



Housing Refugees: What Have We Learned?

Presentation prepared for York University Scholars' Hub, Feb. 26, 2019. Vaughan.

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Are asylum seekers crossing into Canada illegally? A look at facts behind the controversy

Sudbury business owner turns to skilled immigrants to address labour shortage



TOP NEWS FEBRUARY 25, 2019 / 3:54 PM / UPDATED AN HOUR AGO

Robert Brouillette has been recruit



Martha Dillman · CBC News ·

Posted: Jan 28, 2019 6:00 AM ET | La:

Refugee chocolatier announces plans to 'give to Canada, hire 50 refugees by 2022

Allison Lampert

2 MIN READ



By Alexander Quon

Online Producer/Reporter Global News

Housing Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Canada and Toronto CMA
- Housing Trends in Toronto
- Housing Syrian refugees
- What we learned from housing Syrian refugees

Who is a refugee, who is an asylum seeker

Refugees



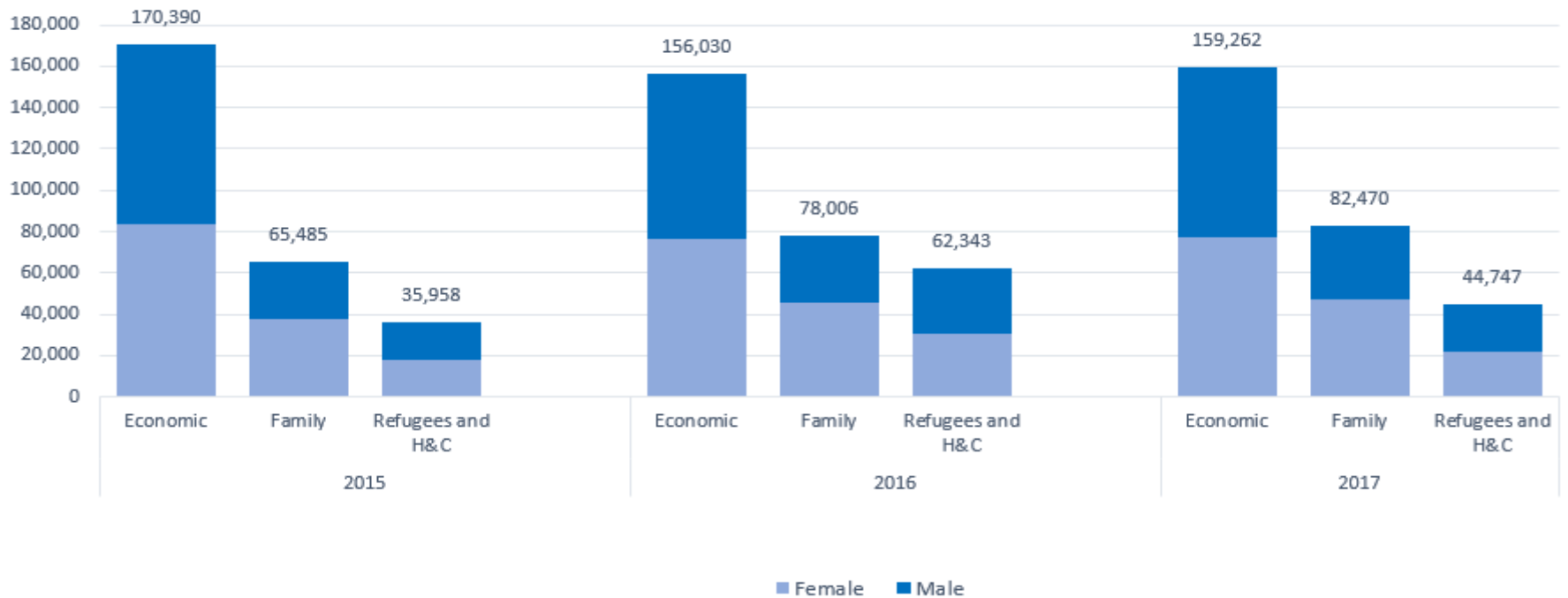
Recognized as Convention refugee or in need of protection outside Canada
Permanent resident on arrival

