number of Syrian refugees be resettled to Newfoundland and Labrador. These would be allocated in the following areas:

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Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Phone: (709) 729-5720
Fax: (709) 729-0987
Dennis,

Some updates to this are probably coming your way as I understand Gig was chatting with Janet.

Ed

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From: Hogan, Dennis A.  
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 3:33 PM  
To: Walsh, Ed  
Cc: Vivian-Walsh, Janet  
Subject: RE: Urgent - Draft Note on Potential Increase to NL's GAR Allocation

Thanks for this Ed. I really appreciate it.

Dennis

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From: Walsh, Ed  
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 3:26 PM  
To: Hogan, Dennis A.  
Cc: Vivian-Walsh, Janet  
Subject: RE: Urgent - Draft Note on Potential Increase to NL's GAR Allocation

Dennis,

Please see below. Please feel free to call if there are any questions

Ed

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Immigrant children from refugee families who enroll in the provincial school system may require services provided by LEARN teachers. Students in this program often have significant gaps in formalized education, (ie not attended a formal school setting for several years). The LEARN Program is developed to meet the academic needs of these students and often works in concert with the services provided by ESL teachers. There are currently two units providing this service to students in the metro St. Johns region. It can be expected that the need for teaching units in this area will increase as more children from refugee families enroll in the school system.

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 1:50 PM
To: Walsh, Ed
Subject: RE: Urgent - Draft Note on Potential Increase to NL's GAR Allocation

That would be great if you can send it fairly quickly.

Thanks,
Dennis

From: Walsh, Ed
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 12:50 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: RE: Urgent - Draft Note on Potential Increase to NL's GAR Allocation

Hi Dennis,

We have certainly been analyzing potential impacts from a budget perspective. I did not realize that there would be an opportunity to provide specifics in the note. As you can appreciate providing an exact cost would be difficult, however, I can provide some information on how changes in enrollments in the system can have an impact on the need for teaching resources.

Ed

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2016 11:08 AM
To: Walsh, Ed
Cc: Vivian-Walsh, Janet
Subject: RE: Urgent - Draft Note on Potential Increase to NL's GAR Allocation

Hi Ed

I just wanted to check with you to see whether EECD has any further information or estimates on the potential costs of the additional number of children that will be placed into the school system. I understand that there have been meetings and discussions between your Dept., the District and ANC. In particular, are there any sensitivities or issues that will require additional funding outside of EECD's existing budget (e.g., additional teaching units for ESL)? Our note has been undergoing revision and I'm hoping to provide a new version to Gig later today.

Thanks,
From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:18 PM
To: Walsh, Ed
Cc: Vivian-Walsh, Janet
Subject: RE: Urgent - Draft Note on Potential Increase to NL's GAR Allocation

Thanks Ed. Good point. Really appreciate your quick response.

Dennis

From: Walsh, Ed
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:07 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Vivian-Walsh, Janet
Subject: Re: Urgent - Draft Note on Potential Increase to NL's GAR Allocation

Dennis

EECD is good with note. However we would like to suggest that greater numbers of refugee children enrolling in the school system in particular in the St Johns and Corner Brook areas "will" (as opposed to may) require extra resources for ESL and teaching resources to address learning deficiencies.

I am away from office today but available on cell at 631 9135 if you need to discuss further.

Thks

Ed

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Scott, Paul G.; Walsh, Susan; Allison, David; Hanrahan, Heather D; Healey, Rick M.; Lake-Kavanagh, Jackie; 'Moffatt, Kate - NLHC; Walsh, Ed
Cc: Sheppard, Debbie A.; Mackenzie, Dan; Tompkins, John; McCormack, David; Shallow, Michelle; Sutton, Alicia L.
Subject: RE: Urgent - Draft Note on Potential Increase to NL's GAR Allocation

Hello,

Thanks to those who have already responded with feedback. I'd just like to point out that one of the key considerations regarding this decision is the potential impact or additional costs on public services (education and healthcare in particular) of not only an increase in GARs but also an increase in the number of privately sponsored refugees from Syria. While this may be difficult to measure at this point, any thoughts or comments you have in that regard are most welcome.

Thanks,

Dennis

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
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To: Scott, Paul G.; Walsh, Susan; Allison, David; Hanrahan, Heather D; Healey, Rick M.; Lake-Kavanagh, Jackie; 'Moffatt, Kate - NLHC; Walsh, Ed
Cc: Sheppard, Debbie A.; Mackenzie, Dan; Tompkins, John; McCormack, David; Shallow, Michelle; Sutton, Alicia L.
Subject: Urgent - Draft Note on Potential Increase to NL's GAR Allocation

Good morning everyone,

I have attached a draft decision note regarding a request from the federal government to increase NL's GAR allocation from our current commitment of 250 individuals (from all countries, including Syria) up to 500 (from Syria) by the end of 2016.

Please review and provide me with any comments you have by 2:00 pm today. My apologies in advance for the short notice, particularly given the holidays.

Thanks,

Dennis
Great thanks.

Will have to you by 3 pm. In a meeting right now.

That would be great if you can send it fairly quickly.

Hi Dennis,

We have certainly been analyzing potential impacts from a budget perspective. I did not realize that there would be an opportunity to provide specifics in the note. As you can appreciate providing an exact cost would be difficult, however, I can provide some information on how changes in enrollments in the system can have an impact on the need for teaching resources.

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Thanks,
Dennis
Resettlement Assistance Program and Settlement Program for Refugees

1) What expenses does the refugee Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) cover?

A. The refugee Resettlement Assistance Program provides immediate and essential support services and income support to assist in meeting the resettlement needs of refugees. Essential services are supported through contributions to service provider organizations. RAP services include, but are not limited to:
   a. Reception services (meeting at the airport);
   b. Assistance with finding temporary and permanent accommodations;
   c. Links to mandatory federal and provincial programs;
   d. Life skills training; and,
   e. Orientation on financial and non-financial information.

This program is generally 4-6 weeks in duration and is funded by the federal government.

RAP funding is also used to provide refugees with RAP income support for up to one year or until individuals become self-sufficient, whichever comes first. Monthly income support entitlements for shelter, food and incidentals are guided by prevailing provincial social assistance rates, which vary in each province and territory. This program is intended only for permanent residents who arrive as Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) (or privately sponsored refugees under the Blended Visa Officer Referral (BVOR program). Other permanent residents, such as economic Immigrants, are ineligible for this program (including income support).

In certain circumstances, the period of income support eligibility may be extended for up to an additional 12 months. This includes situations of refugees with special needs where there is a joint assistance undertaking signed by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (such as the Association for New Canadians (ANC)). Refugees with special needs may require more support than others in order to settle in Canada. Special needs may arise due to trauma from violence or torture, medical disabilities, the effects of systemic discrimination or a large family unit. Such cases are rare and are adjudicated in consultation with IRCC.

In exceptional circumstances and for Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) cases, RAP income support can be provided for up to 24 months. In rare cases involving separated minors, this support can be provided for up to 36 months.

Personal assets are taken into consideration when determining the level of RAP income support the client requires. The following table shows the maximum personal assets that refugees can retain without affecting the amount of income
support they may receive. Any remaining assets will be factored in when determining the level of income support needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Composition</th>
<th>Maximum amount allotted of personal assets (CAD$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single person</td>
<td>$5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple</td>
<td>$7500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single plus one dependent</td>
<td>$7500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each additional dependent</td>
<td>$2500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. The RAP is different from the Settlement Program, which simultaneously assists immigrants and refugees as they adapt, settle and integrate into Canadian society.

The Settlement Program focuses on four areas:
1. Information and orientation
2. Language assessment, training and skills development;
3. Labour market access; and,

Most services are designed and delivered by service provider organizations, but certain services (such as some information provision) are delivered directly by IRCC, and some services are delivered overseas.

Clients are typically eligible for this program for up to two years.

2) What happens when RAP funding is exhausted within 12 months?

After the 12 months of income support provided federally through RAP, if the clients are not employed, they can apply for provincial Income Support as well as apply for any provincial program or service for which they meet the eligibility criteria. Resulting costs are covered by provincial funding.

3) When would refugees be eligible for provincial Income Support?

The federal RAP provides income support for GARs based on provincial rates for the initial 12 months following landing as permanent residents in NL. Following the 12 months of federal financial support, GARs can apply for provincial Income Support if they are not employed or self-sustaining, and they meet the provincial eligibility criteria for Income Support.

Private sponsors of refugees (privately sponsored refugees and BVORs) are expected to provide a level of support that is at least equal to that of the prevailing rates for Income Support in the expected community of settlement. When these supports stop, following the one year commitment, refugees can begin receiving provincial Income Support if required.
4) **What costs are private sponsors required to cover?**

Sponsoring groups agree to provide the refugees with care, lodging, settlement assistance and support for the duration of the sponsorship period. Normally, this is 12 months starting from the refugee’s arrival in Canada or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first. Under the BVOR program, support is cost-shared between the sponsor and Government of Canada (each providing six months of funding). In exceptional circumstances, the visa officer may determine that the refugee requires more time to become established in Canada and will ask the sponsoring group to extend the sponsorship period to a maximum of 36 months. The sponsoring group has the option of refusing the request for an extension of the sponsorship period; however, the sponsoring group risks having the case refused as a result. Private sponsors normally support the sponsored refugees by:

- Providing the cost of food, rent and household utilities and other day-to-day living expenses;
- Providing clothing, furniture and other household goods;
- Locating interpreters;
- Selecting a family physician and dentist;
- Assisting with applying for provincial health-care coverage;
- Enrolling children in school and adults in language training;
- Introducing newcomers to people with similar personal interests;
- Providing orientation with regard to banking services and transportation; and,
- Assisting in the search for employment.

5) **Do sponsors submit money to the federal government or to Association for New Canadians to administer RAP type benefits?**

The ANC requires all sponsoring groups to open an account under the Association’s GIC account. All funds required for the 6 or 12-month sponsorship period must be submitted to this account prior to the arrival of the sponsored refugee(s). These funds are held in trust until the refugee(s) arrives and are disbursed by the ANC to the sponsoring groups and sponsored refugee(s) monthly or as required.

6) **What healthcare coverage do refugees receive?**

Both basic coverage and supplementary healthcare needs are provided by Interim Federal Health Coverage (IFHC) until the individual applies for and receives provincial medical care (MCP). At which point, MCP provides basic coverage, and IFHC continues provision of supplementary coverage up to a period of one year. Following the one-year period, it is the responsibility of the individual to arrange for their own supplementary coverage. The following chart outlines the services provided under each plan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Coverage (MCP)</th>
<th>Supplemental Coverage (Federal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical services:</strong></td>
<td>Vision care:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Doctor visits</td>
<td>› One pair of eyewear (glasses and/or lens every two years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Standard immunizations</td>
<td>› One vision test per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Prenatal and obstetrical care</td>
<td>Dental Care:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Lab tests and x-rays</td>
<td>› Emergency dental examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospital services:</strong></td>
<td>› Dental X-rays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Emergency room visits</td>
<td>› Extractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Hospital stays</td>
<td>Other services:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Medical and surgical care</td>
<td>› Nursing Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Psycho-social Support Services:</strong></td>
<td>› Emergency Ambulance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>› Medical devices and supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescription Drug Coverage:</strong></td>
<td>10 Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Prescription medications and products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GARs and privately sponsored refugees:**
- Arrive in NL as permanent residents and are issued a Copy of Permanent Resident (COPR) document (the card will arrive within 6 weeks to 3 months)
- Receive provincial medical care from point of landing
- Usually receive their MCP card within 2-4 days after their arrival
- If they do not have their MCP card at the time of medical care, they present their COPR and the physician then bills MCP

7) **What is the Interim Federal Health Plan?**

The Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) provides limited, temporary, federally-funded coverage of health-care benefits to protected persons, including resettled refugees (GARs and privately sponsored). This coverage supplements provincial healthcare coverage (MCP) that is similar to a mid-level workplace healthcare plan. IFHP coverage is provided for a maximum of one year. Following that one-year period, it is the responsibility of the immigrant or refugee to arrange for their own healthcare coverage to supplement provincial MCP coverage which is funded by the Province.
The IFHP benefits include: Basic coverage (benefits covered by health plans from a
province or territory), Supplemental Coverage and Prescription Drug Coverage
(benefits similar to those provided to social assistance recipients). GARs and
privately sponsored refugees (including those under the BVOR Program) are eligible
for basic and supplemental IFHP coverage (see Table 1.1 below).

Healthcare coverage is immediately provided upon arrival at the point of entry into
Canada. There is however, a two-day service standard until the individual is
registered with the medical insurance company.

8) When does MCP coverage take affect?

As refugees are permanent residents when they land in Canada, they are
immediately entitled to provincial/territorial health coverage. As such, refugees
receive MCP coverage upon arrival in the province. Typically, refugee applications for
MCP are processed within two to four days. All costs incurred by refugees under
MCP are covered by the province.

9) What are some of the education-related impacts/costs?

Currently, according to the formula used to allocate resources to the school district,
a teaching unit is provided to for every 35 children that qualify for English as a
Second Language (ESL) services. As of January 6, 2016 approximately 50 school
aged children from Syrian refugee families have arrived in NL. Assuming that all 50
children require ESL service, 1.5 teaching units will be required to meet their needs.
The need for teaching units for ESL will increase accordingly as the number of
school aged children from Syrian refugee families enroll in the school system.

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classroom. Teaching units will be required to split particular classes into two in the
event that the enrollment increases beyond the accepted threshold. This would be
especially relevant in certain schools in metro St. Johns and other more populated
areas in the province.

Immigrant children from refugee families who enroll in the provincial school system
may require services provided by LEARN teachers. Students in this program often
have significant gaps in formalized education, (i.e., not attended a formal school
setting for several years). The LEARN Program is developed to meet the academic
needs of these students and often works in concert with the services provided by
ESL teachers. There are currently two units providing this service to students in the
metro St. Johns region. It can be expected that the need for teaching units in this
area will increase as more children from refugee families enroll in the school
system.
10) Are refugees eligible for the provincial government's labour market programs?

