

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN CALGARY

The inflow of refugees to Calgary fluctuates widely over time, and varies considerably by country of origin. Social agencies must adapt to a continuously shifting kaleidoscope of people, cultures, languages and needs.

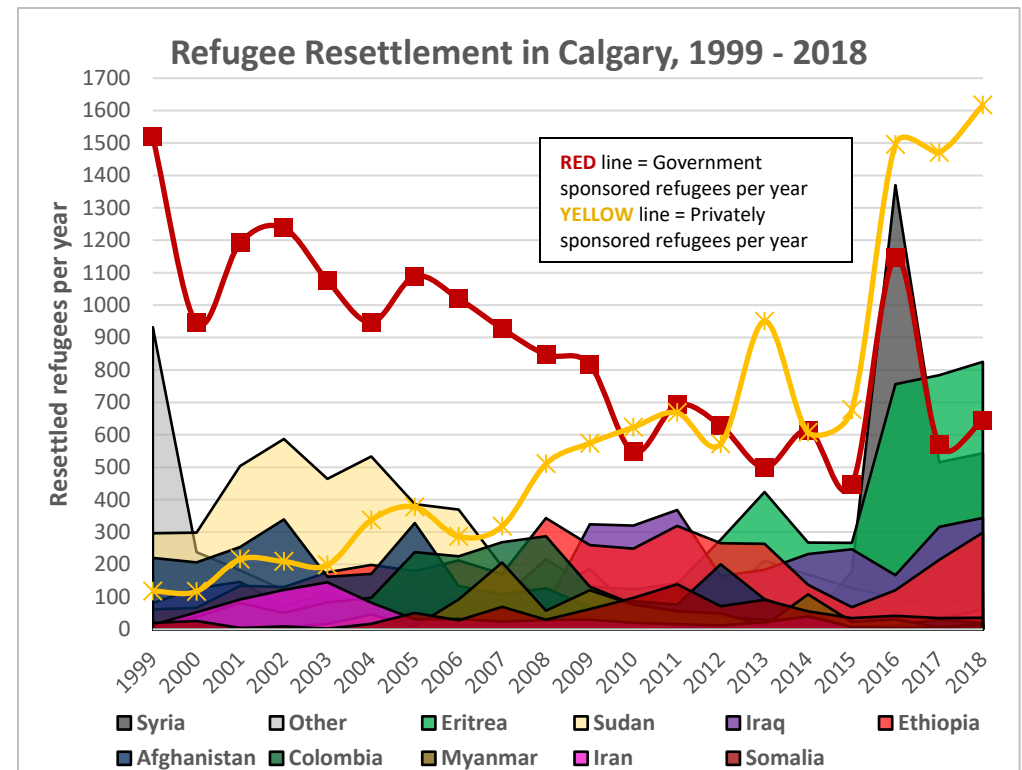
The figure shows the resettlement of refugees in Calgary from 1999-2018. [Refugee resettlement](#) is a planned relocation of some of the world's most vulnerable refugees if and when they [cannot be safely returned](#) to their home country or permanently integrated in countries providing them with temporary shelter. [They are sponsored](#) by the Canadian government, a group of private sponsors (such as a religious community), or a mix of both.

The semi-transparent areas represent the rise and fall in arrivals by different groups of refugees, with colours representing different countries of origin. The red line shows the number of government-assisted refugees, while the yellow line shows the number of privately sponsored refugees.

The figure serves to demonstrate the diverse mix of refugees arriving in Calgary. Social service providers and charities [helping refugees to resettle](#) and integrate within Calgary must adapt to an ever-changing landscape of people, languages, and cultures. This includes providing language training, finding housing, and seeking employment for refugees with high needs resulting from [trauma in their home country](#).

Calgarians first sponsored a higher number of refugees than the federal government did in 2010. The upward trend in private sponsorships continues to rise in light of the 2016 Refugee Crisis.

A sharp rise in refugee arrivals from specific countries can attract additional volunteerism and support for refugees from those countries, but it can also obscure parallel efforts to resettle other groups. The spike in Syrian refugees, beginning in 2016, occurred concurrently with efforts to resettle an earlier and even larger population of Eritreans in Calgary, for example.



Source: *The Calgary Immigrant Database*, a joint project between the School of Public Policy and the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 2019

Calgarians have helped resettle thousands of refugees in Calgary through the generous donation of their time and funds to local agencies that support newcomers, and through a private sponsorship of refugees. Under the [private sponsorship program](#), religious groups, community associations, businesses, and informal groups of individuals may take on the cost and work of bringing a refugee to Canada, housing them, and helping them adapt to their new community. Private refugee sponsorship began to surpass government sponsorship in 2010. Even in the midst of an economic downturn, Calgarians continue to sponsor large numbers of refugees following the 2016 Refugee Crisis. The federal government currently caps the number of privately sponsored refugees coming to Canada each year. Increasing or lifting this cap may encourage additional resettlement of some of the world's most vulnerable populations.