Asylum-seekers



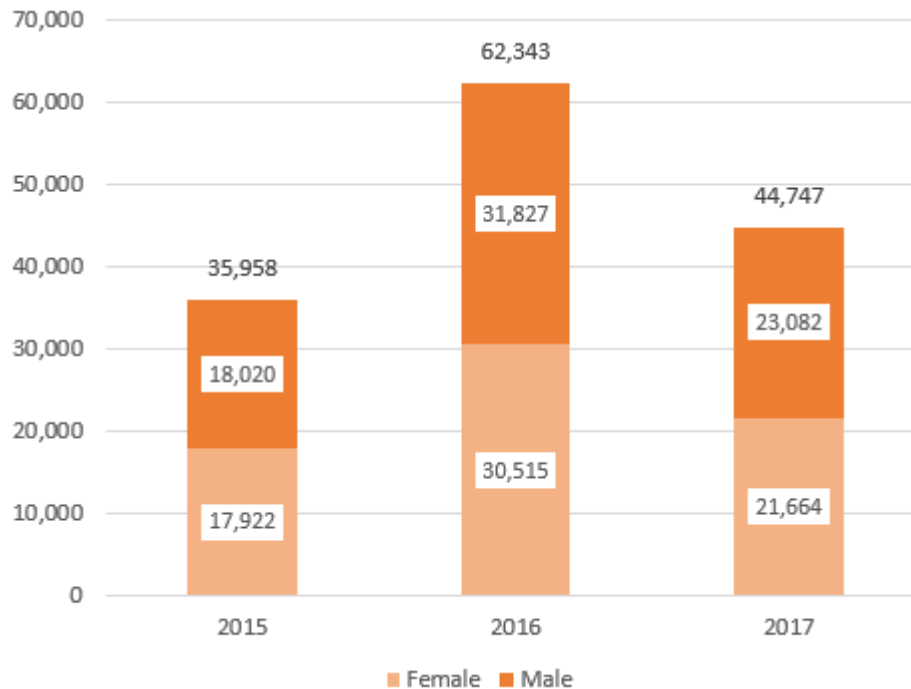
Claim to be Convention refugee/ need of protection
Make claim in Canada
Temporary

Canadian Newcomers: More Including More Refugees & Family- Sponsored



Refugees & Asylum-Seekers

Refugees



Asylum-seekers

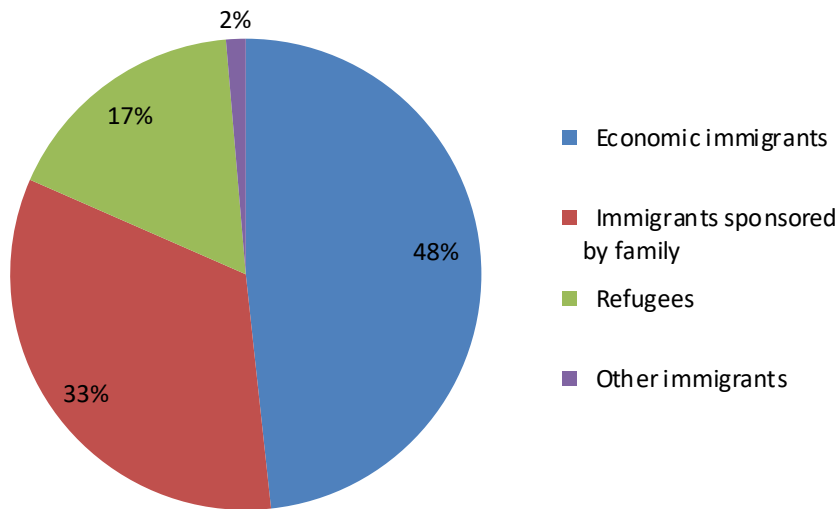
- Numbers peaked in 2017 and 2018, with about 50,000 claims
- Land crossings are declining
- Most claims are made at airports

