

Intersecting Perspectives of Stakeholders on the Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in Gatineau, Quebec



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With the collaboration of the advisory
committee

June 23, 2021

Context

- More than 400 Syrian refugees resettled in the city of Gatineau as part of Syrian Refugee Resettlement Initiative.
- Study objectives:
 - Take stock of their resettlement in terms of housing, francization, employment, socialization and long-term settlement plan.
 - Shed light on the local factors that have contributed to but also limited the overall resilience and insertion of the refugees
 - Make recommendations to improve the service offer.

Intersecting perspectives of stakeholders

- Some dissensus between the actors on the “right way” to do resettlement
"The right way": one that promotes the most resilience and insertion
 1. Place of volunteers in the infrastructure of resettlement services
 2. Municipal government support for mono-ethnic groups
 3. Approach for supporting the state sponsored refugees (GARs)

Place of volunteers in the infrastructure of resettlement services

- Unprecedented mobilization of volunteers
- Lack of organization for channelling their energy
 - Creation of independent volunteer groups
- Difficult collaboration between the service provider and independent volunteers
 - Confidentiality, legitimacy, security issues



→ **How to establish the legitimacy of these initiatives without dampening the momentum as they undeniably help build the resilience of refugees?**

Municipal government support for mono-ethnic groups

- Municipal governments increasingly called upon to act on inclusion
 - City of Gatineau more active than ever in the welcoming of refugees
- Some citizens wanted more intercultural rapprochement activities
 - City's policy to only fund activities that appeal to all ethnic groups.



Syrian refugee delegation to a local team hockey match

Fête de l'Amitié
Spectacle bénéfique en soutien aux réfugiés syriens, irakiens et palestiniens

عيد الصداقة
على فئري منتمو القوتان دوح الكويتين سوريا و العراقين و الفلسطينيين

EN VEDETTE
CYNTHIA BAROUD

بمشاركة النجمة
سينثيا بارود

Dimanche 27 janvier 2019 à 13h30
Finaliste La Voix 2015
Dîner après le spectacle / Stationnement gratuit zones 4,5,6
Halte-garderie gratuite sur place

الأحد، 27 يناير/جانفي 2019، الساعة الواحدة و النصف
مشاركة في نهائي برنامج 2015 The Voice
حلويات متنوعة / سحب جوائز / مرآب مجاني للسيارات / حضرة مجانية للأطفال

liets : 20 \$ pour adultes, 10 \$ pour étudiants ados de 13 à 18 ans, gratuit pour les enfants ur les familles de personnes réfugiées: 20 \$ par famille ou 5 \$ par personne

سعر البطاقة: 20\$, 10\$ للطلاب و المراهقين من 13 إلى 18 سنة، مجاناً للأولاد للاجئين: 20\$ للأسرة، 5\$ للفرد

→ How to support certain groups of immigrants who have special needs with targeted activities that can promote their resilience?

Approach for supporting the state sponsored refugees

- Organization mandated to support GARs has a long record
 - Integration is a two-way street
 - Show GARs how to do things themselves to make them autonomous
 - Risk of accompanying them too closely is to make them dependent.
 - Other stakeholders felt that RPGs had to fend for themselves too much.
 - Several Syrian GARs felt left on their own too soon
 - Risk of striving for independence too early is to make them dependent on someone else.
- What is the right balance and the right strategy to help them develop their autonomy?**

Acknowledgment

- Cette étude a été financée par le Conseil de recherche en sciences humaines (CRSH) du Canada à travers le Partenariat de recherche Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain
 - *Preston, V. PI, Belkhodja, C., Gabriel, C., Lochhead, C., Douglas, D., Dyson, D., Zikic, J., Hennebry, J., Shields, J., Veronis, L., Hynie, M., Mandell, N., Bhuyan, R., Ghosh, S. and collaborators. Migration and Resilience in Urban Canada - Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain (BMRC-IMRU): Discovering Strengths and Building Capacity, Partnership Grant. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, SSHRC#896-2016-1004, 2,499,525\$, 2016-2021.*
 - Pour plus d'informations sur le projet : <http://bmrc-irmu.info.yorku.ca/>
- Nos participants à la recherche
- Nos partenaires communautaires : APO, Centre des services scolaires des Portages-de-l'Outaouais, Services Québec, SITO, Ville de Gatineau
- Nos partenaires de la communauté syrienne : Seham Shoubaky, Ousama Malouf



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

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