

Summary of the *Employment and Immigration Indochinese Refugee Newsletters – July 16, 1979 –February 14, 1980- Public Affairs Division*

7-1, July 16, 1979*

The first issue of the Indochinese Newsletter was put out on July 16, 1979. These became weekly reports to keep all involved up to date with events and issues. It was a very useful tool, sharing information with journalists, politicians, provinces, cities, partners in sponsorship, other countries, and immigration personnel.

Employment and Immigration Minister Ron Atkey issued the first of a weekly series of reports on Canada's Indochinese refugee operations. In it, he signaled that a major breakthrough has been achieved in transportation and processing arrangements and in facilities for private sponsorships. As well, a major step was taken to reunite relatives in Vietnam with families in Canada.

Activity Highlights: Resettlement of Indochinese Refugees - numbers of those escaping Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos has reached 60,000 per month. The US has doubled its refugee quota to 168,000 per annum. Japan will provide 50 % of the \$10million the UNHCR expects is the cost of its Indochinese program and will also pledge over \$3 million for a transit centre. Denmark and Belgium will divert aid program money in Vietnam to refugee welfare. France has increased its quota from 12,000 to 17,000. Australia will keep settling 10,500 and will contribute \$5.5 million. More than 200,000 resettlement places have been pledged. **Arrivals in Canada:** Canada's cumulative intake of Indochinese will exceed 21,000 by the end of 1979, making it the third largest contributor. Putting this movement in the context of other mass arrivals to Canada, it would become the second largest movement of refugees since the Second World War (Hungarians numbered 37,189). **Refugee Processing** - 11 officers in SE Asia are now dealing with Indochinese refugees, 7 in Singapore, 2 in Bangkok, 1 in Hong Kong and 1 in the Philippines. An additional three are on their way- two to Bangkok and one to Hong Kong with an additional 27 pending redeployment from other Asian posts. **Refugee Sponsorship:** National sponsorship agreements are increasing, with 8 signed and 8 pending. The Mennonite Central Committee (Canada) was the first to sign, in March 1979. The newsletter gave contact numbers to those interested in such agreements

Other Developments - The **Minister** has visited every province and has received general support for the refugee plan. **Alberta** has announced a \$1M gift to improve conditions for refugee children in the camps. **Ontario** pledged to match funds raised by the Canadian Red Cross up to \$500,000. **Quebec** promised to take 50% of the federal government's increased quota. They will offer \$400 to each refugee sponsor group. In **Toronto**, Operation Lifeline has been formed to co-ordinate sponsorships. **Vancouver** will set up a task force to assist interested groups and will offer \$275,000 towards settlement. The City of **Ottawa** has formed Project 4000. The first project under the **Joint Assistance Project** was set up with a sponsor, L'Institut Jeanne d'Arc of Ottawa, who provided a home for 12 adolescent girls, who had lost families. **PEI** plans to take 40 families. **Transportation Arrangements** – a substantial commitment of aircraft by DND will supplement CPAir, Ontario Worldair and Air Canada flights to transport Indochinese refugees to Canada. **Family Reunification** - Immigrant visas were issued to 25 individuals in Vietnam to allow them to join relatives in Canada. These visas represented 4 years of negotiation with Viet Nam by the UNCHR.

Statistics Persons Arrived 1975-1978 - 9,151

Persons Arrived 1979 - 4,319

Estimated Arrivals June10-July 12

890

Grand Total 1979 to date - 5209

Sponsorships as of June 28, 1979 -388 Persons sponsored 1604

*The first two editions of the Newsletters were numbered as 7-1 and 1-2. On July 31st, the edition began as Vol .1 No. 3. Two Special Editions were published – *Health Care- Facts for Sponsors of Indochinese Refugees* , Vol.11, No.3, March 6, 1980 and *Languages – Word Lists for Sponsors of Indochinese Refugees*, Vol.11, No.4, May 1980

Volume 7-2, July 24, 1979

Minister, Ron Atkey, focused first on the “phenomenal” response to the plight of the Indochinese refugees. He thanked provincial and municipal governments, church groups, service organizations and individual citizens who have come forward to offer assistance. Ontario announced a welcome for 13,000 over the next two years. Quebec offered to accept a third of all those coming to Canada. Alberta put forward \$1M for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) camps, while Ontario pledged matching funds to those raised by the Canadian Red Cross in Ontario. British Columbia introduced legislation to provide for a refugee resettlement program. PEI came forward to accept 40 refugees. At this date, 16 national sponsorship agreements were signed. The Canadian Jewish Congress announced a target of 1,000, and donated \$10,000 for the camps. As well, in cities – Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Vancouver – groups of civic and private citizens established sponsorship groups and raised money for the support of the refugees they would welcome.