Greater Toronto Area and Census Metropolitan Area

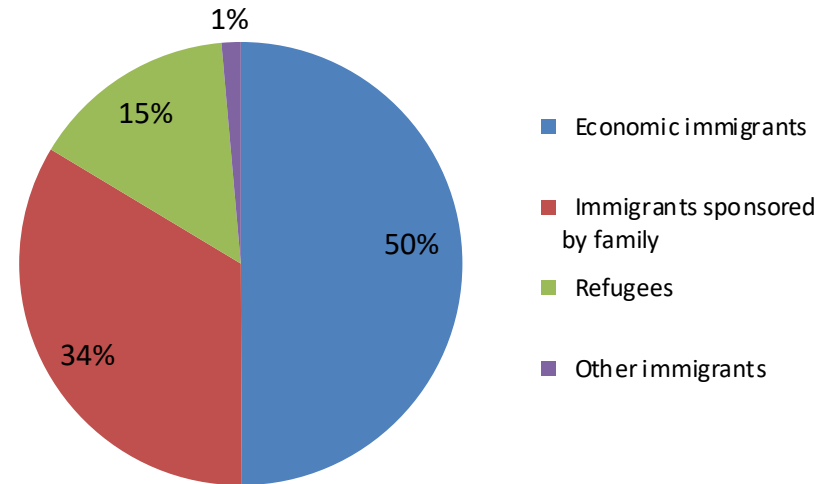


Toronto CMA, Newcomers 2011-2016

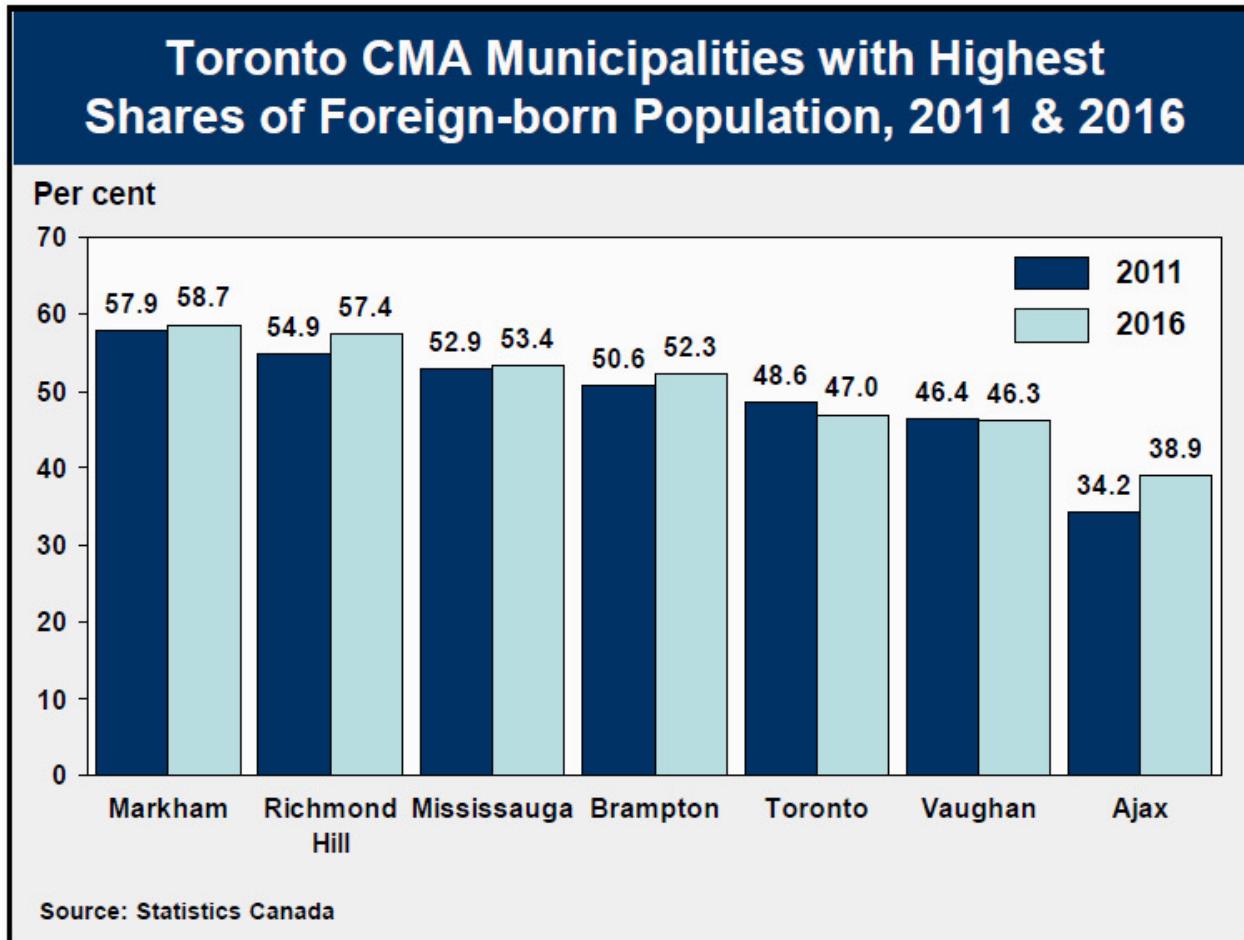
% of Total in Ontario