Yes, as permanent residents of Canada living in Newfoundland and Labrador, refugees are eligible for government's labour market programs, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria as is required of all program applicants.
Questions and Answers – Syrian Refugees

1) What has the Federal Government done in response to the Syrian refugee crisis?

The Federal Government has announced a series of initiatives with the objective of getting refugees to Canada much quicker.

The Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship has committed to doubling the number of refugee sponsorship processing staff (who approve sponsor applications) and deploying more visa officers and security staff to Beirut and other regions in the Middle East to deal with the immigration processing of refugees from Syria.

Canada is working with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHRC) to identify Syrian refugees already in their databases in Jordan and Lebanon. A similar process is being established in Turkey where refugees are registered by the State and not the UNHCR.

To be considered for resettlement, Syrian refugees must be a Syrian national or stateless person, who is a former resident of Syria, and be living outside of Syria, and be registered with the UNHCR or Turkey.

The federal initiatives also include the appointment of a senior official as a Special Coordinator for the Syrian and Iraqi refugee process which will improve coordination of partnerships with provinces, territories and organizations.

These federal initiatives are targeting the goal of resettling 25,000 Syrian refugees by end of February, 2016.

In addition to these initiatives, the Federal Government also announced a Syrian emergency relief fund that will match donations from Canadians to registered Canadian charities, up to $100 million. The fund will assist conflict-affected people in Syria and neighbouring countries. The fund will be used to provide basic needs such as food, clothing and healthcare.

With a $678 million commitment over six years, the Federal Resettlement Plan includes five phases:

1) Identifying Syrian refugees to come to Canada;
2) processing refugees overseas (in dedicated visa offices);
3) transportation to Canada (privately chartered aircraft, military aircraft if necessary);
4) welcoming by Border Services Officers (including final verification of identity with all refugees screened for signs of illness); and

5) settlement/community integration (transported to communities across Canada, provided with immediate services/long-term settlement support).

2) What has the Provincial Government done in response to the Syrian refugee crisis?

Our government has responded to the crisis. We have made a formal request to the Federal Government seeking an increase to our annual allocation of government-assisted refugee from 155 people up to 250. We made this request in consultation with the Association for New Canadians, who is responsible for the resettlement of refugees.

In addition, we have provided $50,000 in funding to the Association for New Canadians to support Syrian refugees in this province. This funding has been used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator who is responsible for working with, and providing support to, sponsors, community groups, and sponsored individuals and families throughout the process.

We will continue to work with the Association for New Canadians and with our federal partners as needed to ensure that we have the most current information on arrivals and to engage our officials as necessary.

3) What can the general public do to help Syrian refugees?

Individuals seeking to support Syrian refugees can do so in several ways.

You can contact the Association for New Canadians (ANC) and inquire about their efforts to sponsor refugees. The ANC is the province’s only Private Sponsorship Agreement Holder, a designation that allows the association to work with local individuals and groups to privately sponsor refugees from Syria and other countries. My officials have advised that many residents are providing donations to the ANC to assist with the financial commitments required to sponsor refugees. Others are volunteering their time to help with preparing for the refugees’ arrival on early transition into our province.

You can also contact the Federal Government to inquire about its Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program which helps thousands of refugees every year. You or your group can sponsor refugees from abroad who qualify to come to Canada. As a sponsor, you provide financial and emotional support for the refugees for the duration of the
sponsorship which is a period of one year or until the individual becomes self-sufficient (whichever comes first). This includes help for housing, clothing, food, and other essential items.

Like many citizens across the country you can also provide donations to organizations involved in supporting Syrian Refugees such as the United Nations Refugee Agency, the Red Cross, Oxfam and World Vision.

4) Given that we have a projected deficit of close to $2 billion, how can Newfoundland and Labrador afford to have more refugees settle in our province? Shouldn’t we be looking after our own before helping people in other countries?

Newfoundland and Labrador has a strong tradition of helping those in need and welcoming newcomers. Building on this tradition, we have advised our Federal Government that we will be willing to welcome additional refugees in our province.

The Federal Government provides immediate and essential support services to assist in meeting federally sponsored refugees’ resettlement needs. In Newfoundland and Labrador, federal funding for the past 30 years has been provided to the Association of New Canadians to deliver programs and services to support refugees, including settlement, orientation and integration supports, English as a Second Language (ESL) training and assessment, career/employment services, and supports for children and youth.

Government-Assisted Refugees are financially supported by the federal government for up to one year after their arrival and receive resettlement assistance to adapt, settle and integrate. The supports provided assist these refugees to become self-sustaining individuals who can contribute to their respective local communities.

Assistance provided for refugees does not negate the provision of supports for present Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who require assistance.

Newcomers to the province, including refugees play an important role in employers meeting labour market requirements, and offer a broad range of skills and abilities. In addition, newcomers may have entrepreneurial aspirations and start business that employ people and help contribute to the provincial economy.

5) With the ISIS threat, how can we ensure the people of this province are safe?

With the current global situation, I can appreciate how people may be anxious about opening our doors to people from other countries, but let me assure you, we hold the
security of our citizens as paramount throughout our efforts to assist resettling these displaced individuals.

The Federal Government has committed to stringent screening processes. The identification and document verification of these individuals is taking place overseas and is reinforced throughout all stages of processing with support from law enforcement and intelligence partners as necessary. The security and immigration interviews are being conducted by experienced visa officers. We have been advised that the identities of Syrian refugees are confirmed prior to departure from Lebanon and again upon arrival to Canada at the port of entry (Montréal or Toronto).
Looks good Lynn.

Thanks... Dennis

---

Hi Dennis,

Here are some KMs on Syrian Refugees for your review and Debbie has reviewed them as well.

John is sending a package of KMs to Gig at the end of today. Let me know if you have any changes.

Thanks.

Lynn

---

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
lynroblnson@gov.nl.ca
709-729-1795

Key Messages
Syrian Refugees

Issue: The Government of Canada is preparing for the influx of refugees from Syria. The Provincial Government is preparing for Newfoundland and Labrador’s allocation of refugees.

- The Canadian Refugee system is the responsibility of the Federal Government and administered by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

- The Government of Canada is responsible for the initial settlement of Government-assisted refugees. They receive federal Refugee Assistance for up to one year post arrival (rates are equivalent to provincial Income Support).

- Refugees arrive in Newfoundland and Labrador in one of three categories:
- Government-assisted refugees (GARs);  
- Privately sponsored refugees (PSRs); and  
- Blended visa office-referred refugees (BVORs).

- The Association for New Canadians is the only recognized Service Agreement Holder for the Government of Canada to deliver settlement and integration services in Newfoundland and Labrador, which includes language training, social worker support and health and wellness supports.

Background

- More than 4.2 million Syrians have been displaced since the start of the conflict.
- The Government of Canada is identifying 25,000 Syrian refugees by December 31 with 10,000 to arrive by December 31 and the remainder to arrive by February 29, 2016.
- Newfoundland and Labrador received 176 refugees in 2014 with 159 Government-assisted refugees, and 17 were a mix of Privately sponsored refugees and Blended visa office-referred refugees.
- For Newfoundland and Labrador, the annual Government-assisted refugees allocation is 155 individuals. The Provincial Government requested in October for an additional 95 GARs from 155 up to 250 annually.
- The Provincial Government is working in consultation with the Association for New Canadians and the Government of Canada.
- The Association for New Canadians received one-time funding of $50,000 from the province to create a Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator.
- Privately sponsored refugees receive care, lodging, settlement assistance and support from sponsors for the duration of the sponsorship period.
  - This is 12 months starting from the refugee’s arrival in Newfoundland and Labrador or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first.
- The Provincial Government Departments of Health and Community Services, Justice and Public Safety, Fire and Emergency Services – Newfoundland and Labrador, Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs and Advanced Education and Skills and agencies are monitoring developments and sharing information.
- Officials with the province participate in daily conference calls via Government Operations Centre in Ottawa.
Hi Gig,

See responses below to your questions.

Thanks,
Dennis

---

Dennis:

Response to Gig's questions

Thanks
Debbie

---

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM GIG:

Slide 1 – when did the conflict start?
The Syrian refugee crisis began in 2011

Slide 2 – 176 refugees in 2014 – where did they come from? what were the key countries?
In 2014, Newfoundland and Labrador received refugees from 24 different countries.
Top five countries are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Source Countries of Refugees</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Sudan</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Democratic Republic of Congo

Slide 6 – what benefits would they get under the Interim Health Program – Is it all health coverage or just select services?

Government Assisted Refugees = Type One Coverage
Type 1 Includes:
- Basic Coverage - Basic services are covered only until the beneficiary qualifies for provincial or territorial health insurance.
- Supplemental Coverage
- Prescription Drug Coverage

Supplemental and drug products and services are covered as long as the beneficiary receives income support from the RAP or its equivalent in Quebec or are under sponsorship, but only up to a maximum of 24 months.

Private Sponsored Refugees = Type Three Coverage
Type 3 includes:
- Basic Coverage - Basic services are covered only until the beneficiary qualifies for provincial or territorial health insurance.
- Public Health or Public Safety (PHPS) Prescription Drug Coverage, which includes prescription medications and related products, only if required to prevent or treat a disease posing a risk to public health or to treat a condition of public safety concern

These medications and vaccines are covered for the duration of the sponsorship.

Slide 6 – date that the Special Cabinet Committee was established.
The ad hoc committee held its first meeting on November 10, 2015.

Slide 6 – need to put in notes the $600 M that will be committed over 5 years.
- Five Stages of Resettlement:
  o First Phase – Identification
    - Identify both GARs and PSRs
    - Work with UNHCR and State of Turkey
    - Meet definition of refugee
    - Focus will be on complete family units, vulnerable women, LGBT community, adult men who are identified as LGBT or a part of a family unit
    - Refugees identified at this stage by Iris scan.
  o Second Phase - Immigration Processing
    - Immigration processing will occur overseas and refugees will arrive in Canada as permanent residents
    - Processing offices located in Beirut and Turkey
    - 150 visa officers and security officials deployed to visa processing offices
    - Interviews will be conducted by very experienced visa officers
    - Full immigration medicals including screening for communicable diseases
    - Security checks including biometric and bio graphics (finger prints and digital photos).
    - Permanent visas will be issued in preparation to come to Canada.
  o Third Phase – Transport to Canada
• Working with international governments to expedite exit visas for refugees destined to Canada.
• Private charter aircrafts will be used to transport refugees to Canada.
• Military planes will be used if necessary.
• Montreal and Toronto are ports of entry.
• CBSA and International Organization for Migration (IOM) will confirm identification and screen for visual signs of illness before refugees are boarded on planes.

Forth Phase – Arrival to Canada
• CBS will do final identification verification at ports of entry, screen for visual signs of illness.
• GARs will be matched to communities with settlement supports.
• PSRs destined to community of residence of the private sponsor.
• GARs that are not matched with communities will be provided temporary accommodations on military bases until match is complete.

Fifth Phase – Settlement and Integration
• Refugees will be resettled across Canada.
• GARs will receive standard Refugee Assistance (similar to provincial income support) and allowances for basic needs.
• Refugee Assistance will be in place for up to two years or until the refugee is able to support themselves/family, whichever comes first.
• Refugees will go to reception centers which are communities equipped with appropriate settlement supports and services (NL will be St. John's).

• Federal Funding committed is 678 million over six years including funds for contingencies and the Canadian Red Cross.

Funding across all five phases of plan;
• Phase 1: 21 million
• Phase 2: 26-36 million
• Phase 3: 94-121 million
• Phase 4: 61-77 million
• Phase 5: 325-377 million

Slide 8 – How Much $ do we give ANC annually?
For 2015-2016, the provincial government provided the ANC with Community Partnership Agreement (Prov) - AXIS Career Services 31, 2016 $117,192.00 April 1, 2015 to March
Labour Market Partnerships Agreement (LMDA) March 31, 2016 $260,800.00 April 1, 2015 to
Student Summer Employment – High School (Prov) Nov 30, 2015 $3,300.50 June 29, 2015 to
Workforce and Language Connections Project (Prov) March 31, 2016 $125,700.00 April 1, 2015 to
Multicultural Family Sports Day (Prov) March 31, 2016 $500.00 April 1, 2015 to
Private Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator (Prov) $50,000.00

Slide 8 – notes should reference if you have engaged SA or Red Cross
AES officials have been in engaged in discussions with the Red Cross. Red Cross has advised that they are prepared to respond if required, i.e., influx of Syrian Refugees at 5 Wing Goose Bay or elsewhere.
Slide 9 - If we are identifying accommodations as a pressure - how are ANC addressing this? What will likely be their plan?
ANC have engaged with their accommodations network including Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC), various apartment building owners, and individuals. The NLHC has provided an additional housing unit, many apartment owners have vacancies and agreed to rent at a reduced rate, and some private accommodations are also available for rent. The ANC has advised that while housing pressures are a concerning they believe that it will be manageable.
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Reynolds, Sandy
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: RE: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Dennis, are you good with this text so I can set up meeting.

Sandy

Sandy Reynolds
Secretary to the Assistant Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education & Skills
4th Floor, West Block
Confederation Building

Phone (709) 729-3594
Fax (709) 729-2828
sandyreynolds@gov.nl.ca

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 7:13 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.; Reynolds, Sandy
Subject: Re: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Thanks Debbie. We should also pull together some high level notes from the last meeting to summarize the discussion of the last meeting. Going forward, we should have Lisa and Sheldon sit in to take notes.

Thanks,
Dennis

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Reynolds, Sandy
Cc: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: FW: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Sandy:

Dennis would a meeting organized for some time next week re: Syrian Refugee Resettlement Plan. The same individuals will be invited.

Suggested text for the invite: (Dennis can you also review)
During our November 16, 2015 meeting to discuss a provincial approach to the resettlement of Syrian Refugees and possible challenges, it was agreed that a second meeting would be convened following the federal announcement of the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Plan. The details of the plan were released this week. In addition, a Syrian Resettlement Forum is taking place this weekend (November 28-29), bringing together service providers and all levels of government to address the finer needs of the resettlement plan. The Association for New Canadians will be attending these meetings and information will be shared.

It is important that all relevant departments remain engaged on this issue. The meeting will allow for the sharing of information and continued engagement of provincial officials.

