

Federation of
Citizens'
Associations of
Ottawa-Carleton

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Fédération des
associations
civiques d'Ottawa-
Carleton

Refugee Welcome and Settlement in Ottawa

Public Delegation by
Federation of Citizens' Associations
To Community & Protective Services Committee
City of Ottawa

November 30 2015

Groundswell of support for refugees across Ottawa

- Thousands of Ottawa residents are expressing willingness to help.
- Offers of help coming through all of Ottawa’s “social infrastructure”, including churches, settlement agencies, student organizations, and community associations
- Refugee613: “Offers of material help and volunteering are vastly exceeding the capacity of settlement infrastructure to use help”.



Refugee Welcome and Settlement in Ottawa



“We want to take Canadians with us on this journey”
28 Nov 2015, CBC interview



Ottawa Centre Refugee Action (OCRA)
17 Nov 2015 Community Meeting

FCA supports & encourages City of Ottawa in Refugee Welcome

- Federation of Citizens' Association is
 - forum for citizens associations and public interest volunteer groups.
 - membership is broad-based and includes associations from urban core, suburbs and communities outside the greenbelt.
 - Incorporated non-profit corporation
- November 2015 FCA general monthly meeting, attended by 35 community association leaders from rural & urban areas, saw a membership-driven motion to encourage City of Ottawa to “**strengthen efforts to welcome and settle refugees**”.

The logo for the Federation of Citizens' Association (FCA) is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the lowercase letters 'fca' stacked above 'fac', with a small black dot positioned between the two words. The text is white and set against a black square background.

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Why address Community & Protective Services Committee?

Refugee welcome and settlement falls under the mandate of Community and Protective Services Committee, in frame of Ottawa's Immigration Strategy

City of Ottawa: Strategic Plan 2015-18

Healthy & Caring Communities

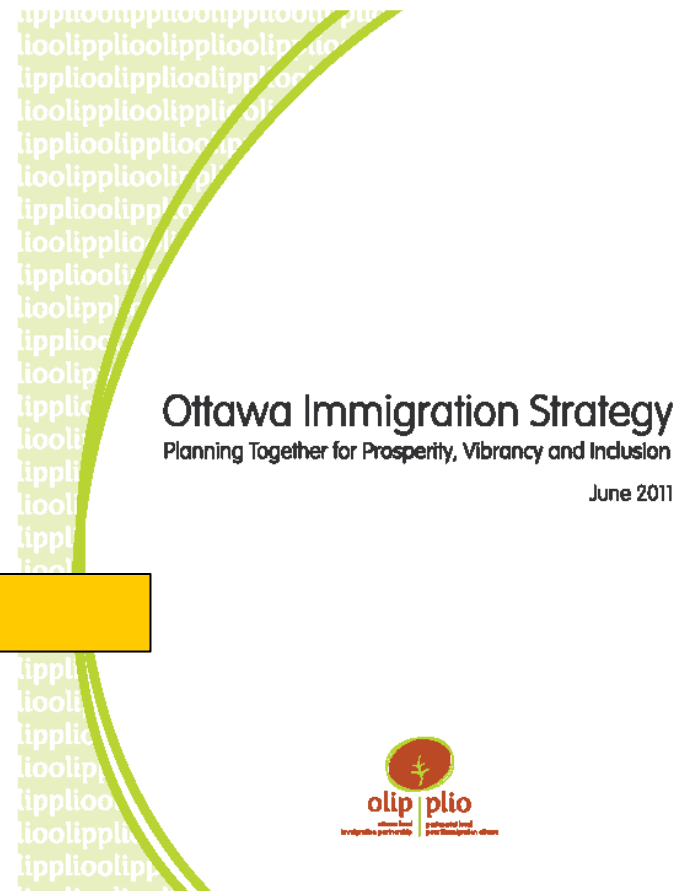
HC1 - Advance equity & inclusion for the city's diverse population

31 Inclusive community initiative

Ottawa Immigration Strategy

Update 2016

The refugee crisis will take some time to resolve. It is timely for staff to work on this and put forward an updated strategy that squarely includes the needs of refugees. Because it's 2015.



FCA Membership Motion

General Meeting November 2 2015

Be it resolved that an FCA delegation shall

(a) visit Councillor Diane Deans to discuss how the City of Ottawa might make strengthened efforts to welcome and settle refugees in the context of Ottawa's Immigration Strategy;

(b) that this FCA delegation shall present to the Community & Protective Services Committee discussion of Budget 2016 urging that both financial and in kind resources of the City of Ottawa be dedicated to refugee welcome and settlement during this crisis.

Motion Passed

During discussion, it was further proposed that FCA should be urging the City to dedicate effort to refugee settlement planning immediately, not only out of budget 2016, and that the office of the Mayor should be approached as well, given his leadership on the issue.

The Chair asked Angela Keller-Herzog to take lead in forming a delegation and following up on the motion.

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FCA supports & encourages City of Ottawa in Refugee Welcome

- The City of Ottawa has a history of helping refugees escape conflict. Mayor Marion Dewar in 1979 championed Project 4000, which brought thousands of Vietnamese refugees to Ottawa through private sponsorships.
- Mayor Watson hosted a public forum on the Syrian refugee resettlement efforts here at City Hall on October 1. We applaud his leadership.
- The City has convened key stakeholders, helped to launch Refugee613 (information clearing-house) and United for Refugees (fundraising). Ottawa leads the way for other cities.
- Further needs have been identified in areas of:
 - Dedicated staff for planning & coordination; identification of key measures to make Ottawa welcoming to refugees
 - Affordable housing in non-marginal locations
 - Refugee anti-discrimination & anti-harassment
 - Refugee access to services (mobility/OC transpo, recreational services, etc)
 - Economic integration & realizing economic potential.

The logo for FCA (Fédération canadienne des associations de réfugiés) is displayed in a white square with a black border. It consists of the lowercase letters 'fca' stacked above 'fac', with a small black dot positioned above the 'a' in the second line.

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Refugee Welcome and Settlement in Ottawa

We propose,

1. The CSPC put forward a motion to Council, affirming that the City of Ottawa will provide a welcoming environment for refugees.
2. The CSPC consider that both financial and in-kind resources of the City of Ottawa be dedicated to refugee welcome and settlement during this crisis.
3. That the CSPC direct staff that the update of the Ottawa Immigration Strategy be prioritized, and serve as a vehicle for a plan with clear and concrete measures for refugee welcome and settlement.

The logo for the Ottawa City Council (OCC) is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the letters 'fca' stacked above 'fac' in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are black and set against a white background within a black-bordered square. The 'a' in 'fac' has a dot above it.

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Refugee Welcome and Settlement in Ottawa

“Immigration works best when cities and countries prepare the ground in advance by making small investments and institutional changes that give new immigrants footholds, rather than waiting for failures to occur and then resorting to the big, expensive and far more difficult interventions required to fix them.”

International expert and Globe columnist, Doug Saunders, 21 Nov 2015



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Refugee Welcome and Settlement in Ottawa

Thank you for your attention.

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