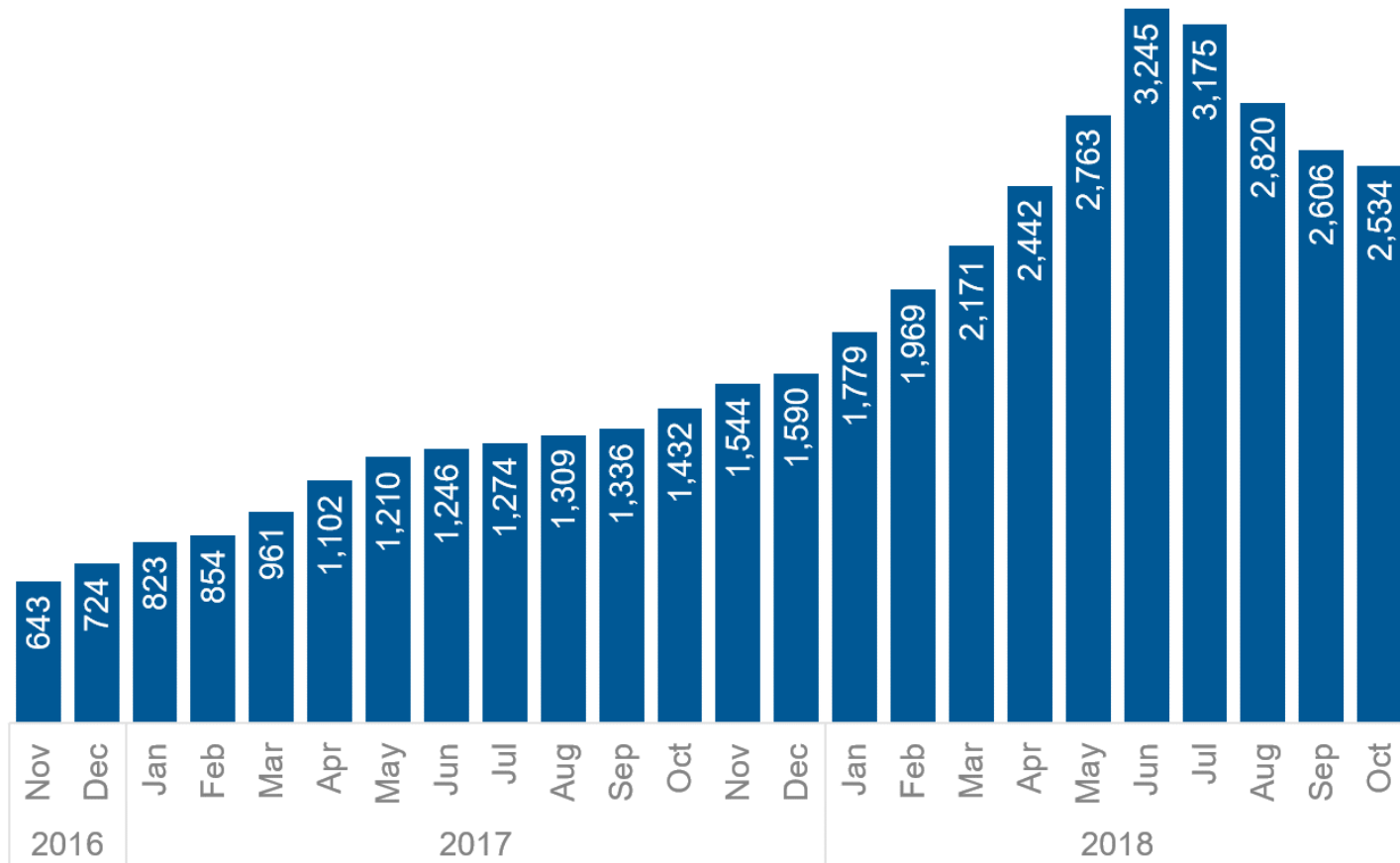
Toronto CMA, 2016



Immigrants in Toronto Suburbs



Average Nightly Number of Asylum-Seekers in Toronto Shelters

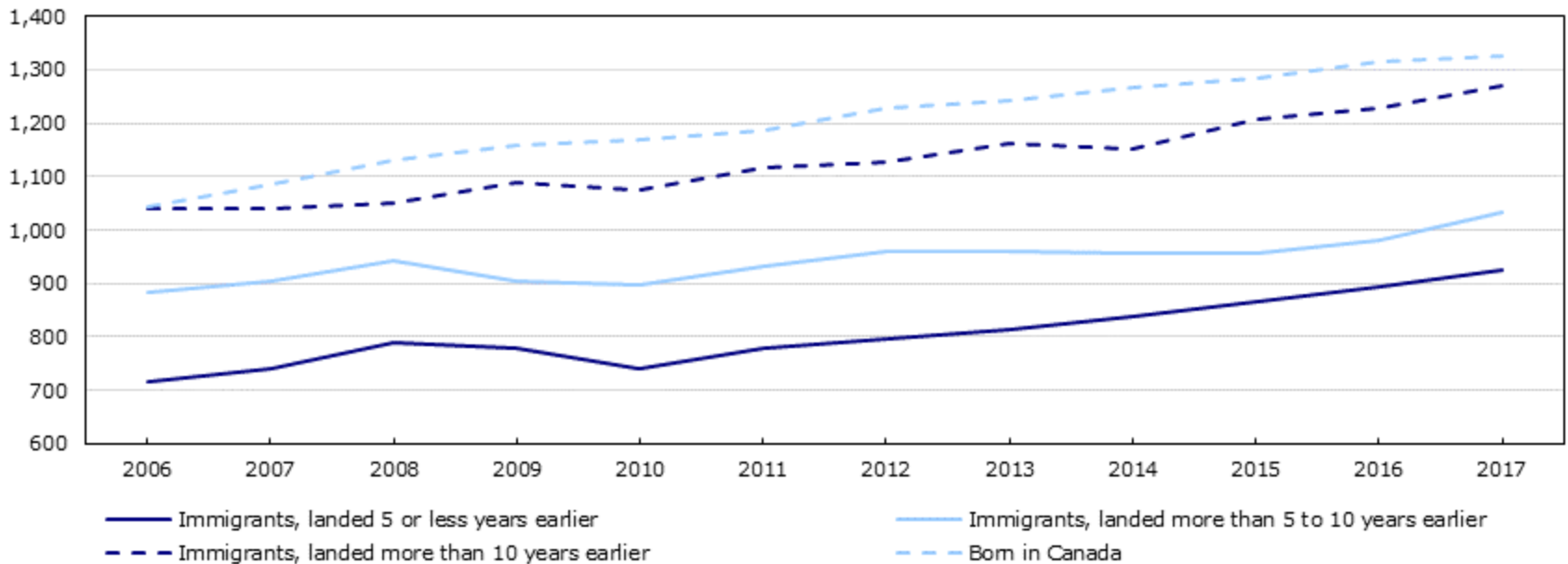