Date: Monday November 16, 2015
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Department of Advanced Education and Skills, 3rd Floor, Main Boardroom, West Block

Debbie

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 9:58 AM
To: Reynolds, Sandy
Cc: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Hi Sandy, can you proof the message below? On Debbie’s list, Colleen Stockley is no longer ADM of Population Health and the ADM of Intergovernmental Affairs is Paul Scott, not Sean Dutton.

Hello everyone,

As you are no doubt aware, the Federal Government has committed to re-settling 25,000 Syrian refugees in Canada by the end of 2015 and the federal Cabinet is currently working on an action plan to achieve this objective. While many details are not yet available with respect to the distribution of these refugees across Canada, or regarding potential additional resources to support this effort, it is expected that all provinces and territories will receive an allocation.

Currently, NL receives an allocation of approximately 155 Government-assisted Refugees (GAR) each year; however, in the wake of the unfolding Syrian refugee crisis in September, Minister Jackman wrote the former federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to request an increase in NL’s GAR allocation of up to 250 people. In addition, the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs provided $50,000 in funding to the Association for New Canadians (ANC) to support the private sponsorship of Syrian refugees to the province. As well, it is also possible that the province may be considered as a port-of-entry to temporarily house hundreds of refugees at the military base in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to allow for in-Canada immigration processing.

Given the potential impact of these scenarios across Government departments, and the need for the Province to have a coordinated response, I am inviting you to attend a meeting of officials to discuss and share information on the forthcoming settlement of Syrian refugees in Canada.

Date: Monday November 16, 2015
Time: 1:30-3:00 pm
Location: Department of Advanced Education and Skills, 3rd Floor, Main Boardroom, West Block

We will follow up with a meeting invite. I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Thanks,
Dennis

Dennis Hogan | Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Development and Immigration

Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
p. 709.729.0217 | dhogan@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Reynolds, Sandy
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2015 11:30 AM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.; Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: RE: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Dennis, Are you good with text so I can send invitation.

Sandy

Sandy Reynolds
Secretary to the Assistant Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education & Skills
4th Floor, West Block
Confederation Building

Phone (709) 729 3594
Fax (709) 729-2828
sandrareynolds@gov.nl.ca

---

From: Sheppard, Debbie A.
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 7:14 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Reynolds, Sandy
Subject: Re: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Yes. Can take care of this

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

---

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2015 7:12 PM
To: Sheppard, Debbie A.; Reynolds, Sandy
Subject: Re: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada

Thanks Debbie. We should also pull together some high level notes from the last meeting to summarize the discussion of the last meeting. Going forward, we should have Lisa and Sheldon sit in to take notes.

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Cc: Hogan, Dennis A.
Subject: FW: Meeting - Settlement of Syrian Refugees to Canada
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It is important that all relevant departments remain engaged on this issue. The meeting will allow for the sharing of information and continued engagement of provincial officials.

Date:
Time:
Location: Department of Advanced Education and Skills, 3rd Floor, Main Boardroom, West Block

IDebbie

---

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 9:58 AM
To: Reynolds, Sandy
Cc: Sheppard, Debbie A.
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possible that the province may be considered as a port to temporarily house hundreds of refugees at the military base in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to allow for in-Canada immigration processing.

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Thanks,
Dennis

Dennis Hogan | Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Development and Immigration

Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
p. 709.729.0217 | dhogan@gov.nl.ca
After government consulted with the ANC back in Sept, our Minister wrote the form federal Immigration Minister to request that NL’s government-assisted refugee allocation be increased from 155 individuals up to 250 individuals to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis. MIGA also provided $50,000 to the ANC for a private refugee sponsorship coordinator position. Both items have been made public and that’s as far as we can go without receiving further direction.

Dennis, is the response that we have not yet confirmed a number? I’m running this by CIC comms also. I expect I may just punt to them.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Hi John:

As per our telephone conversation, could you please call:

Alan Woods with the Toronto Star at 514-402-7412. He wants to know how many refugees the Province will be accepting.

Thanks

Diane

Diane Blackmore
Administrative Assistant to
Associate Secretary to Cabinet (Communications)
Executive Council
P.O. Box 8700
10th Floor, East Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Tel: (709) 729-4781
Health Status of Syrian Refugees

The Public Health Agency of Canada has indicated that although the health of this population has deteriorated somewhat from the relative good health they enjoyed prior to beginning of the civil war, the arrival of these refugees does not pose a health risk to Canadians. Other countries that have already accepted refugees have reported no significant outbreaks or increased transmission rates of any infectious diseases of concern.

Access to Medical Care

The MUN Med Gateway program, a volunteer program led by students in partnership with the Faculty of Medicine, Association for New Canadians and Eastern Health, works with refugees to develop individual medical histories that can be shared with family doctors. The program also helps match participants with family doctors and conducts research about the health needs and issues of refugees.

MUN Department of Family Medicine has established a clinic with a specific focus on the refugee population and is able to receive patients referred from Gateway. Depending on the overall volume of refugees to arrive, additional assistance from other family physicians may be required to address long term service needs. The Chief Medical Officer of Health and Dr. Pauline Duke from MUN Family Medicine met with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association in December to consider several scenarios. The NLMA is willing to assist by requesting support from other family physicians and by publishing relevant guidelines on its website if the need arises.

Immunization coverage will be provided by regional Public Health in accordance with the provincial schedule and would be most important for children under 5 years of age.

Health Insurance Coverage

- All Syrian refugees will be arriving to Canada as Permanent Residents and, as such, will be eligible for health insurance (MCP) on arrival.
- In addition, Syrian refugees will be covered under the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP). Their IFHP coverage will provide them with basic coverage, including Type 1 supplemental benefits, for up to one year. Supplemental benefits include limited dental and vision care, services by allied health care practitioners, including clinical psychologists, drug benefits and a range of other services and products. The prescription drug benefits are for medications and other products listed on the NL Prescription Drug Plan formulary and other products as determined by IRC.
- Some of the benefits may require pre-approval to determine the amount and type of coverage available, the processes for which may result in some delays in service.
- In order access benefits, providers to whom refugees go must be registered with Medavie Blue Cross. For some benefits, Medavie Blue Cross can be billed directly.
FYI

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 10:46 AM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Dutton, Sean
Cc: Scott, Paul G.; Sheppard, Debbie A.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

Gig,

According to the Federal Government, other than re-instatement of the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) for refugees, there are no additional federal funds provided to provinces and territories to support health-related costs of Syrian refugees. As far as we can determine, the Province will have to absorb any additional costs, such as immunizations, etc. Upon arrival in NL, refugees are eligible for provincial health insurance (MCP). The IFHP provides additional, supplemental health coverage for refugees for up to one year. My understanding is that the IFHP has been re-activated and is currently available to Syrian refugees.

Hope this helps... Dennis

Dennis – please check.

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729-3582
Mail: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Scott, Paul G.
Subject: Fw: Syrian Refugees

Please see below. The feds had committed to reinstate funding for health coverage for refugees - not sure if that is done?
Sean

I presume there is no federal pot. Each province/entity absorbs.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Curtis, Ken
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:33 PM
To: Hanrahan, Denise; Brewer, Donna
Subject: FW: Syrian Refugees

Are you aware of any higher level discussions on this? I assume EH would just absorb it.

Thanks

From: Sullivan, Brad
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:15 PM
To: Curtis, Ken
Subject: Fw: Syrian Refugees

Ken,

Have you heard anything on this?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Tizzard, Mike <mikeetlard@qov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Sullivan, Brad
Cc: 'Scott Bishop'; Antle, Chad; Boland, Linda
Subject: Syrian Refugees

Brad,

Do you know if there is funding available for increased costs associated with the immigration of Syrian refugees? EH has had to hold special clinics for them when they arrive and also they take longer to assess, etc due to language barriers. Just wondering how the province was dealing with this or if there was Federal funding available.

Thanks,

Mike
Dooling, Genevieve (AES)

From: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Dutton, Sean; Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Scott, Paul G.
Subject: RE: Syrian Refugees

Dennis – please check.

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729-3582
Email: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

From: Dutton, Sean
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES); Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Scott, Paul G.
Subject: Fw: Syrian Refugees

Please see below the feds had committed to reinstate funding for health coverage for refugees - not sure if that is done?

Sean

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Brewer, Donna <dbrewer@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:17 PM
To: Curtis, Ken; Butt, Chris; Dutton, Sean
Subject: Re: Syrian Refugees

Sean or Chris.

I presume there is no federal pot. Each province / entity absorbs.

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From: Curtis, Ken
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:33 PM
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Thanks

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Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:15 PM
To: Curtis, Ken
Subject: Fw: Syrian Refugees

Ken,

Have you heard anything on this?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Tizzard, Mike <miketizzard@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Sullivan, Brad
Cc: 'Scott Bishop'; Antle, Chad; Boland, Linda
Subject: Syrian Refugees

Brad,

Do you know if there is funding available for increased costs associated with the immigration of Syrian refugees? EH has had to hold special clinics for them when they arrive and also they take longer to assess, etc due to language barriers. Just wondering how the province was dealing with this or if there was Federal funding available.

Thanks,

Mike

Mike Tizzard, CPA, CGA
Departmental Controller
Corporate Services
Department of Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

709-729-5287 (t)
709-729-3151 (f)
miketizzard@gov.nl.ca
Thanks Rick.

Dennis - please include in note.

Gig

From: Healey, Rick M.
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 03:04 PM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.; Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Cc: Cochrane, Rachelle; O'Brien, Donna; Shallow, Michelle
Subject: FW: Draft Wording

Hi Gig,

As a follow up to our conversation, I further discussed with Rachelle and Donna, and below is CYFS’s comments for the note on the Syrian refugees to NL.

CYFS advises that potential cost increases, resulting from an increase in the number of GAR for NL, is unknown. However, should a family become involved with the Protective Intervention Program and the child requires out of home care, the cost to CYFS could range between $30,000 - $300,000 annually (depending on the needs of the child). At this point in time, CYFS does not anticipate the need for further funding to support these refugees, but CYFS will monitor the issue.

Rick

Rick M. Healey BSc (Hons) MSc
Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy and Programs
Department of Child Youth and Family Services
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Office (709) 729-0088
Thank you Ed and Janet.

Gig

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729 3582
Email: gdoolling@gov.nl.ca

Dennis,

Please find below updated comments from EECD. Please feel free to call to discuss.

Ed

Potential impacts in the education system.

Exact allocations required to meet the needs of the anticipated influx of students into the school system is difficult to ascertain at this point. EECD predicts that, based on the ratio of school aged children to Syrian adults that have arrived so far, up to 12 teaching units will be required to meet educational needs of these students this school year should the proposed number of Syrian refugees be resettled to Newfoundland and Labrador. These would be allocated in the following areas:

1. Currently, according to the formula used to allocate resources to the school district, a teaching unit is provided for every 35 children that qualify for English as a Second Language (ESL) services. As of January 6, 2016 approximately 50 school aged children from Syrian refugee families have arrived in NL. Assuming that all 50 children require ESL services, 1.5 teaching units will be required to meet their needs. The need for teaching units for ESL will increase accordingly as the number of school aged children from Syrian refugee families enroll in the school system.

2. The current deployment of classroom teaching resources in K-9 is based on a “Cap” system. These means that there is a maximum number of children in a particular classroom. Teaching units will be required to split particular classes into two in the event that
the enrollment increases beyond the accepted threshold. It appears as if certain St. John's schools will be preferred options for enrolling Syrian students. Enrolling approximately 150 children this school year across these schools will require extra teaching resources to prevent classes from exceeding the accepted caps.

3. Immigrant children from refugee families who enroll in the provincial school system may require services provided by LEARN teachers. Students in this program often have significant gaps in formalized education, (ie not attended a formal school setting for several years). The LEARN Program is developed to meet the academic needs of these students and often works in concert with the services provided by ESL teachers. There are currently two units providing this service to students in the metro St. Johns region. It is expected that the need for teaching units in this area will increase as more children from refugee families enroll in the school system.

4. Outside of the specifics noted above, extra pressure may be placed on Guidance and Special Education services in schools.

5. There may be extra costs associated with bussing (each busing contract is costed at approx. 65 k) dependent on the where the permanent residence for the families is within the catchment zone for each school.

Ed Walsh
Assistant Deputy Minister
Kindergarten to Grade Twelve Education and Early Childhood Development
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Phone: (709) 729-5720
Fax: (709) 729-0987
Minister:

The federal Minister, Minister John McCallum, is looking to have an introductory call with you tomorrow between 10 and 11 EST.

I have discussed with Sean Dutton at IGA, and we expect that the Refugee situation may be raised. As we are in a writ period we cannot commit to anything beyond what we have currently indicated. I have prepared a few key messages/speaking points for you. If the Federal Minister proposed something outside of what we have already committed then we would simply take it under advisement.

When you get to South East Bite in the morning, you can let me or Anne know your number and we can proceed from there.

Thanks very much.

Gig

NL Response to Syrian Refugee Crisis

- The Provincial Government has provided $50,000 in funding for the Association for New Canadians (ANC) to support the private sponsorship of Syrian refugees to the province.

- This funding is available under the Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs Special Assistance Grant program and will be used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator.

- The Government of Canada’s current allocation to Newfoundland and Labrador, for Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs) relocating to the province, is currently 155 people. The Provincial Government has sent a letter to the former federal Minister of Immigration and Citizenship to request an increase in that allocation to up to 250 people.

- Any request from the Federal Government to NL to increase funding and/or the allocation level for refugees beyond that already committed by the Province will be taken under consideration.

- The ANC delivers five programs to assist refugees’ transition into Canadian society and has indicated they have the capacity to support at least 200 Government-Assisted Refugees annually.

- Citizenship and Immigration Canada has also designated the ANC as this province’s Sponsorship Agreement Holder which means that this association can work with local individuals and groups to privately sponsor refugees (including those from Syria) through its
Private Refugee Sponsorship Program. This is in addition to the Government-Assisted Refugee allocation for Newfoundland and Labrador.

