

About the Canadian Council for Refugees' Working Groups and their work

The CCR's three Working Groups provide the forum for CCR members and other refugee and immigrant rights advocates to exchange information, network and develop policy positions in particular areas of concern. Each Working Group is responsible for preparing resolutions, following up on action items, and planning workshops for the consultations, as well as for advising the CCR Executive on policy. The Working Group meetings are closed to representatives of government and the media.

The CCR Working Groups meet four times a year. Two of these meetings take place during the consultations (see above). The other two series of working group meetings take place in February (in Toronto) and in September (in Montreal).

The working group meetings offer an excellent opportunity to:

- Participate in efforts to promote refugee protection and resettlement, and the settlement of refugees and immigrants
- Discuss in depth pressing issues affecting refugees and immigrants in Canada
- Share information and strategies with others from across Canada



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CCR Summer Working Group meetings 7 and 8 September 2007 Montreal, Quebec



Do you want to be part of efforts to promote rights for refugees?

Want to participate in in-depth discussions on pressing issues affecting refugees and immigrants in Canada?

Looking for an opportunity to share information and strategies with others from across Canada?

Come to the CCR Summer Working Group meetings in Montreal!

*Overseas Protection and Sponsorship Working Group
Friday, 7 September, 9:30 - 5:00 pm*

*Inland Protection Working Group
Saturday, 8 September, 9:30 - 5:00 pm*

*Immigration and Settlement Working Group
Saturday, 8 September, 9:30 - 5:00 pm*

**St James the Apostle Church, 1439 Ste Catherine West,
Montreal**

<http://www.ccrweb.ca/eng/about/meetings.htm>

Overseas Protection and Sponsorship Working Group

Friday, 7 September, 9:30 - 5:00 pm

- Looks at issues relating to the selection of refugees overseas (refugees sponsored by either the government or private groups) and the programs for them here in Canada.
- Interested in protection issues for refugees around the world.

The Overseas Protection and Sponsorship Working Group focuses on the following key issue:

- Delays in processing of privately sponsored refugees

The working group also collaborates with the other working groups in addressing overseas processing for family reunification.

In addition, the working group regularly addresses threats to the rights of refugees outside Canada, as well as promoting resettlement as a durable solution in Canada and internationally.

Immigration and Settlement Working Group

Saturday, 8 September, 9:30 - 5:00 pm

- Looks at all issues relating to refugee and immigrant settlement in Canada (such as language training, access to employment, counselling).
- Ensures that immigration and settlement issues receive high priority at CCR conferences.

The Immigration and Settlement Working Group focuses on the following key issues:

- Access to services
- Family reunification
- Erosion of immigrant and refugee rights
- Youth issues
- Professionalization of the settlement sector

In addition, the working group gives attention to emerging issues, such as the increasing numbers of people in Canada on temporary work visas.

Inland Protection Working Group

Saturday, 8 September, 9:30 - 5:00 pm

- Is concerned for the protection of refugee claimants in Canada or seeking to come to Canada.

The Inland Protection Working Group focuses on the following key issues:

- Access to asylum (Interdiction /Safe Third Country/Excluded cases)
- Refugee appeal
- Family reunification
- Regularization of Non-Status Persons

The Working Group also regularly looks at issues of detention, the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), security inadmissibility and the wide variety of problems facing refugee claimants.