Labour Market Challenges

Chart 25

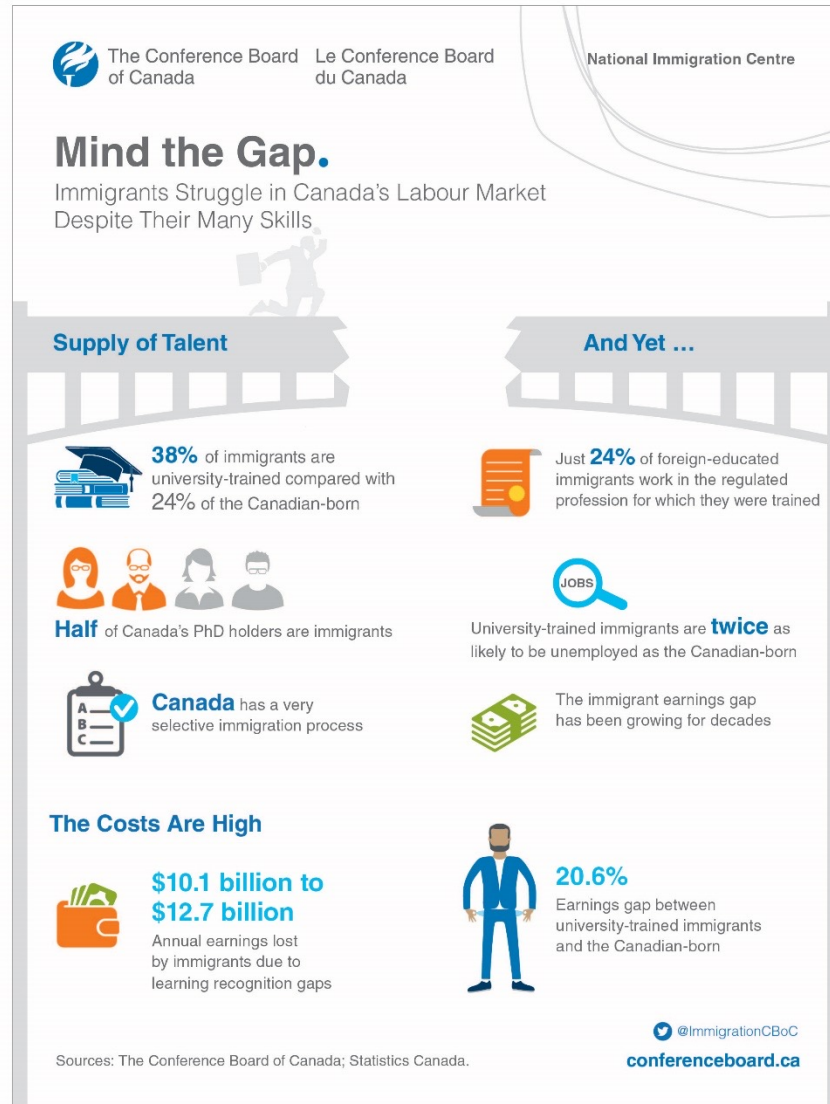
Core-aged university-educated immigrants: Wage-gap narrows progressively as time since landing increases, 2006 to 2017

dollars

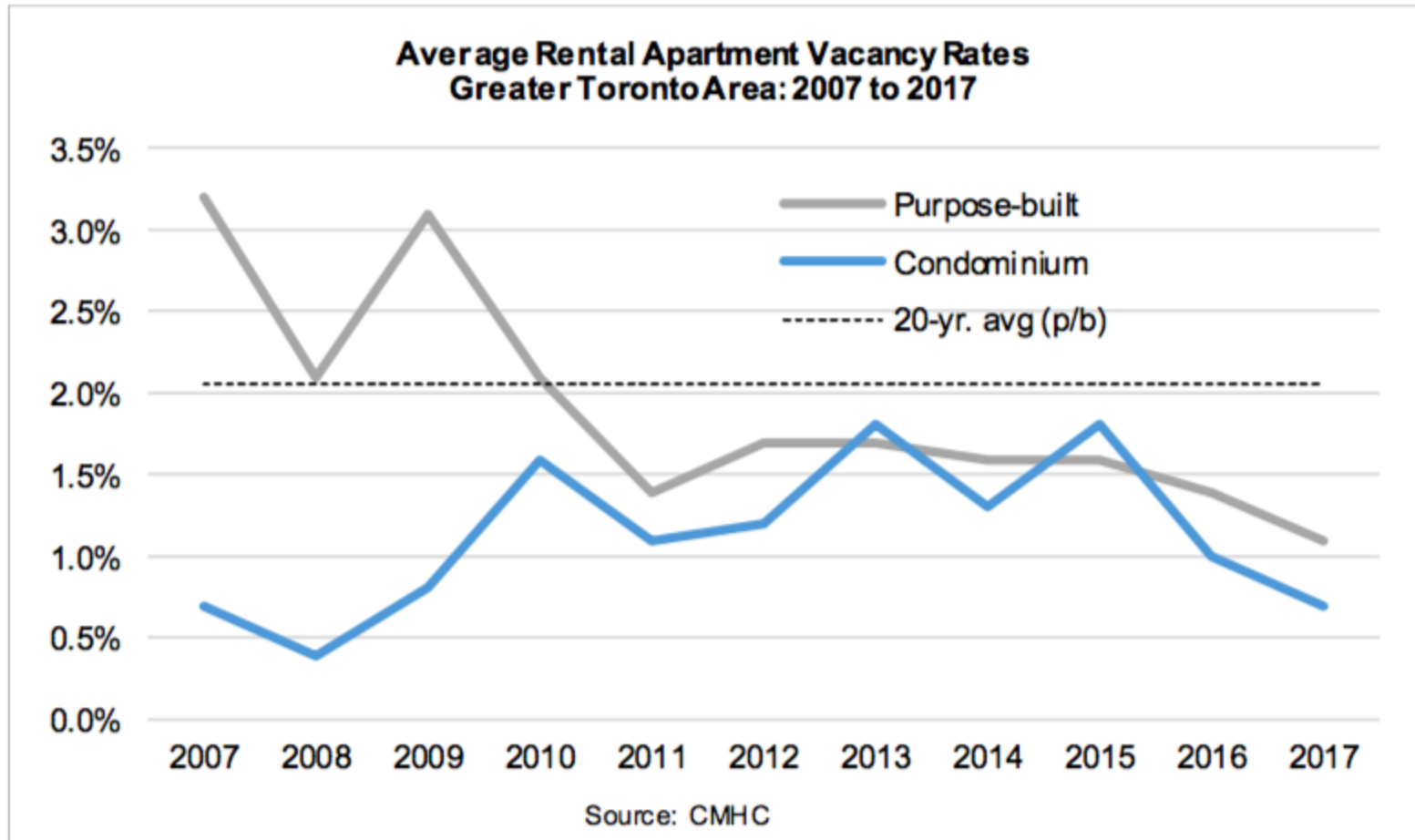


Source: Labour Force Survey, custom tabulations.

SEVERE INCOME AND JOB DISPARITIES FOR IMMIGRANTS, ESPECIALLY REFUGEES & ASYLUM- SEEKERS



Toronto Housing: Low Vacancy Rates



Toronto CMA Housing: High Rents

What does it cost \$ to live in Toronto?

Bachelor	1-bedroom	2-bedroom
Avg. market rent: \$876	Avg. market rent: \$1,067	Avg. market rent: \$1,251
To afford the apartment, a household must earn at least: \$35,840 per year or: \$17.23 per hour	To afford the apartment, a household must earn at least: \$42,680 per year or: \$20.52 per hour	To afford the apartment, a household must earn at least: \$50,040 per year or: \$24.06 per hour
Minimum wage earnings: \$22,880/year \$11/hour Max rent: \$572	ODSP housing allowance: \$479 (single) \$753 (couple) \$816 (couple + child)	OW housing allowance: \$376 (single) \$602 (couple) \$655 (couple + child)

Prepared by the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association with statistics from CMHC's "Average Market Rents 2014." 'Toronto' includes Toronto CMA.

Social
Housing
Is NOT
Available

Average wait time (years)

Peel	8.45 years
York	5.79
Branford	5.44
Toronto	5.00
Ottawa	4.52
Durham	4.20
Hamilton	3.08
Halton	3.04
Sudbury	1.33
Chatham Kent	0.50

SOURCE: Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association
TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC

Housing Syrian Refugees

- Housing challenges
 - Rapid unpredictable arrivals
 - High need
 - Low income

- Housing needed to be
 - affordable
 - suitable
 - adequate

Refugee advocates worry about rent costs as more than 900 refugees set to arrive

Just over 300 refugees per month to arrive before the end of December

[CBC News](#) · September 27, 2016



The Khalifa family fled their bombed out apartment in Syria and relocated to Winnipeg almost a year ago. They are happy here and looking for a larger place to live. (Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council Inc.)

With more than 900 refugees set to arrive in Manitoba before the end of December, Rita Chahal is worried about where they will live. She says if a rent supplement under the former NDP government is not revived, she doesn't know how newcomers will be able to pay their rent without dipping into their food money or federal child benefit.