- In anticipation of forthcoming action from the Government of Canada concerning the resettlement of Syrian refugees to Canada, Provincial Government departments and agencies, including AES, are in the process of coordinating efforts to respond to this humanitarian crisis. In addition, AES has reached out to external groups, such as the ANC, Canadian Red and other providers of settlement and emergency services, to ensure the province is ready to respond appropriately.
Thanks Dennis.

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729-3582
Email: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

Hi Gig,

As requested, I have pulled together some high-level bullets for the Minister in advance of his call tomorrow with Minister McCallum. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,
Dennis

NL Response to Syrian Refugee Crisis

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Dennis Hogan | Assistant Deputy Minister
Workforce Development and Immigration

Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
p. 709.729.0217 | dhogan@gov.nl.ca
Good to go to the Minister now for sign-off.

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729-3582
Email: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

Hi Gig,

Please see revised news release with updated refugee number as discussed with Dennis. I left a printed copy with Anne.

Thanks.
Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
709-729-1795

Advanced Education and Skills
Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs
October 5, 2015

Supporting the People of Syria
Provincial Government Announces Funding for Association for New Canadians to Assist Syrian Refugees

Today, the Provincial Government is announcing $50,000 in funding for the Association for New Canadians to support Syrian refugees in this province.

"We have been in constant communication with the Association for New Canadians during the Syrian refugee crisis. Through the association, we have heard about a strong outpouring of support from Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, including the pledging of financial contributions and
accommodations, as well as commitments to privately co-sponsor refugees. This funding will help the association in its efforts to assist the people of Syria. Like all Canadians, we are disturbed by the images that are appearing in the media and we will continue to work with our Federal Government partners to do whatever we can to help."
- The Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills

This funding will be used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator who would be responsible for working with, and providing support to, sponsors, community groups, and sponsored individuals and families throughout all aspects of the process. Funding may also be used towards programming to help support the settlement of refugees arriving in the province, which may include but not be limited to: health services; educational services; and, family and social services.

"The people of our province have a long-standing history and reputation for providing assistance to various parts of the world when assistance is needed. After consultation with the Association for New Canadians, our government has requested an increase in the Government-Assisted refugee allocation from the Government of Canada for Newfoundland and Labrador."
- The Honourable Keith Hutchings, Minister of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Canadian refugee system is the responsibility of the Government of Canada and administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The current allocation to Newfoundland and Labrador, for Government-Assisted Refugees relocating to the province, is 155 people. The Association for New Canadians delivers five programs to assist refugees’ transition into Canadian society and has indicated they have the capacity to support up to 250 Government-Assisted Refugees annually.

"We are pleased to receive this funding from the Provincial Government as it will help our efforts to support refugees as they arrive in this province seeking a new life. The Association for New Canadians has held public information sessions about the Syrian refugee crisis and how people can help in sponsoring a refugee or a family. We encourage the public to keep contacting us with ways they wish to help."
- Megan Morris, Executive Director, Association for New Canadians

QUICK FACTS
- The Provincial Government is announcing $50,000 in funding for the Association for New Canadians to support Syrian refugees in this province.
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- 30 -
Media contacts:
John Tompkins
Director of Communications
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
709-729-0753, 728-7762
jtompkins@gov.nl.ca

Megan Marris
Executive Director
Association for New Canadians
709-726-6848, 728-7762
mmorris@nfd.net

Kevin Guest
Director of Communications
Department of Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs
709-729-1983, 730-2320
kevinguest@gov.nl.ca
From: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)  
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 3:51 PM  
To: Tremblott, Anne  
Subject: Fw: PT response to the Syrian refugee crisis  
Attachments: PT Response to 2015 Refugee Crisis (Oct 6).doc

PP

From: Dutton, Sean  
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 03:09 PM  
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)  
Subject: FW: PT response to the Syrian refugee crisis

FYI. We had a discussion on the COF Steering Committee (DMs) today and agreed to update the attached table for recirculation. Also, it was asked if PTs could share any information they may have about how many refugees they are able to settle.

Sean

From: Loretta O'Connor [mailto:loretta@canadaspremiers.ca]  
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 2:44 PM  
To: 'Aaron Wirth'; Amber McNair; Ana Escobar; Andrea Moe; Andrew Dunn; Anika Sparling; 'Anne Macies'; Annick Noel; 'Artur J. Pires'; 'Arwen Rowe'; Ashley Golf; Bailey, Bev; Brett Loney; 'Bruce Tait'; 'Bryan Kozman'; Cammy Colpitts; 'Carl Burgess'; Cathy Jewison; Chelsie Luciani; Claire Rillie; Claire Tuttle; Craig Fink; 'Craig McFadyen'; Cynthia Jean; Mackenzie, Dan; Derek Deazeley; 'Don Richardson'; Donald Haney; Emmanuel Dowuona; Eric Beaullieu; 'Ernie Bartucca'; Garry Pocock; Geneviève Boucher; 'Gordon Vincent'; Grant Smith; Clarke, Greg; 'Jennifer Dallman Sanders'; 'Jennifer Trapnell'; 'Judi Sigurdson'; Karen Holtby; Katherine Marsden; Katia Carel; Katie Millan; 'Kelly Brubacher'; Laura Davey; 'Lezlee Dunn'; Lindsay de Leeuw; Loretta O'Connor; 'Maged Soleman'; O'Toole, Maggie; Marie-Claude Alarie; Mark Roberts; Meaghan O'Connor; 'Michel Frédérick'; O'Brien, Michelle; Paul Gillis; Paul Nordahl; Scott, Paul G.; Pierrette Maranda; 'Rochelle Gallant'; 'Sandra Dawes'; Sandra Kownak; Sarah Crane; Sarah Langdon; Serge Breaux; Shaleen Woodward; Sharon Markesteyn; 'Shawn McCann'; 'Stacey Rennebohm'; Stephen Dunbar; 'Susan Woodley'; 'Suzanne Levesque'; 'Valérie Côté'; 'Vaughan Mitchell'; Wendy Donnithorne; William Mackay; Zoe Ayerton; 'Zoë Kroeker'  
Cc: Andrea Buckley; Catherine Biewett; Gitane De Silva; 'Jim Eldridge'; Judy Wagner; Kent Campbell; Lynn Betzner; Martin Goldney; Paul Ledwell; Dutton, Sean; 'Yves Castonguay'  
Subject: PT response to the Syrian refugee crisis  
To COF Senior Officials (c.c. COF Steering Committee):

Attached is the most recent summary of the PT response to the Syrian refugee crisis. Please advise if you have any new/updated information.

In the coming days, when you are in a position to do so, please provide information on the number of refugees that your PT is planning to accept. I will share the information with all PTs.

Loretta O'Connor  
Executive Director / Directrice exécutive  
Council of the Federation Secretariat / Secrétariat du Conseil de la fédération  
630 - 360 rue Albert St., Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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| BC | Creating a $1-million readiness fund for Syrian refugees settling in BC  
See news release of September 6, 2015  
https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015PREM0057-001493 |
| AB | Providing $75,000 to the Canadian Red Cross, as well as an additional $100,000 to Alberta-based settlement agencies, and matching donations by Albertans to a maximum of $75,000  
See news release of September 6, 2015  
http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=38504D5B2399-B8EE-5874-040602F07BF6DFFD |
| SK | Committing $150,000 to refugee resettlement efforts in SK  
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See news release of September 7, 2015 (available in French only)  
http://www.fili-.information.gouv.qc.ca/Pages/Article.aspx?aiqullage=aaj&type=1&idArticle=2309075424&lanq=fr |
| NB | Providing $50,000 to the United Nations  
See news release of September 4, 2015  
| NS | Providing $50,000 to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees  
See news release of September 4, 2015  
http://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20150904001 |
| PE | Working with federal partners to accept an increase in refugees moving to PEI  
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| NL | Providing $50,000 to the Association for New Canadians  
See news release of October 6, 2015  
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| YK | Providing $25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross  
See news release of September 11, 2015  
| NT | Providing $25,000 to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees  
See news release of September 11, 2015  
| NU | Providing $25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross  
See news release of September 17, 2015  
From: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)  
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 3:17 PM  
To: Hogan, Dennis A.  
Subject: FW: PT response to the Syrian refugee crisis  
Attachments: PT Response to 2015 Refugee Crisis (Oct 6).doc

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Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 03:09 PM  
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Loretta O'Connor  
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      See news release of September 17, 2015  
Dooling, Genevieve (AES)

From: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 10:13 AM
To: Hogan, Dennis A.
Cc: Murphy, Marina
Subject: FW: Updated Presentation
Attachments: Draft Syrian Refugees Nov30_15.pptx

Dennis:

Here is the deck with my edits. If anything further transpires today at your meetings then you can add it to the deck. If there is nothing new to add after today's meeting, then please let Marina and I know and we will upload to SharePoint in the morning.

Thanks
Gig

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling
Deputy Minister
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
Telephone: (709) 729-3582
Email: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

From: Murphy, Marina
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 10:10 AM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Subject: RE: Updated Presentation

Hi Gig's. Here is the revised version with your changes.

From: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 8:32 PM
To: Murphy, Marina
Subject: Fw: Updated Presentation
Importance: High

From: Hogan, Dennis A.
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 06:42 PM
To: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Subject: Updated Presentation

Hi Gig,

I attached the revised presentation on the Syrian refugees. When more info becomes available and confirmed, we may want to add the PT refugee allocations and responses. Let's connect on it tomorrow.

Thanks,
Dennis
Newfoundland Labrador

Syrian Refugee Crisis
Global Context

• More than 4.2 million Syrians have been displaced since the start of the conflict

• Refugees are deemed to be in need of protection due to a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country

• According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Syrian refugees are the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation
Refugees in NL

- Refugees arrive in NL in one of three categories:
  1. Governments-assisted refugees (GARs)
  2. Privately sponsored refugees (PSRs)
  3. Blended visa office-referred refugees (BVORs)

- Annual GAR allocation for NL is approximately 155 individuals

- In 2014, NL received 176 refugees
  - 159 GARS
  - 17 mix of PSRs and BVORs

- In total, 28,655 refugees were admitted into Canada in 2014
Supports for Refugees

- Federal Government is responsible for initial settlement of GARs
  - Receive federal Refugee Assistance for up to one year post arrival (rates are equivalent to provincial Income Support)
  - Federal Government has contracted the Association for New Canadians (ANC) to deliver a range of settlement supports
    - Settlement and integration support
    - Language training
    - Social worker support
    - Health and wellness supports

- PSRs receive care, lodging, settlement assistance and support from sponsors for the duration of the sponsorship period
  - Normally, this is 12 months starting from the refugee's arrival in NL or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first

- BVORs receive blended support – six months funded by the Federal Government and six months funded by the sponsor(s)
Government of Canada

- Identify 25,000 Syrian refugees by December 31, 2015
  - 10,000 to arrive by December 31, 2015
  - Remainder to arrive by February 29, 2016
- Work with UNHCR to identify vulnerable registered Syrian refugees who can be resettled
  - Priority given to complete families; women at risk; members of the LGBTI community; and, single adult men only if identified as vulnerable
- Select from refugee camps in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon
  - To be considered, a refugees must be a Syrian national or stateless person who is a former resident of Syria; and, be registered with the UNHRC or Government of Turkey
• Special federal Cabinet committee established
• Commitment to appropriate health and safety screening
• Restoration of Interim Health Program
• $100 million to increase refugee processing and settlement
• Provision of temporary accommodations on military bases
• Pledge to work with private sponsors (primarily community groups, churches and individuals) to increase numbers
• Development of Strategic National Plan with five phases:
  1. Identification and Selection of Refugees
  2. Expedited Overseas Processing
  3. Transportation to Canada
  4. Permanent Immigration Process
  5. Post-arrival Initial Settlement and Community Integration
Government of NL

- Consulted with the ANC
- In October, requested Government of Canada increase NL’s allocation of GARs from 155 up to 250 annually
- One-time funding of $50,000 to ANC to create Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator
- Meeting of provincial departments and agencies on November 16, 2015
- HCS, JPS, FES-NL and AES monitoring developments and sharing information
- NL officials participate in Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM) daily conference calls via Government Operations Centre (GOC), Ottawa
Potential Pressures

- ANC is the only recognized Sponsorship Agreement Holder for the Government of Canada to deliver settlement and integration services in NL.
- ANC has identified the following areas where pressures could emerge:
  - Temporary accommodations
  - Permanent accommodations
  - Language training
  - Resettlement supports
  - Transportation
  - Education (pressure on K-12 system)
  - Healthcare
  - Public safety
  - Child protection
Key Meetings to Date

- First Ministers Meeting, November 23, 2015, Ottawa (Attended by DM, MIGA)
- Working Forum on Syrian Refugee Resettlement in Canada, November 28-29, 2015, Toronto
- Summit on Welcoming the Syrian Refugees, December 1, 2015, Ottawa (Attended by Executive Member, AES)
- FPT Immigration Ministers meeting, December 1, 2015, Ottawa (Attended by Executive Member, AES)
Please print with notes. Thanks

Genevieve (Gig) Dooling  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Advanced Education and Skills  
Telephone: (709) 729-3582  
Email: gdooling@gov.nl.ca

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hogan, Dennis A." <dhogan@gov.nl.ca>  
Date: December 3, 2015 at 5:23:20 PM GMT-3:30  
To: "Dooling, Genevieve (AES)" <GDooling@gov.nl.ca>  
Cc: "Murphy, Marina" <marinamurphy@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: Syrian Refugee Presentation (with notes)

Hi Gig,

I have attached a version of the presentation that includes notes.

Let me know if you want to discuss.

Thanks,  
Dennis

Dennis Hogan | Assistant Deputy Minister  
Workforce Development and Immigration  
Department of Advanced Education and Skills  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
p. 709.729.0217 | dhogan@gov.nl.ca
Newfoundland Labrador

Syrian Refugee Crisis
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Government of Canada (Cont'd.)

