

MOTION ON NOTICE

3. Humanitarian Support for Refugees

MOVER: Mayor Robertson

SECONDER: Councillor Meggs

WHEREAS

1. The UNHCR reports that the continuing humanitarian crisis facing Syria, Iraq, and the Middle East region has displaced millions of new refugees, leaving millions more stranded and at risk from armed conflict, extreme poverty, hunger, and/or unacceptably poor living conditions;
2. Canada's federal response to this global refugee crisis has not met our obligations to the international community, with Canada's commitment towards government assisted refugees (GARS) having declined from 19,233 in 1980 to 6,900 GARs in 2015;
3. Vancouver and its citizens have a proud history of welcoming refugees, and the City has recently been reviewing steps toward making Vancouver a sanctuary city, implementing "Access without Fear" policies, and constructing an innovative new Vancouver Immigrant Services Society of BC Welcome House for refugees;
4. Like all Canadians, the people of Vancouver share a deep commitment to welcoming these refugees and their families to our communities in their moment of desperate need, and Canada's big cities are mobilizing support to address the continuing humanitarian crisis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council calls upon the Government of Canada to immediately act to assist a vastly greater number of refugees from this crisis, and supports the "20k2020 We can do more" campaign for the Government of Canada to establish a new baseline national target of 20,000 government assisted refugees annually by 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back with a review of how Vancouver can be of more immediate and significant assistance to refugees originating from the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq, recognizing that cities like Vancouver must play a critical role in refugee settlement and support.

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