Success in Toronto

Two and a half years after arrival, 79% of Syrian newcomers continue to live in the same home they moved into from temporary housing. 68% are happy with their present accommodations.

(Making Canada Home, 2019)

PUBLIC SUPPORT: VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIP



#WelcomeRefugees

Volunteer Recruitment **Syrian Refugee Initiative**

925

Nova Scotians
offered to volunteer
through **211**

Replied to a
volunteer survey by
Canadian Red Cross

460

215

Nova Scotians received a
free criminal record check
through **HRM**

(fees waived for those wanting to volunteer with ISANS on the Syrian Refugee Response)

new volunteers
have registered through
ISANS and are active
in volunteer roles

440

559

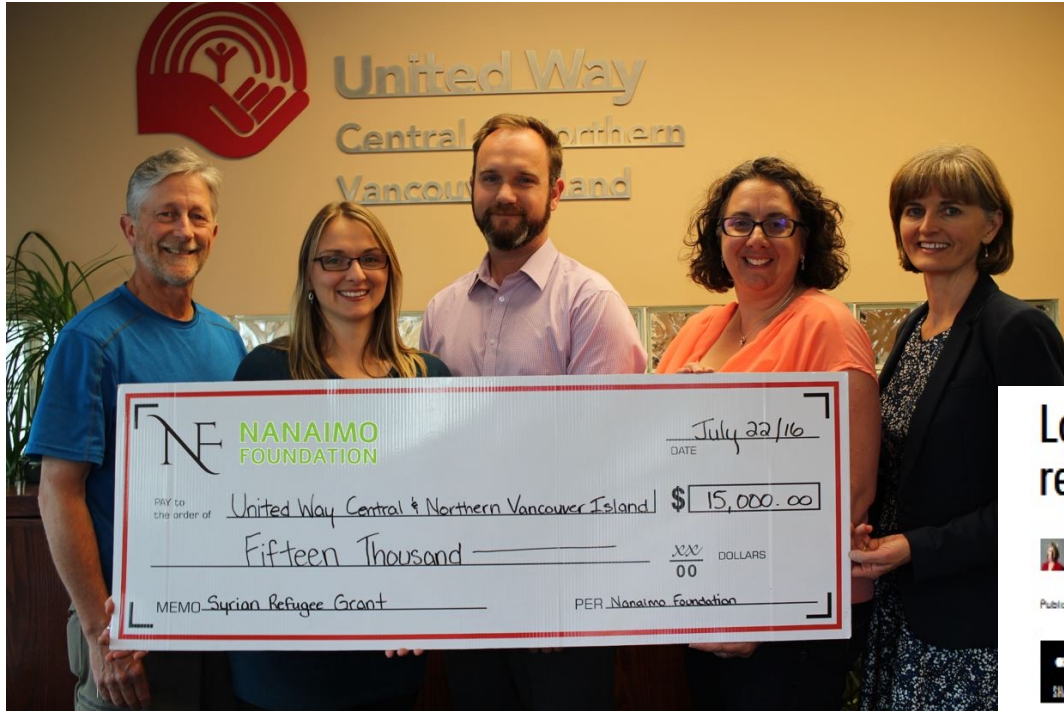
total number of **ISANS**
volunteers involved in the
Syrian Refugee Initiative



Donate. Volunteer. Sponsor.

All Canadians can help welcome
Syrian refugees. Get involved.

CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT



Local landlords step up to help Syrian refugees find homes in Ottawa

JACQUIE MILLER, OTTAWA CITIZEN
More from Jacquie Miller, Ottawa Citizen

Published on: February 17, 2016 | Last Updated: February 17, 2016 7:44 PM EST



Ottawa refugee experts predicted that finding housing for the Syrians now flooding into the city would be a major problem. They are arriving in a bunch, families are large, and there's already a shortage of affordable housing.



But local landlords have stepped up to help, and it hasn't turned out to be that difficult so far. That's the general consensus among a range of people interviewed. More than half the refugees sponsored by the federal government who have arrived since December, for instance, have found a place to live. Ottawa has welcomed government-sponsored 737 Syrian refugees, and 405 of them have moved into their own apartments or townhouses, said Chamrouen Lay, the manager of Maison Sophia refugee settlement house.



Usually refugees spend a month in temporary lodging while staff help them adjust to Canada and find a place to live. But the Syrians, who are housed at Maison Sophia and three Ottawa hotels, have been moving into permanent housing within two or three weeks, says Lay. Settlement staff have to make room for newcomers — there could be as many as 400 more Syrian refugees arriving by the end of the month, he said. But while it's been harder to find houses for large families, there's been no bottleneck.

MULTISECTORAL, SUSTAINED COLLABORATION



INNOVATION BY IMMIGRANT-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

Winnipeg

- Expanded transitional housing rapidly and flexibly
- Increased number of units approved for rent supplements
- Obtained more rent supplements
- Additional staff
- Learned how to train and manage volunteers

Toronto



What Can We Learn?

