

Question: What are the levels of service provided to immigrants to ensure that the monies loaned to them are not lost through dealings with unscrupulous individuals who might prey on immigrants?

Response: Canada uses, wherever possible, the services of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to make travel arrangements for persons who require a transportation loan to travel to Canada. IOM organized the travel to Canada of some 33,000 refugees and immigrants last year. Because IOM arranges travel for refugees going to a number of countries, it is able to obtain discounts of 40% to 50% on transportation costs. These discounts are passed directly to the refugees in that the transportation loans to them reflect the reduced travel costs.

IOM is a well recognised international organization, which comprises some 36 member states and 16 observer states. IOM was founded on December 5, 1951 as a non-political organization with a predominately operational mandate. IOM's main functions include the handling of orderly and planned migration to meet the specific needs of emigration and immigration countries; the processing and movement of refugees and displaced persons; the transfer of qualified human resources to promote the socio-economic advancement of developing countries; and, the provision of a politically non-aligned forum for the exchange of views and experiences on international migration issues.

Since 1952, IOM has assisted over 4 million persons (3 million refugees and 1 million national migrants) to move to countries offering them permanent resettlement or other opportunities for orderly migration. Canada is a member of IOM and is thus able to use fully the services provided by this organization for the benefit of refugees and immigrants coming to Canada.