

Historical

1. 1977 *Terre des Hommes*, in response to a request of the American organization, Friends of Children in Vietnam, offers to match sponsoring Ontario families with suitable 16 to 18-year-old Laotian refugees.
2. 1978 UNHCR raises the issue of unaccompanied minors (UM) with Canadian government authorities.
3. July 1978 *Terre des Hommes* identifies seven young refugees and seven sponsoring families, and Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) approves the project for a maximum of 20 young refugees.
4. Oct. 1978 Thai government draws up a list of 300 refugee "orphans" for adoption in other countries.
5. Oct. 1978 First UM arrives in Quebec. The total by the end of the year is 44; 32 under the guardianship of *Centre de Services Sociaux* and 12 adolescent girls in a group home under the auspices of an Ottawa religious community, the Order of Jeanne d'Arc. The federal government provides \$1,200 per child.
6. Feb. 1979 Bangkok post reports that the Thai list is unreliable, the children's orphan status is questionable and the list was compiled by loud speaker recruitment.
7. May 1 1979 Ten more UM receive visas for Ontario, though there is no federal/provincial agreement.
8. May 31 1979 The first detailed proposal is made outlining the program guidelines and procedures for the sponsorship of unaccompanied minors.
9. July 1979 The first meeting of CEIC officials and representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services (COMSOC) is held.
10. July 1979 The Ontario cabinet agrees to accept up to 400 minors. This does not entail, as it turned out, the province accepting responsibility for 400 minors, but only that the province would act to oversee and facilitate the process of resettlement.
11. Aug. 1 1979 Second of many subsequent meetings is held to hammer out a detailed agreement between the federal and provincial authorities for unaccompanied minors.
12. Aug. 1979 Three representatives from Families for Children enter the camps and request permission to assist in the selection and resettlement of the children.
13. Aug. 8 1979 Ontario rejects a temporary group placement/reception centre.
14. Aug. 1979 *L'institut Jeanne d'Arc* in Ottawa proposes to sponsor seven girls in a group home under the Joint Assistance Program.
15. Sept. 17 1979 The Ontario Federal Preliminary Agreement on the process of admitting UM and the respective responsibilities of each jurisdiction is decided.

Chronology

16. Oct. 1979 Seven girls (15 to 17 years of age) arrive at Jeanne d'Arc.
17. Oct. 16 1979 The outstanding issue between the federal authorities and the province of Ontario — the division of financial responsibilities in cases of breakdown — is settled. The province is to be responsible in cases of social breakdown; the federal government is to be responsible in cases of financial breakdown. (In fact, the federal authorities always assumed the responsibility even though the overwhelming number of breakdowns were caused by social factors.)
18. Oct. 22 1979 The Quebec *Ministère des Affaires Sociales* (MAS) and four non-governmental organizations (NGO's) conclude a protocol of agreement on a sponsorship model, for minors. The four NGOs are: AMIE (*Aide médicale pour l'enfance*), FFC (*Familles pour enfants*), SdN (*Soleil des Nations*), and TdH (*Terre des Hommes*).
19. Nov. 1 1979 The Indochinese Designated Class Regulations of the Immigration Act are formally amended to extend the designated family sponsorship undertaking from one year to the age of majority of the child.
20. Nov. 1979 A *Terre des Hommes* representative arrives in Bangkok with 280 names, informing the UNHCR that the children would be sent to Canada without normal processing. (This list included "hard-core" Khmer Rouge teenagers who had purportedly been indoctrinated since the age of 12 and involved in the Pol Pot massacres. This resulted in tension, conflict and suspicion between the federal authorities and the private sector.)
21. Dec. 1979 The first *official* UM arrives in Ontario, five months after the Ontario cabinet had agreed to accept the 400 unaccompanied minors.
22. May 1980 Six more girls arrive for a group home run by the *Institut Jeanne d'Arc* in Ottawa.
23. Oct. 1980 *Frères des Ecoles Chrétiennes*, a religious order in Ottawa, offers to set up a group home for Cambodian adolescent boys. Ottawa agrees to pay \$100.00 per month for each boy under the Joint Assistance Program.
24. Dec. 30 1980 Ontario and federal representatives both agree that neither the backup family nor the "group of five" requirements accomplishes the purposes of providing support and minimizing breakdown.
25. June 1981 Ottawa recommends a halfway house or group home approach to all provinces.
26. Nov. 1981 The first four of eight boys arrive at *les Frères* group home in Ottawa.
27. August 1981 TdH representative is accused by the Bangkok post of selecting 30 Cambodian minors (aged 12 to 17); Quebec advises that nine of the minors are approved, but CEIC is unable to find homes in the other provinces.