- Newcomer integration is difficult and prolonged BUT it can be facilitated when:
 - Supported broadly by public
 - Rooted in institutional collaboration
 - Promotes innovation with resources and encouragement
 - Locally tailored
- Lessons benefit many marginalized groups



**MAKING CANADA HOME:
THE SYRIAN REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT INITIATIVE**
TWO YEARS AFTER ARRIVAL

THANK YOU

Building Migrant Resilience in Cities/ Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain

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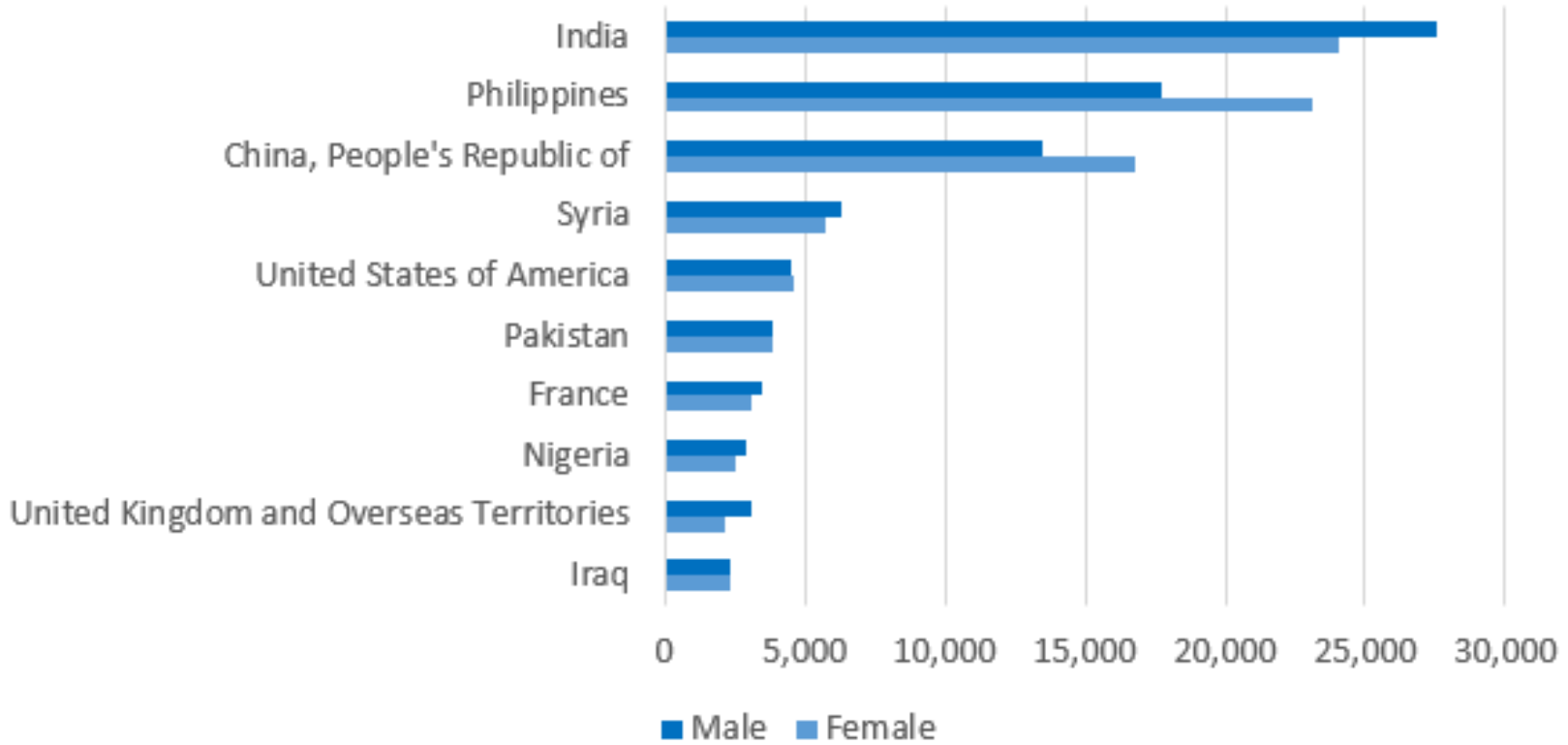
Valerie Preston, York University

vpreston@yorku.ca

QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS



More Minorities



NEW UNDERSTANDINGS OF SETTLEMENT

- Immigration policies assume skills, work experience & education are key to successful settlement
- Principal applicants in economic class are chosen on basis of human capital. They do better than other classes of immigrants, particularly if they have Canadian experience before settling BUT...

Settlement is Complicated...

- Dynamic
- Contextual
 - When, where and how newcomers arrive
- Multidimensional
- Multiscalar