- Special federal Cabinet committee established
- Commitment to appropriate health and safety screening
- Restoration of Interim Health Program
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- Provision of temporary accommodations on military bases
- Pledge to work with private sponsors (primarily community groups, churches and individuals) to increase numbers
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  3. Transportation to Canada
  4. Permanent Immigration Process
  5. Post-arrival Initial Settlement and Community Integration
# Provincial and Territorial Commitments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PT</th>
<th>Refugee Capacity</th>
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<th>Financial Investment Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Up to 3,500</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>$1 Million Readiness Fund for Syrian Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>2,500 - 3,000 subject to Cabinet approval</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>$75K to Canadian Red Cross; $100K to Alberta Settlement Agencies, Matching donations by Albertans to a max $75K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>34</td>
<td>$150K to refugee resettlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>1,500 – 2,000</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Program for at risk Syrian youth; $1.4M Humanitarian Aid; Settlement and Integration Supports; Community Refugee Resettlement Coordinator; Increase in $40K to local settlement organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON</td>
<td>10,000 by end of 2016</td>
<td>3,318</td>
<td>$8.5M support to refugees; $2M to UN High Commissioner and UN World Food Program; Total of $330K to Lifetime Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3,650 in 2015</td>
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<td>Up to $100K to community organizations</td>
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<td>$50K to the United Nations</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$50K to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>100 families</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Working with Federal partners to accept refugee increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Request of additional 95 GARs over annual quota of 155</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$50K to the Association for New Canadians</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>N/A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$25K to the Canadian Red Cross</td>
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Government of NL

- Consulted with the ANC
- In October, requested Government of Canada increase NL’s allocation of GARs from 155 up to 250 annually
- One-time funding of $50,000 to ANC to create Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator
- Meeting of provincial departments and agencies on November 16, 2015
- HCS, JPS, FES-NL and AES monitoring developments and sharing information
- NL officials participate in Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management (SOREM) daily conference calls via Government Operations Centre (GOC), Ottawa
Potential Pressures

- ANC is the only recognized Sponsorship Agreement Holder for the Government of Canada to deliver settlement and integration services in NL.
- ANC has identified the following areas where pressures could emerge:
  - Temporary accommodations
  - Permanent accommodations
  - Language training
  - Resettlement supports
  - Transportation
  - Education (pressure on K-12 system)
  - Healthcare
  - Public safety
  - Child protection
Key Meetings to Date

- First Ministers Meeting, November 23, 2015, Ottawa (Attended by DM, MIGA)
- Working Forum on Syrian Refugee Resettlement in Canada, November 28-29, 2015, Toronto
- Summit on Welcoming the Syrian Refugees, December 1, 2015, Ottawa (Attended by Executive Member, AES)
- FPT Immigration Ministers meeting, December 1, 2015, Ottawa (Attended by Executive Member, AES)
Hi Minister,

Attached are the latest key messages and questions and answers regarding the Syrian Refugee response.

Thanks.

Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
709-729-1795
Key Messages

Syrian Refugees

Issue: The influx of refugees throughout Canada has begun, with about 120 arriving in St. John’s by January 1. This may cause some to question whether the province is ready to provide appropriate supports.

- The Provincial Government has been anticipating the arrival of Syrian refugees for some time as Canada welcomes refugees into the country and we certainly want to extend a warm welcome to Newfoundland and Labrador.

- Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have a very strong history and reputation for providing assistance and lending a hand to other parts of the world when critical assistance is needed, as is the case with the Syrian refugees. We are always there to lend a hand when needed – we always have, and we always will.

- The Provincial Government is ready to address the arrival of Syrian refugees, but it will be the Association for New Canadians who will take the lead. The Association are the experts here – they have over 30 years of experience settling refugees in our province. The Association has advised that they have the resources and expertise to deal with incoming refugees as they start a new life in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- The Association has been planning for weeks in anticipation of Syrian refugee arrivals. They have been securing temporary and permanent accommodations for refugees, interpreters are in place and resettlement teams are meeting refugees as they arrive in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- The Association has received an outpouring of support from individuals, businesses and community groups throughout the province, all wanting to donate or volunteer to assist with the settlement of Syrian refugees.

- It is anticipated this week that there will be about 120 Syrian refugees arriving in the province with some already here. Many of these individuals will be arriving in family units.

- The Provincial Government made a request to the Federal Government this past September to increase the annual Government-assisted refugee allocation from 155 to 250. This includes refugees for Syria and other countries.
• The Canadian Refugee system is the responsibility of the Federal Government and administered by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

• Refugees arrive in Newfoundland and Labrador in one of three categories:
  o Government-assisted refugees (GARs);
  o Privately sponsored refugees (PSRs); and
  o Blended visa office-referred refugees (BVORs — receive up to six months of Federal Government support and six months of private sponsorship support).

• The Government of Canada is only responsible for the initial settlement of Government-assisted refugees and partially responsible for Blended visa office-referred refugees. Government-assisted refugees receive federal Refugee Assistance for up to one year post arrival, and Blended visa office-referred refugees receive federal Refugee Assistance for up to six months (rates are equivalent to provincial Income Support).

• The Association for New Canadians is the only recognized Service Agreement Holder for the Government of Canada to deliver settlement and integration services in Newfoundland and Labrador, which includes language training, social worker support, and health and wellness supports.

Background

• More than 4.2 million Syrians have been displaced since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011.

• The Government of Canada is identifying 25,000 Syrian refugees by December 31, 2015 with a target of 10,000 to arrive by December 31 and the remainder to arrive by February 29, 2016.

• Newfoundland and Labrador received 176 refugees in 2014, including 159 Government-assisted refugees and 17 that were a mix of Privately sponsored refugees and Blended visa office-referred refugees.

• For Newfoundland and Labrador, the annual Government-assisted refugees allocation is 155 Individuals. The Provincial Government requested in September for an additional 95 GARs from 155 up to 250 annually, a 60 per cent increase, from all countries, including Syria.
• The Association for New Canadians received one-time funding of $50,000 from the province to create a Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator to help with the Syrian relief effort.

• Privately sponsored refugees receive care, lodging, settlement assistance and support from sponsors for the duration of the sponsorship period. This is 12 months starting from the refugee’s arrival in Newfoundland and Labrador or until the refugee becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first.

• The Provincial Government Departments of Health and Community Services, Education and Early Childhood Development, Justice and Public Safety, Fire and Emergency Services – Newfoundland and Labrador, Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs and Advanced Education and Skills are all monitoring developments and sharing information respecting the arrival of refugees to our province and supports required.

• As well, officials with the province participate in daily conference calls via Government Operations Centre in Ottawa to receive updates on plans to settle refugees and expected arrivals to our province.
Questions and Answers – Syrian Refugees

1) What has the Federal Government done in response to the Syrian refugee crisis?

The Federal Government has announced a series of initiatives with the objective of getting refugees to Canada much quicker.

The Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration has committed to doubling the number of refugee sponsorship processing staff (who approve sponsor applications) and deploying more visa officers and security staff to Beirut and other regions in the Middle East to deal with the immigration processing of refugees from Syria.

Canada is working with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHRC) to identify Syrian refugees already in their databases in Jordan and Lebanon. A similar process is being established in Turkey where refugees are registered by the State and not the UNHCR.

To be considered for resettlement, Syrian refugees must be a Syrian national or stateless person, who is a former resident of Syria, and be living outside of Syria, and be registered with the UNHCR or Turkey.

The federal initiatives also include the appointment of a senior official as a Special Coordinator for the Syrian and Iraqi refugee process which will improve coordination of partnerships with provinces, territories and organizations.

These federal initiatives are targeting the goal of resettling 25,000 Syrian refugees by end of February, 2016.

In addition to these initiatives, the Federal Government also announced a Syrian emergency relief fund that will match donations from Canadians to registered Canadian charities, up to $100 million. The fund will assist conflict-affected people in Syria and neighbouring countries. The fund will be used to provide basic needs such as food, clothing and healthcare.

With a $678 million commitment over six years, the Federal Resettlement Plan includes five phases:

1) identifying Syrian refugees to come to Canada;
2) processing refugees overseas (in dedicated visa offices);
3) transportation to Canada (privately chartered aircraft, military aircraft if necessary);
4) welcoming by Border Services Officers (including final verification of identity with all refugees screened for signs of illness); and
5) settlement/community integration (transported to communities across Canada, provided with immediate services/long-term settlement support).

2) What has the Provincial Government done in response to the Syrian refugee crisis?

Our government has responded to the crisis. We have made a formal request to the Federal Government seeking an increase to our annual allocation of government-assisted refugee from 155 people up to 250. We made this request in consultation with the Association for New Canadians, who is responsible for the resettlement of refugees.

In addition, we have provided $50,000 in funding to the Association for New Canadians to support Syrian refugees in this province. This funding has been used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator who is responsible for working with, and providing support to, sponsors, community groups, and sponsored individuals and families throughout the process.

We will continue to work with the Association for New Canadians and with our federal partners as needed to ensure that we have the most current information on arrivals and to engage our officials as necessary.

3) What can the general public do to help Syrian refugees?

Individuals seeking to support Syrian refugees can do so in several ways.

You can contact the Association for New Canadians (ANC) and inquire about their efforts to sponsor refugees. The ANC is the province's only Private Sponsorship Agreement Holder, a designation that allows the association to work with local individuals and groups to privately sponsor refugees from Syria and other countries. My officials have advised that many residents are providing donations to the ANC to assist with the financial commitments required to sponsor refugees. Others are volunteering their time to help with preparing for the refugees' arrival on early transition into our province.

You can also contact the Federal Government to inquire about its Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program which helps thousands of refugees every year. You or your group can sponsor refugees from abroad who qualify to come to Canada. As a sponsor, you provide financial and emotional support for the refugees for the duration of the sponsorship which is a period of one year or until the individual becomes self-sufficient
(whichever comes first). This includes help for housing, clothing, food, and other essential items.

Like many citizens across the country you can also provide donations to organizations involved in supporting Syrian Refugees such as the United Nations Refugee Agency, the Red Cross, Oxfam and World Vision.

4) Given that we have a projected deficit of close to $2 billion, how can Newfoundland and Labrador afford to have more refugees settle in our province? Shouldn’t we be looking after our own before helping people in other countries?

Newfoundland and Labrador has a strong tradition of helping those in need and welcoming newcomers. Building on this tradition, we have advised our Federal Government that we will be willing to welcome additional refugees to our province.

The Federal Government provides immediate and essential support services to assist in meeting federally sponsored refugees' resettlement needs. In Newfoundland and Labrador, federal funding for the past 30 years has been provided to the Association of New Canadians to deliver programs and services to support refugees, including settlement, orientation and integration supports, English as a Second Language training and assessment, career/employment services, and supports for children and youth.

Government-Assisted Refugees are financially supported by the federal government for up to one year after their arrival and receive resettlement assistance to adapt, settle and integrate. The supports provided assist these refugees to become self-sustaining individuals who can contribute to their respective local communities.

Assistance provided for refugees does not negate the provision of supports for present Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who require assistance.

Newcomers to the province, including refugees play an important role in employers meeting labour market requirements, and offer a broad range of skills and abilities. In addition, newcomers may have entrepreneurial aspirations and start business that employ people and help contribute to the provincial economy.

5) With the Isis threat, how can we ensure the people of this province are safe?

With the current global situation, I can appreciate how people may be anxious about opening our doors to people from other countries, but let me assure you, we hold the security of our citizens as paramount throughout our efforts to assist resettling these displaced individuals.
The Federal Government has committed to stringent screening processes. The identification and document verification of these individuals is taking place overseas and is reinforced throughout all stages of processing with support from law enforcement and intelligence partners as necessary. The security and immigration interviews are being conducted by experienced visa officers. We have been advised that the identities of Syrian refugees are confirmed prior to departure from Lebanon and again upon arrival to Canada at the port of entry (Montreal or Toronto).
From: Tompkins, John
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:30 PM
To: Jackman, Clyde
Cc: Dooling, Genevieve (AES)
Subject: KMs and Q and As - Syrian Refugees
Attachments: KM - Syria Refugees.docx; Syrian Refugee Q&As.docx

Minister, the Syrian Refugee Key Messages and Q and As are attached.

John Tompkins
Director of Communications
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
(709) 729-0753 (o) 728-7762 (c)
Jtompkins@gov.nl.ca
Key Messages
Syrian Refugees

- The Canadian refugee system is the responsibility of the Federal Government and administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).

- The Federal Government's annual allocation to Newfoundland and Labrador for government-assisted refugees relocating to the province is currently 155 people.

- Any increase in allocation would have to come from the Federal Government.

- Government-Assisted Refugees are financially supported by the Federal Government for two years after arrival and receive resettlement assistance to adapt, settle and integrate.

- The Association for New Canadians (ANC) has communicated to the Provincial Government that it has the capacity to support at least 250 Government-Assisted Refugees annually. The association delivers five programs to assist refugees' transition into Canadian society.

- Citizenship and Immigration Canada has also designated the Association for New Canadians as this province's Sponsorship Agreement Holder which means that this association can work with local individuals and groups to privately sponsor refugees (including those from Syria) through its Private Refugee Sponsorship Program. This is in addition to the Government-Assisted Refugee allocation for Newfoundland and Labrador.

- The Federal Government currently does not provide funding for the resettlement expenses of refugees under its Private Refugee Sponsorship Program. Instead private and community co-sponsors financially support the refugees during their initial 12 months in Canada or until they become financially independent, whichever comes first.

- The Federal Government has an ability to invoke a special response to international crises. An example of this include Canada's response to Kosovo refugees in 2000 in which the Federal Government airlifted refugees to refugees camps set up at military bases in several provinces.
Local Messages

- Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have a very strong history and reputation for providing assistance and lending a hand to other parts of the world when critical assistance is needed, including during a humanitarian crisis.

- In fact, we are hearing from the Association for New Canadians about a strong outpouring of support from Newfoundlanders and Labradorians in the past several weeks for the people of Syria, including the pledging of financial contributions and accommodations, as well as commitments to privately co-sponsor Syrian refugees.

- We are aware that many groups and organizations are currently calling on the Federal Government to increase its efforts in response to this refugee situation.

- The Provincial Government continues to monitor the on-going refugee situation. Like all Canadians, we are disturbed by the images that are coming out in the media and we will continue to work with our federal partners as this situation unfolds.

Call on Feds to Increase Refugee quota

- We've all seen the horrific images in the media and want to help Syrian refugees. We've all had that initial emotional response. Now it is important that we be strategic and in developing our long-term supports to address this crisis.