Activity Highlights: UN Conference on Indochinese Refugees - In Geneva, the UNHCR Conference resulted in pledges by 72 countries to resettle 260,000 refugees. This doubled the original target for the next 12 months. **Government Announces New Refugee Plan** - Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald and Minister of Employment and Immigration Ron Atkey announced that Canada would increase to 3000 refugees per month, from 1000, anticipating resettlement of up to 50,000 refugees by the close of 1980. This number included the earlier target of 8000. To do this, a matching formula of one government sponsored for each privately sponsored refugee will be put in place. This anticipates 21,000 privately sponsored refugees. At this time, more than 430 national groups and 180 local groups have contracted to sponsor more than 2,900. A matching formula will see one government sponsored refugee brought in for everyone privately sponsored. It was also announced that two staging areas would be receiving refugees as of August, at Department of National Defence facilities in Edmonton (Griesbach) and Montreal (Longue Pointe). **Program Costs** - The Minister commented that a cost estimate for the program was not yet established, however “Treasury Board is providing strong support”. **Canadian Refugee Fund:** On July 18th Minister Atkey announced that a non-profit fund would be established for donations to refugee resettlement –the Canadian Refugee Fund. Money raised would pay some portion of transportations costs of refugees, give some financial assistance to private sponsorship groups and aid resettlement agencies. **Refugee Resettlement:** The process used by selection officers abroad in interviewing those brought forward by UNCHR has changed so that officers can use discretion in

applying the selection criteria. No one factor is critical to selection – overall the objective is to determine those who could successfully establish themselves, taking into account the assistance offered. **Transportation:** By the close of 1979, Canadian air carriers had transported some 20,878 Indochinese refugees to Canada. Between July and December 1979, 76 flights will pick up over 15,800 people. Ontario World Air, CP Air and Armed Forces flights are operating these flights. **Travel Loans:** A revolving fund provides loans (interest free) allowing refugees who have been in Canada one month, to pay for their flights. When this is possible, it will assist in helping others needing the same help. **Staging Areas:** Early August, the two staging areas will open, allowing DND and chartered flights to land in Edmonton and Montreal. These facilities will offer key services of food, shelter, medical and health, clothing distribution and general orientation. Interpreters, reception and settlement officers will be joined by employment counselors. **Vegreville Sponsors 25 families:** A mid July town hall meeting resulted in the generous sponsoring of 25 families by more than 70 people from church and social organizations. A local employer with an agricultural manufacturing plant offered employment for up to 25. **Deputy Executive Director for Refugees Appointed:** W. K Bell was appointed to this new position, and given special responsibility for refugees.

The **Appendices** of this 2nd issue included tentative schedules for refugee charter flights and the statistics of the movement

Statistics:	Persons Arrived 1979	- 4913
	Estimated Arrivals June 10-July 20	- 1050
	Grand Total	5369

Refugees Sponsored 2954 Sponsors 610

Volume 1, No.3, July 31, 1979

Minister Atkey's opening statement praised the progress being made with resettlement and with the first DND airlift, "we have proven the system works".

Activity Highlights: CMHC makes 3,000 housing units available for refugees in centres such as Montreal and area, the National Capital, Aylmer and Gatineau in Quebec, Toronto, Mississauga, Oshawa, Hamilton and Vancouver. Both privately sponsored and government assisted refugees will have access at rates allowing CMHC to meet operating costs. **Medical Examinations:** All refugees are medically examined before arrival in Canada. They are tested for tuberculosis, syphilis and intestinal parasites. Where there are communicable diseases, or follow-up is needed, the province will be advised. Additional medical check ups will be given in Canada, and normal immunization will be administered. **Hepatitis Screening:** A task force of federal, provincial and independent health consultants recommended on July 18th that a sample screening of refugees be done for viral hepatitis after arrival in Canada. **Refugee Selection Humanitarian:** Minister Atkey stressed that great latitude in Canadian immigration policy and regulations would be applied to keep family groups and associations together. The principles of family reunification would ensure that a healthy and productive refugee would not be denied admission due to a family member's ill health or age. **Refugees to Quebec:** the province committed on July 23rd to admit up to 10,000 refugees and clarified how this related to its vow to take one third of all refugees brought to Canada by the federal

government. **Transportation Loans:** the Transportation Loan fund has been in operation since 1951 and has become an efficient method of assisting refugees. In seeking repayment of the loans from Indochinese refugees (\$750), every effort is made to avoid hardship. Time frames can be extended and payments modified if necessary.

