

CANADIAN REFUGEE POLICY

Canada's refugee program consists primarily of two elements: the overseas selection of refugees for resettlement in Canada and the protection of those persons claiming refugee status after their arrival in Canada.

(a) Overseas Selection for Resettlement in Canada

(i) Canada's refugee resettlement policy is based on the premise that there will always be more refugees throughout the world in need of resettlement than we will be able to accept. Therefore, our aim is to accept those most in need who, at the same time, can successfully establish in Canada.

Though our resettlement programs are developed in consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), our approach, which is governed by the new 1978 Immigration Act, is broader and more flexible than that required by the U.N. Convention to which Canada is a party. For example, the Immigration Act authorizes the Government to pass special regulations for those refugees who may not meet criteria for Convention refugees.

The Immigration Act provides maximum flexibility to officers in selecting refugees. The key objective is to determine whether an applicant can be established successfully in Canada. In addition, the Act contains regulatory powers to create special criteria to meet the needs of specific groups.

Special services are provided to assist refugees upon arrival. These services include: