

Definitions

Convention refugees are persons who meet the definition set out in the United Nations Refugee Convention and repeated in the Immigration Act. Resettlement opportunities are accorded to Convention refugees selected abroad; protection is extended to persons who claim refugee status while in Canada and whose claims are determined to be valid by the Minister on the advice of the Refugee Status Advisory Committee (RSAC).

Members of Designated Classes are persons in refugee-like situations who are accorded the opportunity to resettle in Canada because they are displaced or persecuted, or both. Such persons may not be able to meet the strict definition of "refugee" in the Convention for such technical reasons as that they remain in their own countries. Others may in fact be refugees in the strict sense, but are also part of mass movements such as the Indochinese exodus; in these instances, the ability to satisfy the strict definition is irrelevant to the decision that they are eligible for resettlement in Canada.

Designated Classes are so designated by the Governor-in-Council (the federal Cabinet). There are now three such classes: those for Eastern Europeans, Indochinese, and Political Prisoners and Oppressed Persons; the latter class includes, but is not limited to, persons who would have been eligible under the former Latin American Designated Class.

Special measures may include such provisions as relaxed selection criteria for members of the Family Class and the Assisted Relative category, and administrative arrangements under which eligible visitors to Canada may apply to extend their stays or to be considered for landing through Order in Council. In 1983, there were special measures applying to Iranians, Salvadoreans, Lebanese, Sri Lankans, Vietnamese, and Poles; the measures for Poles were terminated on January 1, 1984. Special Measures for Guatemalans were introduced on March 15, 1984.

Refugee and Humanitarian

	Government Sponsored Refugee Admissions**			Private Refugee
	Planned 1984	Actual 1984	Planned 1985	
Eastern Europe	(2,300)	2,649	(2,200)	1
Indochina	(3,000)	3,013	(3,700)	1
Africa	(1,000)	653	(1,000)	
Middle East	(800)	296	(800)	
Latin America	(2,500)	2,164	(3,000)	
Others	(400)	166	(200)	
Reserves			(100)	
TOTAL	(10,000)	8,941	(11,000)	4

** Includes those arriving at ports of entry during the calendar year with immigrant visas, and processed abroad on an emergency basis who enter on the strength of a Minister's Permit, per compliance with the Act and Regulations is demonstrated.

Source: Policy and Program Development Branch, CEIC.

Plans — 1985*

New Policy

The federal government has determined that it would be appropriate to increase the 1985 level for government-assisted refugees to 11,000 from 10,000 which had been identified for 1984. In addition, the federal government is prepared to consider — at any time during 1985 — proposals to increase the global level if sudden and unforeseen circumstances create a new mass outflow or displacement of persons in need of resettlement in Canada.

Themes of Consultation

Two themes emerged from the 1984 consultations with private-sector groups in Canada: First, since the worst effects of the recession are over, more refugees can be resettled without hardship to or the displacement of needy Canadians. Second, government allocations should be more closely managed to ensure the fulfillment of announced allocations.

Reasons for an Increased Refugee Commitment

- the economic recession has resulted in a reduced commitment to refugee resettlement by the world community in general;
- many refugee groups, which would normally be helped through local resettlement or given material aid pending repatriation, have been in interim situations for a long time, thus increasing the pressure for third-country resettlement as a durable solution to their plight; and
- fewer countries are engaging in refugee resettlement, and those who are continuing to provide these opportunities are doing less than in previous years because large waves of asylum-seekers, and others using this route to gain admission to other countries for reasons of economic betterment, continue to flow to developed countries, inundating humanitarian support mechanisms in both the private and public sectors.

Immigration to December 31, 1983

Private Refugees	Claims in Canada	Total	Special Measures	Total
	(RSAC)	Admissions	Landings	
1,	67	4,274	2,893	7,167
1,	12	4,672	—	4,672
	64	887	—	887
	100	784	621	1,405
	348	2,651	690	3,341
	35	375	32	407
4,	626	13,643	4,236	17,879

and, down, those
pending after full

**Employment and Immigration Canada, November 1984 Annual Report and Background Paper to Parliament on Future Immigration Levels.*