Sponsorship Agreements: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatchewan signed a sponsorship agreement on July 18th and urged all parishes in the diocese to sponsor a family. The YMCA also signed an agreement, allowing local Y associations to sponsor across the country. **First DND flights:** The first Canadian Forces flight landed in Vancouver with one more passenger aboard than scheduled – a baby girl was born in flight to a 19 year old Indochinese widow, Nguyen Kiet Anh. 33 Indochinese disembarked in Vancouver, 21 flew to the Prairies, and 140 landed in Toronto. Minister Atkey met the Toronto group, saying “This city which is my home, is now your home”. In fact, 108 were to stay in Toronto, while others continued to other Ontario venues.

Provincial Focus: British Columbia: As part of its new provincial refugee resettlement program, legislation provided for settlement agency assistance, health and medical services, educational and vocational training. A refugee advisory committee will assist in program development and delivery. As well, groups sponsoring refugees set up a coordinating organization “BC Cares”. The BC government of Vancouver set a fund raising goal of \$250,000 to assist refugees. **Saskatchewan:** Public interest and response has been tremendous throughout the province. In Regina, the CBC produced a two part television series with details about sponsorship. CBC Radio in Saskatoon also featured sponsorship and the work of the Mennonite Central Committee for Saskatchewan.

Quebec: Three ethnic groups announced intentions to sponsor as many refugees as possible. The Federation of Ethnic Groups of Quebec, the Montreal Region of the Vietnamese Association of Canada and the Montreal Chinese Community United Centre have offered to fund raise, provide cultural services and interpretation as well as sponsor.

Other developments: International Naval Rescue: A growing number of ships are picking up stranded Indochinese refugees from the South China Sea. Italian naval vessels, West German commercial vessels (371), the US Navy and US Military Sealift Command (1,100) and a French hospital ship (800) have been active. **European Economic Community:** Significant assistance has been pledged by the EEC, up to \$40 M for emergency aid. This will support food needs for refugees in the UN’s care, medical supplies and will cover medical supplies for Cambodia. **Where are they coming from:** for the remainder of 1979, 15,000 are expected to arrive in Canada from Southeast Asia: 6100 from Thailand, 5900 from Malaysia and Indonesia, and 3000 from Hong Kong. **Health Hazards:** Reassurances are given that there are not significant health hazards amongst the refugees arriving, and that medical testing is carried out.

Church group raises \$9400: In just one week, an Etobicoke church, St James-Islington United, raised \$9400 to aid refugees. This money will support a family of ten for one year. This effort was based on a similar operation begun by Professor Howard Adelman of York University, Operation Lifeline, who set out to sponsor 50 families but was joined by thousands of other people across the province. **Edmonton’s Refugee Cart:** Ruth Groberman, President of Community Aid to Refugees Today (CART) expected 100, but had 350 jam into an information session to learn how they could sponsor refugees. **Caledon’s Belfountain Lifeline:** Community response was positive in the Belfountain area of Caledon, Ontario and sponsorship will be requested for 1-2 families. The Carleton Board of Education began preparation to absorb refugee children into the school system. One English-as-a-second language teacher maybe be needed for every 15 children.

This issue of the newsletter introduced a **Question and Answer** section: the question answered was: Can payments made to groups and organizations who sponsor refugees qualify as donations and be deductible for income tax purposes? (Answer was yes, if sponsoring group was registered as a charity).

Statistics	Persons Arrived	Jan 1- July 31, 1979	4,641
	Estimated Arrivals	June 29-July 31	1,100
	Grand Total		5,741
	Refugees Sponsored	3,800	Sponsors 747

Volume 1, No. 4, August 8th, 1979

Minister Atkey wrote to all 26,000 Employment and Immigration staff on July 30, to express confidence in their ability to manage the “largest single movement of refugees to Canada in its history”. He outlined the action he expects them to take in the coming months, and noted that the Government’s commitment is a recognition of Canadian’s willingness to help these unfortunately refugees. He noted that many “ of you have already done a great deal of work to prepare for this program. It must now be implemented.”