- The Provincial Government has consulted with ANC, and the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills has written the Federal Immigration Minister and asked to increase our allocation of refugees. The ANC advises that they can take an allocation increase of more than 60 per cent (current number is 155 – this would increase to 250)

Background
• In this province, federal funding has been awarded to the Association for New Canadians for over 30 years to deliver the following programs and services to support Government-Assisted Refugees:

Resettlement Assistance Program - provided to Convention Refugees Abroad and members of the Humanitarian Protected Persons Abroad classes who are admitted to Canada as Government Assisted Refugees.

Settlement Orientation and Integration - settlement programs and services for Government Assisted and Privately Sponsored Refugees, as well as other Permanent Residents. These programs and services are designed to help newcomers adapt, settle, and integrate into Canadian society.

Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada - delivered in accordance with nationally established standards. The aim of the program is to assist adult learners in acquiring the language skills necessary to settle and integrate into Canadian society.

Settlement Workers in Schools - assists refugee and immigrant students and their families’ transition into a new culture and school environment.

Health and Wellness supports – these supports include Life Skills seminars, access to Public Health Nurse, Settlement Social Worker, and a partnership with Memorial University’s medical school to match refugee clients with family physicians.
Questions and Answers – Syrian Refugees

1) What has the Federal Government done in response to the Syrian refugee crisis?

The Federal Government has announced a series of initiatives with the objective of getting refugees to Canada much quicker.

The federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration has committed to doubling the number of refugee sponsorship processing staff (who approve sponsor applications) and deploying more visa officers to Beirut and other regions in the Middle East to deal with the immigration processing of refugees from Syria. Syrians fleeing the conflict will be presumed to meet the definition of refugee unless there is evidence to the contrary.

These initiatives also include the appointment of a senior official as a special coordinator for the Syrian and Iraqi refugee process which will improve coordination of partnerships with provinces, territories and organizations.

These federal initiatives will allow for the resettlement of 10,000 Syrian refugees by September, 2016. This is 15 months earlier than previously announced by the federal government.

In addition to these initiatives, the federal government also announced a Syrian emergency relief fund that will match donations from Canadians to registered Canadian charities, up to $100 million. The fund will assist conflict-affected people in Syria and neighbouring countries. The fund will be used to provide basic needs such as food, clothing and healthcare.

2) What has the Provincial Government done in response to the Syrian refugee crisis?

Our government has responded to the crisis. We have made a formal request to the Federal Government seeking an increase to our annual allocation of government-assisted refugee from 155 people up to 250. We made this request in consultation with our Association for New Canadians, who is responsible for the resettlement of these refugees. We are still waiting for a response from the Federal Government.

In addition, we are providing $50,000 in funding for the Association for New Canadians to support Syrian refugees in this province. This funding will be used primarily to support the hiring of a Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator who would be responsible for working with, and providing support to, sponsors, community groups, and sponsored individuals and families throughout the process.
This funding may also be used towards programming to help support the settlement of refugees arriving in the province, which may include but not be limited to: health services; educational services; and family and social services.

3) What can the general public do to help Syrian refugees?

Individuals seeking to support Syrian refugees can do so in several ways. You can contact the Association for New Canadians (ANC) and inquire about their efforts to sponsor refugees. The ANC is the province’s only Private Sponsorship Agreement Holder, a designation that allows the association to work with local individuals and groups to privately sponsor refugees from Syria and other countries. My officials have advised that many residents are providing donations to the ANC to assist with the financial commitments required to sponsor refugees.

You can also contact the Federal Government to inquire about their Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program which helps thousands of refugees every year. You or your group can sponsor refugees from abroad who qualify to come to Canada. As a sponsor, you provide financial and emotional support for the refugees for the duration of the sponsorship. This includes help for housing, clothing and food.

Like many citizens across the country you can also provide donations to organizations involved in supporting Syrian Refugees such as the United Nations Refugee Agency, the Red Cross, Oxfam and World Vision.

4) Can Newfoundland and Labrador afford to have more refugees settle in the province?

Newfoundland and Labrador has a strong tradition of helping those in need and welcoming newcomers. Building on this tradition, we have advised our Federal Government that we will be willing to welcome additional refugees to our province.

The Federal Government provides immediate and essential support services to assist in meeting federally sponsored refugees’ resettlement needs. In Newfoundland and Labrador, federal funding for the past 30 years has been awarded to the Association of New Canadians to deliver programs and services to support refugees, including settlement, orientation and integration supports, English as a Second Language training and assessment, career/employment services, and supports for children and youth.
Government-Assisted Refugees are financially supported by the Federal Government for two years after their arrival and receive resettlement assistance to adapt, settle and integrate.
Information Note
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Title: 2016 Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) allocation for NL

Issue: Request from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to increase NL's allocation of GARs from Syria to up to 500 by the end of 2016.

Background and Current Status:
- In September 2015, provinces and territories (PTs) began increasing efforts to support Syrian refugees by announcing funding supports for settlement services and/or donations to the UN Refugee Agency or to the Canadian Red Cross. In this province, the Government of Canada (GoC) has been contracting the Association for New Canadians (ANC) for approximately 30 years as the sole provider of supports for refugee settlement. Federal funds are provided through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) that includes temporary accommodation; settlement, orientation/integration services; language training; and, health and social services, including access to a settlement social worker.

- After consulting with the ANC, NL's initial actions in September was two-fold: 1) a request to the previous federal government to increase the provincial allocation of GARs from 155 up to 250 annually; and, 2) one-time funding in the amount of $50K provided to the ANC to create the position of Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator.

- On November 24, 2015, the current GoC announced its formal plan for re-settlement of the Syrian refugees, designed to meet the revised objective of identifying 25,000 Syrian refugees (a mix of privately sponsored and GARs) of which 10,000 would have been brought to Canada by the end of the year. The GoC subsequently fell short of its December 31, 2015 target of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to Canada; however, it remains committed to settling 25,000 refugees by the end of February 2016. All approved refugees are permanent residents when they land in Canada.

- With a $678M commitment over six years, the overarching federal resettlement plan includes five phases: 1) identifying Syrian refugees to come to Canada; 2) processing refugees overseas (in dedicated visa offices); 3) transporting individuals to Canada (privately chartered aircraft, military aircraft if necessary); 4) welcoming by Border Services Officers (including final verification of identity with all refugees screened for signs of illness); and, 5) settlement/community integration (transported to communities across Canada, provided with immediate services/long-term settlement support).

- Syrian GARs are destined to 23 cities across Canada (and a further 13 communities in Quebec) that have existing RAP Service Provider Organizations (SPOs). The ANC is the sole SPO in NL. IRCC has issued a draft listing of potential PT GAR allocations that indicates a low of 255 and high of 500 individuals destined for NL (see Appendix A for estimated PT GAR targets).
• AES officials and the Minister of AES have clarified with IRCC that, at this time, NL's stated commitment is for a maximum of 250 GARs annually (from all countries, including Syria). On December 31, 2015, the Deputy Minister of AES spoke to the Deputy Minister of IRCC to clarify this issue, while the Minister of AES did the same with the federal Minister of IRCC.

Analysis:
• The GoC considers the resettlement of the Syrian refugees as a national project requiring robust engagement with all levels of government, SPOs and other stakeholders. Given the refugee caseload profile, there may be an increased need for provincial public services and resources, including education, family services (including childcare), employment services, public safety, healthcare, housing and possibly provincial Income Support.

• With the first arrival of Syrian GARs in late December, according to IRCC, NL’s 2015 GAR total is approximately 273 (122 Syrian + 151 non-Syrian), exceeding the commitment of 250.

• To respond to the requirement for temporary housing, the ANC can accommodate 48 individuals per month in its reception facilities in the St. John's region. With respect to permanent housing, the ANC has identified approximately 90 apartment units (two and three bedrooms) that are currently available at reasonable rental rates in the Northeast Avalon region. Most of the permanent accommodation required for the recently arrived GARs has been secured.

• RAP SPOs, including the ANC, provide daily updates to IRCC on overall capacity to receive GARs. The ANC has noted that settlement-related services such as childcare, English as a Second Language (ESL) training and transportation are currently close to capacity. However, with an appropriate flow rate of newly arriving refugees (i.e., staggered landings) and additional resources from the federal government (IRCC has committed that SPOs will receive a 25 per cent increase in settlement-related funding, approximately $75,000 for the ANC), the organization indicates it has the capacity to accommodate more refugees.

• According to the ANC, the GAR retention rate in the province is approximately 75 per cent, ranging from a low of approximately 50 per cent in 2013 to a high of 95 per cent in 2014. Successful retention of refugees is dependent on several primary factors, including access to services (e.g., ESL training) and availability of opportunities for employment. Refugees tend to leave the province if family and friends are located elsewhere, along with larger ethnic communities, or due to lack of employment or difficulty adapting to the weather and climate.

• Officials from the EECD, NL English School District and the ANC are in regular communication regarding the additional enrollment and related needs of newly-arrived school-age children. EECD notes that greater numbers of refugee children enrolling in the school system, in particular in the St. John’s and Corner Brook regions, will require extra resources for ESL and teaching resources to address learning deficiencies; however, exact allocations required to meet the needs of the anticipated influx of students into the school system is difficult to ascertain at this point. EECD predicts that, based on the ratio of school-aged children to Syrian adults that have arrived so far, up to 12 teaching units will be required
to meet the educational needs of these students this school year should the requested number of Syrian refugees (500 GARs in 2016) be resettled to NL. These units would be allocated in the following areas:

- Currently, according to the formula used to allocate resources to the school district, a teaching unit is provided to for every 35 children that qualify for ESL services. As of January 6, 2016 approximately 50 school-aged children from Syrian refugee families have arrived in NL. Assuming that all 50 children require ESL service, 1.5 teaching units will be required to meet their needs. The need for teaching units for ESL will increase accordingly as the number of school-aged children from Syrian refugee families enroll in the school system;

- The current deployment of classroom teaching resources in K-9 is based on a “Cap” system with a maximum number of children in a particular classroom. Teaching units will be required to split particular classes into two in the event that the enrollment increases beyond the accepted threshold. It appears that certain St. John’s schools will be preferred options for enrolling Syrian students. Enrolling approximately 150 children this school year across these schools will require extra teaching resources to prevent classes from exceeding the accepted caps;

- Immigrant children from refugee families who enroll in the provincial school system may require services provided by LEARN program teachers. Students in this program often have significant gaps in formalized education (i.e., they have not attended a formal school setting for several years). The LEARN program has been developed to meet the academic needs of these students and often works in concert with the services provided by ESL teachers. There are currently two units that provide this service to students in the metro St. Johns region. It is expected that the need for teaching units in this area will increase as more children from refugee families enroll in the school system;

- Outside of the specifics noted above, extra pressure may be placed on Guidance and Special Education services in schools; and,

- There may be extra costs associated with bussing (each busing contract costs approximately $65K), dependent on the location of a family’s permanent residence within the catchment zone for each school.

- Regarding additional healthcare-related requirements, HCS notes that the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Dr. Pauline Duke from Memorial University’s Department of Family Medicine met with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) in December 2015 to consider several scenarios. The NLMA is willing to assist by requesting support from other family physicians and by publishing relevant guidelines on its website if the need arises. Immunization coverage will be provided by regional Public Health in accordance with the provincial schedule and would be most important for children under five years of age (additional healthcare-related considerations are noted in Appendix B).

- CYFS advises that potential cost increases, resulting from an increase in the number of GARs for NL, is unknown. However, should a family become involved with the Protective Intervention Program and a child requires out-of-home care; the cost to CYFS could range $30K – $300K annually (depending on the needs of the child). At this point in time, CYFS
does not anticipate the need for further funding to support these refugees, but CYFS will continue to monitor the issue.

- JPS has consulted the RNC and RCMP and do not anticipate any meaningful changes in demand for services should the number of incoming Syrian refugees increase. FES-NL indicates that its resources and services would not be significantly impacted by a decision to accept more refugees from Syria. IGA notes that it may be possible that ANC could seek additional funds from the Province as the original $50K may no longer be sufficient should the GAR allocation double in 2016.

- While NL has no direct control over the flow of refugees to the province, and despite AES having raised this issue with IRCC, it is important to insist that the federal government institute a process of controlled flow, along with sufficient advanced notice of arrivals.

- At this time, the education level and skills of incoming Syrian refugees is generally unknown, as is the ability of individuals to obtain employment in the short-to-medium term. Should individuals not find employment within 12 months after arrival, they would likely be eligible for provincial Income Support benefits, placing more demand on the Income Support system.

- While difficult to provide a tangible estimate of future costs to the Treasury, securing additional budgetary resources for refugee settlement at a time of substantial budgetary deficit will be challenging, particularly given prevailing and forecasted provincial economic conditions. Other than additional funding for SPOs, there has been no indication to date that the GoC will allocate additional funding to provinces and territories to assist in the resettlement of Syrian refugees.

Action Being Taken:

- AES has communicated to IRCC that NL is committed to receiving up to 250 GARs, from all countries including Syria, in 2016. AES officials will continue to monitor the settlement of refugees, including future capacity to accept additional refugees.

Prepared/reviewed by: D. Hogan (in consultation with FES-NL, HCS, EECD, JPS, MA, IGA, CYFS and NLHC)

Ministerial approval: [Signature]

January 19, 2016
## Appendix A: PT GAR Targets

| Country          | PT GAR Commitment | Estimated| Realized | Estimated | Realized | Estimated | Realized | Estimated | Realized | Estimated | Realized | Estimated | Realized | Estimated | Realized | Estimated | Realized | Estimated | Realized |
|------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Syria            | 1,300 1,500       | 1,300   | 1,500   | 1,300    | 1,500    | 1,300    | 1,500    | 1,300    | 1,500    | 1,300    | 1,500    | 1,300    | 1,500    | 1,300    | 1,500    | 1,300    | 1,500    | 1,300    | 1,500    | 1,300    | 1,500    | 1,300    | 1,500    |

*Note: The table above represents the estimated and realized numbers of PT GARs for Syria.*
Appendix B: Additional Healthcare-related Considerations (from HSC)

Health Status of Syrian Refugees
The Public Health Agency of Canada has indicated that although the health of this population has deteriorated somewhat from the relative good health they enjoyed prior to the start of the civil war, the arrival of these refugees does not pose a health risk to Canadians. Other countries that have already accepted refugees have reported no significant outbreaks or increased transmission rates of any infectious diseases of concern.

Access to Medical Care
The Memorial University’s Med Gateway program, a volunteer program led by students in partnership with the Faculty of Medicine, ANC and Eastern Health Authority, works with refugees to develop individual medical histories that can be shared with family doctors. The program also helps match participants with family doctors and conducts research about the health needs and issues of refugees.

Memorial University’s Department of Family Medicine has established a clinic with a specific focus on the refugee population and is able to receive patients referred from Gateway. Depending on the overall volume of refugees to arrive, additional assistance from other family physicians may be required to address long-term service needs. As noted previously, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Dr. Pauline Duke from MUN Family Medicine met with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association in December 2015 to consider several scenarios. The NLMA is willing to assist by requesting support from other family physicians and by publishing relevant guidelines on its website if the need arises. Immunization coverage will be provided by regional Public Health in accordance with the provincial schedule and would be most important for children under five years of age.

Health Insurance Coverage
- All Syrian refugees will be arriving to Canada as permanent residents and, as such, will be eligible for health insurance (MCP) on arrival.

- In addition, Syrian refugees will be covered under the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP). Their IFHP coverage will provide them with basic coverage, including Type I supplemental benefits, for up to one year. Supplemental benefits include limited dental and vision care, services by allied healthcare practitioners, including clinical psychologists, drug benefits and a range of other services and products. The prescription drug benefits are for medications and other products listed on the NL Prescription Drug Plan formulary and other products as determined by IRCC.

- Some of the benefits may require pre-approval to determine the amount and type of coverage available, the processes for which may result in some delays in service.

- In order access benefits, providers to whom refugees go must be registered with Medavie Blue Cross. For some benefits, Medavie Blue Cross can be billed directly.
Decision Note
Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Title: Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) allocation for NL in 2016

Issue: Request from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to increase NL’s allocation of GARs from Syria to up to 500 by the end of 2016.

Background and Current Status:

• In September 2015, provinces and territories (PTs) began increasing efforts to support Syrian refugees by announcing funding supports for settlement services and/or donations to the UN Refugee Agency or to the Canadian Red Cross. In this province, the Government of Canada (GoC) has been contracting the Association for New Canadians (ANC) for approximately 30 years as the sole provider of supports for refugee settlement. Federal funds are provided through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) that includes temporary accommodation; settlement, orientation/integration services; language training; and, health and social services, including access to a settlement social worker.

• After consulting with the ANC, NL’s initial actions in September was two-fold: 1) a request to the previous federal government to increase the provincial allocation of GARs from 155 up to 250 annually; and, 2) one-time funding in the amount of $50K provided to the ANC to create the position of Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator.

• On November 24, 2015, the current GoC announced its formal plan for re-settlement of the Syrian refugees, designed to meet the revised objective of identifying 25,000 Syrian refugees (a mix of privately sponsored and GARs) of which 10,000 would have been brought to Canada by the end of the year. The GoC subsequently fell short of its December 31, 2015 target of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to Canada as of January 4, 2016, approximately 6300 had arrived and additional 5307 refugee applications have been approved overseas but these individuals have yet to travel to Canada. All approved refugees are permanent residents when they land in Canada.

• With a $678M commitment over six years, the overarching federal resettlement plan includes five phases: 1) identifying Syrian refugees to come to Canada; 2) processing refugees overseas (in dedicated visa offices); 3) transporting individuals to Canada (privately chartered aircraft, military aircraft if necessary); 4) welcoming by Border Services Officers (including final verification of identity with all refugees screened for signs of illness); and, 5) settlement/community integration (transported to communities across Canada, provided with immediate services/long-term settlement support).

• Syrian GARs are destined to 23 cities across Canada (and a further 13 communities in Quebec) that have existing RAP Service Provider Organizations (SPOs). The ANC is the sole SPO in NL. IRCC has issued a draft listing of potential PT GAR allocations that indicates a low of 255 and high of 500 individuals destined for NL (see Appendix A for estimated PT GAR targets).
AES officials and the Minister of AES have clarified with IRCC that, at this time, NL’s stated commitment is for a maximum of 250 GARs annually (from all countries, including Syria). On December 31, 2015, The Deputy Minister of AES spoke to the Deputy Minister of IRCC to clarify this issue, while the Minister of AES did the same with the federal Minister of IRCC.

Since November 4, 2015 (the date the GoC’s commitment came into effect), several families of privately sponsored refugees have arrived in NL. Private sponsors include the Refugee Support Group in Corner Brook, and St. Mark’s Anglican Church and construction firm N.D. Dobbin in St. John’s. In addition, since December 28, 2015, 123 GARs have arrived in St. John’s in a range of family units of three up to ten individuals. According to the ANC, these arrivals have gone well and without any major incidents. All families received either temporary or permanent accommodations upon arrival, along with a broad range of welcoming services, support and supplies.

In addition to the resettlement of GARs, the ANC is working with approximately 25 private sponsorship groups that have raised more than $110,000 to support Syrian refugees. Twelve groups have submitted applications to IRCC for private sponsorship, ten of which have been approved (representing 35 Syrian refugees). The remaining 15 groups have applications under development (representing an additional 35 Syrian refugees).

Regular federal/provincial/territorial (FPT) communication is occurring among immigration, health and emergency management representatives. In addition, AES has convened meetings with senior Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (GNL) officials from Fire and Emergency Services-NL (FES-NL); Health and Community Services (HCS); Child Youth and Family Services (CYFS); Justice and Public Safety (JPS); Education and Early Childhood Development; NL Housing Corporation (NLHC); Municipal Affairs (MA); and, Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) to facilitate coordination of the NL response to the GoC’s commitment. This group holds meetings as required.

A welcome reception, hosted by the ANC and including the Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Skills, is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2015 at St. Pius X Parish Hall in St. John’s.

Analysis:

The GoC considers the resettlement of the Syrian refugees as a national project requiring robust engagement with all levels of government, SPOs and other stakeholders. Given the refugee caseload profile, there may be an increased need for provincial public services and resources, including education, family services (including childcare), employment services, public safety, healthcare, housing and possibly provincial Income Support.

With the first arrival of Syrian GARs in late December, according to IRCC, NL’s 2015 GAR total is approximately 273 (122 Syrian + 151 non-Syrian), exceeding the commitment of 250.

To respond to the requirement for temporary housing, the ANC can accommodate 48 individuals per month in its reception facilities in the St. John’s region.
With respect to permanent housing, the ANC has identified approximately 90 apartment units (two and three bedrooms) that are currently available at reasonable rental rates in the Northeast Avalon region. Most of the permanent accommodation required for the recently arrived GARs has been secured.

- RAP SPOs, including the ANC, provide daily updates to IRCC on overall capacity to receive GARs. The ANC has noted that settlement-related services such as childcare, English as a Second Language (ESL) training and transportation are currently close to capacity. However, with an appropriate flow rate of newly arriving refugees (i.e., staggered landings) and additional resources from the federal government (IRCC has committed that SPOs will receive a 25 per cent increase in settlement-related funding – approximately $75,000 for the ANC), the organization indicates it has the capacity to accommodate up to 500 GARs between November 4, 2015 and the end of 2016 on a one-time basis.

- According to the ANC, the GAR retention rate in the province is approximately 75 per cent, ranging from a low of approximately 50 per cent in 2013 to a high of 95 per cent in 2014. Successful retention of refugees is dependent on several primary factors, including access to services (e.g., ESL training) and availability of opportunities for employment. Refugees tend to leave the province if family and friends are located elsewhere, along with larger ethnic communities, or due to lack of employment or difficulty adapting to the weather and climate.

- Officials from the EECD, NL English School District and the ANC are in regular communication regarding the additional enrollment and related needs of newly-arrived school-age children. EECD notes that greater numbers of refugee children enrolling in the school system, in particular in the St. John’s and Corner Brook regions, will require extra resources for ESL and teaching resources to address learning deficiencies; however, exact allocations required to meet the needs of the anticipated influx of students into the school system is difficult to ascertain at this point. EECD predicts that, based on the ratio of school-aged children to Syrian adults that have arrived so far, up to 12 teaching units will be required to meet the educational needs of these students this school year should the requested number of Syrian refugees (500 GARs in 2016) be resettled to NL. These units would be allocated in the following areas:
  - Currently, according to the formula used to allocate resources to the school district, a teaching unit is provided for every 35 children that qualify for ESL services. As of January 6, 2016 approximately 50 school-aged children from Syrian refugee families have arrived in NL. Assuming that all 50 children require ESL service, 1.5 teaching units will be required to meet their needs. The need for teaching units for ESL will increase accordingly as the number of school-aged children from Syrian refugee families enroll in the school system;
  - The current deployment of classroom teaching resources in K-9 is based on a “Cap” system with a maximum number of children in a particular classroom. Teaching units will be required to split particular classes into two in the event that the enrollment increases beyond the accepted threshold. It appears
that certain St. John’s schools will be preferred options for enrolling Syrian students. Enrolling approximately 150 children this school year across these schools will require extra teaching resources to prevent classes from exceeding the accepted caps;

- Immigrant children from refugee families who enroll in the provincial school system may require services provided by LEARN program teachers. Students in this program often have significant gaps in formalized education (i.e., they have not attended a formal school setting for several years). The LEARN program has been developed to meet the academic needs of these students and often works in concert with the services provided by ESL teachers. There are currently two units that provide this service to students in the metro St. Johns region. It is expected that the need for teaching units in this area will increase as more children from refugee families enroll in the school system;

- Outside of the specifics noted above, extra pressure may be placed on Guidance and Special Education services in schools; and,

- There may be extra costs associated with bussing (each busing contract costs approximately $65K), dependent on the location of a family’s permanent residence within the catchment zone for each school.

- Regarding additional healthcare-related requirements, HCS notes that the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Dr. Pauline Duke from Memorial University’s Department of Family Medicine met with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) in December 2015 to consider several scenarios. The NLMA is willing to assist by requesting support from other family physicians and by publishing relevant guidelines on its website if the need arises. Immunization coverage will be provided by regional Public Health in accordance with the provincial schedule and would be most important for children under five years of age (additional healthcare-related considerations are noted in Appendix B).

- CYFS advises that potential cost increases, resulting from an increase in the number of GARs for NL, is unknown. However, should a family become involved with the Protective Intervention Program and a child requires out-of-home care; the cost to CYFS could range $30K – $300K annually (depending on the needs of the child). At this point in time, CYFS does not anticipate the need for further funding to support these refugees, but CYFS will continue to monitor the issue.

- JPS has consulted the RNC and RCMP and do not anticipate any meaningful changes in demand for services should the number of incoming Syrian refugees increase. FES-NL indicates that its resources and services would not be significantly impacted by a decision to accept more refugees from Syria. IGA notes that it may be possible that ANC could seek additional funds from the Province as the original $50K may no longer be sufficient should the GAR allocation double in 2016.

- While NL has no direct control over the flow of refugees to the province, and despite AES having raised this issue with IRCC, it is important to insist that the federal government institute a process of controlled flow, along with sufficient advanced notice of arrivals.
• At this time, the education level and skills of incoming Syrian refugees is generally unknown, as is the ability of individuals to obtain employment in the short-to-medium term. Should individuals not find employment within 12 months after arrival, they would likely be eligible for provincial Income Support benefits, which would place additional demands on the Income Support system.

• While difficult to provide a tangible estimate of future costs to the Treasury, should NL agree to a significant further increase in the province’s GAR allocation, securing additional budgetary resources at a time of substantial budgetary deficit will be challenging, particularly given prevailing and forecasted provincial economic conditions. Other than additional funding for SPOs, there has been no indication to date that the GoC will allocate additional funding to provinces and territories to assist in the resettlement of Syrian refugees.

Alternatives:
Prepared/reviewed by: D. Hogan (in consultation with FES-NL, HCS, EECD, JPS, MA, IGA, CYFS and NLHC)

Ministerial approval: Received from the Hon. Gerry Byrne

January 11, 2016

I concur with the recommended course of action:

- Provide an information note to Premier's Office indicating my support of the recommendation forwarded by AES
- Once established as our benchmark, communicate circumstances internally to affected Agencies and Departments.
## Appendix A: PT GAR Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2015 PT GAR Targets (Based on SPO capacity)</th>
<th>Target Estimates (2,000 GARs by end of 2015)</th>
<th>Target Estimates (13,000 GARs by end of Feb 2016)</th>
<th>Target Estimates (16,000 GARs between Mar 1 and Dec 31, 2016)</th>
<th>Total GARs Nov 2015 - end of Dec 2016</th>
<th>Numbers Include a mix of Syrian GARs and PSRs</th>
<th>Estimated Low Range</th>
<th>Estimated High Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newfoundland and Labrador</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>130</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11,500</td>
<td>6,750</td>
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<td>1,040</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,500-3,000</td>
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<td>160</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>835</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>240</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,500-3,000</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nunavut</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,906</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>24,300-25,390</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,640</strong></td>
<td><strong>51,750</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Aligned with PT's proposal
Appendix B: Additional Healthcare-related Considerations (from HSC)

Health Status of Syrian Refugees
The Public Health Agency of Canada has indicated that although the health of this population has deteriorated somewhat from the relative good health they enjoyed prior to the start of the civil war, the arrival of these refugees does not pose a health risk to Canadians. Other countries that have already accepted refugees have reported no significant outbreaks or increased transmission rates of any infectious diseases of concern.

Access to Medical Care
The Memorial University's Med Gateway program, a volunteer program led by students in partnership with the Faculty of Medicine, ANC and Eastern Health Authority, works with refugees to develop individual medical histories that can be shared with family doctors. The program also helps match participants with family doctors and conducts research about the health needs and issues of refugees.

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Health Insurance Coverage
• All Syrian refugees will be arriving to Canada as permanent residents and, as such, will be eligible for health insurance (MCP) on arrival.

• In addition, Syrian refugees will be covered under the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP). Their IFHP coverage will provide them with basic coverage, including Type 1 supplemental benefits, for up to one year. Supplemental benefits include limited dental and vision care, services by allied healthcare practitioners, including clinical psychologists, drug benefits and a range of other services and products. The prescription drug benefits are for medications and other products listed on the NL Prescription Drug Plan formulary and other products as determined by IRCC.

• Some of the benefits may require pre-approval to determine the amount and type of coverage available, the processes for which may result in some delays in service.

• In order access benefits, providers to whom refugees go must be registered with Medavie Blue Cross. For some benefits, Medavie Blue Cross can be billed directly.
Title: Syrian refugee crisis

Issue: The potential impact on Newfoundland and Labrador of the Federal Government’s commitment to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees in Canada by the end of December 2015.

Background and Current Status:
- In Canada, refugee selection, arrival and settlement are the responsibility of the Government of Canada. Refugees come to Canada either as government-assisted refugees (GARs) or as privately sponsored refugees.

- The annual Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) GAR allocation for NL is approximately 155 individuals; however, this number can fluctuate each year. In 2014, NL received a total of 176 refugees, of which 159 were GARs. In total, 28,655 refugees were admitted into Canada in 2014.

- The Federal Government provides immediate services and additional supports to meet the resettlement needs of GARs, including federal Income Support (the rate is equivalent to provincial Income Support) for up to two years post arrival. For approximately the past 30 years, the Association for New Canadians (ANC) has been contracted by the Government of Canada to deliver supports for refugee settlement in this province. These federally-funded supports are available under the Resettlement Assistance Program which includes temporary accommodation; settlement, orientation and integration services; language training; and health and social services, including access to a settlement social worker. In addition, refugees arriving in Canada can avail of public services such as the provincial health and education (K-12) systems, including provincial Income Support if eligible (i.e., if after two years of receiving federal Income Support, a GAR remains unemployed and has no other sources of income). The ANC is currently developing an action plan to prepare for the arrival of additional refugees.

- In September 2015, provincial and territorial governments publically responded to the Syrian refugee crisis by announcing funding supports for settlement services and/or donations to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (also known as the UN Refugee Agency) or to the Canadian Red Cross. After consulting with the ANC, NL’s initial response to the crisis was two-fold and included: 1) a request to the previous Federal Government to increase the provincial allocation of GARs from 155 up to 250 annually; and, 2) one-time funding in the amount of $50,000 provided to the ANC to create the position of Private Sponsorship Refugee Coordinator.

- Information obtained from both the UN Refugee Agency and CIC indicates that the profile of the Syrian refugee caseload is characterized by a range of challenging issues, such as: high incidence of post-traumatic stress disorders; wide variances in English language proficiency; children that have been out of the school system for up to five years; and, chronic health-related conditions combined with lack of readily available healthcare services.
A special federal Cabinet committee has been struck to oversee the Federal Government's resettlement plan. The Federal Government has made the following commitments related to refugees: restoration of the Interim Federal Health Program; an additional $100 million in funding this fiscal year to increase refugee processing, sponsorship and settlement services capacity; a further $100 million contribution to the UN Refugee Agency; engagement of private sponsors; implementation of appropriate health and security screening; and, consideration of temporarily housing refugees on military bases for in-Canada immigration processing.

The federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, the Honourable John McCallum, contacted the Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills on November 13, 2015 to have a preliminary discussion about the refugee crisis, at which time Minister Jackman advised of NL's previous request to increase the province's GAR allocation from 155 up to 250 individuals.

On November 16, 2015, in a letter to the Prime Minister, Saskatchewan Premier, the Honourable Brad Wall, called on the Federal Government to suspend its plan to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees by year-end citing potential safety and security concerns. In Quebec, the Honourable Kathleen Weil, Minister of Immigration, suggested the resettlement process be slowed down as it is that province's view that targets are not realistic to meet by the end of the year.

The Federal Government announced its formal plan for re-settlement of the Syrian refugees on November 24, 2015. The plan is designed to meet the revised objective of identifying 25,000 Syrian refugees, of which 10,000 will be brought to Canada by the end of the year. Approximately 80 per cent of the 10,000 individuals scheduled to arrive by December 31, 2015 will be privately sponsored refugees, while the remaining 15,000 will be mostly GARs that will arrive in Canada by the end of February 2016. CIC has not yet provided information regarding the potential allocation of refugees to provinces and territories.

Estimated to cost approximately $678 million over six years, the federal plan includes five phases:

1. **Identifying Syrian refugees to come to Canada** Canada will work with the UN Refugee Agency to identify people in Jordan and Lebanon, where they have an extensive list of registered refugees.

2. **Processing Syrian refugees overseas** Interested refugees will be scheduled for processing in dedicated visa offices in Amman and Beirut.

3. **Transportation to Canada** beginning in December, transportation via privately chartered aircraft, with military aircraft assisting if needed, will be organized to help bring refugees to Canada.

4. **Welcoming in Canada** upon arrival in Canada, all refugees will be welcomed and processed by Border Services Officers for admission into Canada. This will include final verification of identity. All refugees will be screened for signs of illness when they arrive in Canada and treatment will be available if anyone is ill upon arrival.
5. Settlement and community integration Syrian refugees will be transported to communities across Canada, where they will begin to build a new life for themselves and their family. They will be provided with immediate, essential services and long-term settlement support to ensure their successful settlement and integration into Canadian society.

- The Government of Canada is working with the UN Refugee Agency and the Turkish Government to identify and register refugees. Priority will be given to complete families, women at risk and members of the LGBT community. Single adult males will be considered only in special circumstances. There will be initial health checks and multiple layers of security screening enforced at each stage of processing, and identity checks will be conducted before departure and after arrival in Canada. The great majority of refugees will be transported to Canada via commercial aircraft.

- The Canadian military has reported that, if required, it is ready to transport the Syrian refugees to Canada and to provide accommodations for up to 12,000 refugees. Initial accommodations would possibly be provided at vacant cadet training facilities and military bases throughout Canada, including bases in Trenton, ON, Gagetown, NB, and Greenwood, NS.

- At present, the Federal Government has identified two primary entry points – Toronto and Montreal, with Halifax as a secondary site. From these entry points, it is looking at interim lodging sites (within Federal Government assets/resources primarily from the Department of National Defence inventory of sites). The current intention is to temporarily house refugees at these interim lodging sites for only two weeks and then move them to their permanent settlement locations within communities across the country.

- The Member of Parliament (MP) for Labrador, Yvonne Jones has recommended 5 Wing Goose Bay as a potential entry point to the special federal Cabinet committee which has subsequently become a topic of extensive public discourse. To date, there has been no official comment from the Federal Government with respect to the potential use of 5 Wing Goose Bay for this purpose; however, the Commander of 5 Wing has scheduled a meeting with representatives of the Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office, Department of Advanced Education and Skills (AES) and Grenfell Health to discuss the possibility of 5 Wing as a potential fallback location to the secondary entry point in the event weather or circumstance requires aircraft carrying refugees to stop somewhere else. Should this happen, refugees would likely only be on the ground for a short interval, but health and other social services may still be needed depending on the situation.

Analysis:
- The Federal Government considers the resettlement of the Syrian refugees as a “national project” requiring robust engagement with all levels of government and stakeholders. The Federal Government may call upon PTs to invest in settlement supports, including employment programming.
• Given the profile of the Syrian refugee caseload, there may be an increase in demand in the province for public services and resources, including education, family services, employment services, public safety, healthcare, housing, and possibly provincial Income Support.

• The selection of 5 Wing Goose Bay to accommodate Syrian refugees, other than only as a temporary fallback entry site to a secondary site, would likely require significant additional resources, such as healthcare professionals, medical equipment and supplies, to assist with the final health screening process before refugees are distributed to communities across Canada.

Action Being Taken:
• Regular FPT communication is occurring among immigration, health and emergency management (through the established Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management SOREM) officials. Further, CIC has invited provincial and territorial government officials, and external stakeholder representatives to attend a Forum on Syrian Refugees scheduled for November 28-29, 2015 in Toronto, ON. AES is considering sending a senior official to be an observer at the forum.

• To help facilitate coordination of the provincial response to the Federal Government's commitment, the Department of Advanced Education and Skills convened a meeting on November 16, 2015 with senior officials from relevant Provincial Government departments and agencies, including Fire and Emergency Services-NL; Health and Community Services; Child, Youth and Family Services; Justice and Public Safety; Education and Early Childhood Development, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation; and, Municipal and Intergovernmental Affairs. The provincial group will meet as required while SOREM is currently meeting daily by teleconference call and a summary of those discussions is shared with AES.

• The Prime Minister with Premiers on Monday, November 23, 2015 to discuss a number of topics, including the plan for Syrian refugee resettlement. In light of the provincial election, MIGA Executive officials attended the meetings on behalf of NL as observers only.

• A FPT Health Ministers call is scheduled for November 24, 2015 and a FPT Immigration Ministers call is scheduled for November 25, 2015. Minister McCallum has also signaled his intention to convene a national summit in Ottawa on Canada's role in the Syrian refugee crisis on December 1, 2015, however, confirmation and further details on the event have yet to be announced. Should the summit proceed, the Department of AES will consider sending a senior official in observer capacity.

Prepared by: D. Sheppard/D. Hogan (in consultation with FES-NL and MIGA)
Deputy Minister: November 25, 2015
Title: 2016 Immigration Levels

Issue: To provide information on the Government of Canada's approach to immigration levels for 2016.

Background and Current Status:

- Immigrants arrive in Canada and are granted permanent resident status under one of three immigration categories:
  1. Economic Class - Federal Skilled Worker, Federal Skilled Trades, Canadian Experience Class, Provincial Nominees, Investors and Entrepreneurs;
  2. Family Class - children, parents and grandparents; and,
  3. Refugees - Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs), Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs), Blended Visa Officer Referred Refugees (BVORs) and others admitted for humanitarian reasons.

- NL's Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) is utilized primarily for economic immigration to help employers meet labour market needs. As of 2015, the program has a base allocation of 500 and an Express Entry allocation of 550 each year. That is, the Province has the ability to accelerate the immigration process for up to 1,050 individuals (and their families). Across all immigration categories, NL received 896 permanent residents in 2014, the highest ever annual total. The figure for 2015 has not yet been issued by the Federal Government.

- Under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA), on November 1 each year, the federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship is required to table in Parliament an annual levels plan for the number of immigrants (immigration levels) and mix of immigrants (distribution of various immigration categories) to be admitted to Canada in the following year.

- For the 2015 levels plan, the range of permanent residents admitted to Canada in all immigration classes was 260,000 - 285,000 (see Appendix A). At approximately 65 per cent of overall admissions, economic immigration categories accounted for the largest segment of the 2015 levels plan. The remaining 35 per cent consisted of family class immigrants, refugees and others admitted under humanitarian programs.

- The tabling of the 2016 levels plan was delayed due to the federal election in October 2015. The Minister has 30 sitting days after the House of Commons resumes to table the plan. The House sat for five days in December 2015, but will not resume until mid-January 2016. Officials from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) have advised that the 2016 levels plan will be submitted to the federal Cabinet before end of January 2016, with possible tabling of the plan in February 2016. Federal officials have also advised that the "drop dead date" for tabling is early March 2016.

- Under IRPA, the Minister is required to consult with provinces and territories (PTs) regarding the number of foreign nationals in each immigration class who will become...
permanent residents, taking into account regional economic and demographic requirements, and the measures required to facilitate settlement and integration into Canadian society.

- In a January 14, 2016 teleconference call, Hon. John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship informed Atlantic PT Immigration Ministers that, on a one-time basis, the 2016 levels plan would require reductions in the PT allocations for economic immigration (i.e., provincial nominees). The Federal Minister indicated that these reductions could range from 25 to 50 per cent; however, a final decision would require Cabinet approval.

- According to Minister McCallum, the national project to re-settle 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada has placed additional administrative and resource burdens on the Federal Government, and it is not possible to increase overall levels beyond that for 2015; therefore, it was proposed that economic immigration levels be reduced to accommodate the higher numbers of refugees. Minister McCallum also noted that 2017 levels would likely increase beyond that for 2015, and that the Federal Government would consider relaxing policy guidelines regarding Express Entry immigration to provide PTs with greater flexibility in 2016 to shape the composition of immigrants for this year.

- Later on January 14, 2016, at the request of the Hon. Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia, PT Premiers held a teleconference call to discuss Minister McCallum’s earlier discussions with PT Immigration Ministers. During this call, several premiers indicated that the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) subsequently followed up and indicated that there had been a miscommunication and that PTs would not see any decreases in PNP levels in 2016. NL had received such a call from the PMO.

Analysis:
- PT Premiers expressed great concern that the Federal Government would reduce economic immigration levels, particularly PNP levels, as a means of dealing with the challenges of settling 25,000 Syrian refugees in Canada. Premiers also indicated that the follow-up from the PMO indicating that there would be no decrease in PNP levels was a positive response and that no further action would be required at this time.

- For NL to maximize the benefit of increased nomination allocations, levels must continue to grow to ensure the number of annual permanent residents under the PNP continues to rise. Increasing immigration to NL will continue to be important in meeting provincial demographic challenges and fostering economic growth.

Action Being Taken:
- AES officials will continue to engage in levels discussions with IRCC and support the need for stronger Federal Government consultation with PTs, and the development of enhanced consultation mechanisms for future levels planning.

Prepared by/reviewed by: A. Mackey/D. Sheppard and D. Hogan

Ministerial Approval: Received from Honourable Gerry Byrne
Annex: the 2015 Levels Plan Ranges

- Minister reports annually on the number of persons projected to become permanent residents in the coming year. This is the levels plan.

- Released as part of the Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration.

- Also, although outside of the levels plan, temporary demands require immediate treatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Skilled Workers (incl. Skilled Trades)</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>51,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Experience Class</td>
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<td>Caregivers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Business</td>
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<td>Quebec Business</td>
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<td>Ministerial Instruction Economic Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Total</td>
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<td>Spouses, Partners and Children</td>
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<td>Parents and Grandparents</td>
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