Activity Highlights: Longue Pointe Garrison Becomes a Reception Centre: Details of the Longue Pointe Reception centre role were outlined, as various departments and agencies worked together to welcome the first Indochinese families on August 8th. All staff are dedicated to making things as welcoming as possible because as a doctor from CFB Montreal said” Their experience on that boat was terrible and all of a sudden people were taking care of them... they came to the clinic.. they asked for medicine, but what they really needed was love and understanding and I think we all tried to fill that need”. **First Refugees arrive in PEI:** Six Vietnamese from a Hong Kong refugee camp arrived in PEI... they were the first to set foot on the island. **Kaplan Counteracts Backlash:** Robert Kaplan (MP for York Centre), Liberal critic for immigration sought to allay fears of those few who were racist or fearful of their jobs in the face of large numbers of refugees arriving. Mr. Kaplan, in a radio broadcast, assured Canadians that the Indochinese will not be a burden. **Response to Gilbert Report Negative:** A draft report by city planner in Toronto, Nathan Gilbert raised alarms about pressures on housing and other services due to refugee needs. His report was not well received by provincial and city officials, and by Howard Adelman, co-coordinator of Operation Lifeline in Toronto. Mr. Gilbert’s suggestion that short-term refugee camps be set up was rejected by Mr. CA Allen, supervisor of immigrant settlement for Metro Toronto and the Mayor, John Sewell. **Vietnam Reduces Refugee Flow:** Reports indicate that Vietnam is living up to its pledge to cut the flow of refugees. Only 5000 reached Malaysia in July, compared with 20,000 in June. It is anticipated that the flow will pick up in September. An unidentified official said in a news report that almost all of the 5000 who reached Malaysia were towed back out to sea, as Malaysia has vowed not to allow in any additional refugees.

Provincial Focus: Edmonton’s Griesbach Barracks will open for reception of up to 500 refugees at any one time. Over a period of 2-7 days, refugees will receive immigration documentation, medical exams and treatment, and clothing. A first orientation will assist them as they learn of their ultimate destination. Great cooperation from Alberta and the city of Edmonton has resulted in funding for settlement (\$2.3M). **Saskatchewan:** Regina CIC Manager, Wilf Lindner ensured that potential sponsors were clear about their obligations, dealing with a rumour that \$10,000 cash needed to be in hand to ensure eligibility. Shaunavon, Saskatchewan’s Salem Lutheran church became the first

Lutheran congregation to sponsor a refugee family – three adults and five children. **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Two groups signed sponsorship agreements – the Menihek Committee for Boat People and the Phar Group from Memorial University. Interest in sponsorship is growing.

Other Developments: Two flights from Hong Kong were delayed by a tropical typhoon, which was feared to also be endangering the lives of many Indochinese still at sea in fragile vessels.

Brochures for sponsors: The Mennonite Central Committee took initiative to produce two useful pamphlets – *Refugee Assistance Program-MCC Canada* and *an Introduction to Southeast Asian Refugees and Suggestions for Sponsors*.

Companies Match Employee Contributions: Three companies – Shell Canada, Colgate-Palmolive and Xerox of Canada have all begun to match employees' donations in aiding refugees from Southeast Asia. **Cool Aid:** A wonderful story from Montreal – a family set up a lemonade stand and maintained it over one week, catching neighbours going and returning from work – raising \$650 for the Montreal Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church. The family also took in an Indochinese family for a year. **Edmonton Jewish Council Sponsor 20 Refugees:** Spurred on by the Canadian Jewish Congress, Edmonton's group anticipate assisting twenty refugees, as part of the 1000 CJC goal.

Refugees arrive in Ottawa: Through newly established Project 4000, Mayor Marion Dewar welcomed the first 202 Indochinese refugees to Ottawa. 108 of these were sponsored through Project 4000, the rest through government assistance. Mayor Dewar told the refugees “ We are hoping you will love us as much as we're going to love you”.

Alberta Gas Trunklines Sponsor Refugees: The first company to step forward to sponsor refugees, Alberta Gas Trunklines will welcome 20 Indochinese. **Refugee Tuition Waived by Ottawa Board of Education:** A board decision to waive fees for some of the expected refugee students was made on July 26th. An information and reception centre to serve adults and children will be made available, as will interpretation and orientation services.

Statistics: Persons Arrived 1979:	4908
Estimated Arrivals July 6-Aug 7 –	1210
Grand Total	6118

Sponsors- 999 Persons Sponsored- 3800

Vol.1, No. 5 – August 15, 1979

A Gallup poll, conducted nationally in early July showed that 49% of Canadians favour the admission of more refugees from Southeast Asia, while 38 % disapproved of the program. The poll indicated the highest level of support in Quebec, where 57% were in favour of the program. The July poll contrasted with a previous February poll when 52% felt too many refugees were being admitted.

Activity Highlights: PM reiterates Canada's Stand - writing to the editors of the Montreal Star, Prime Minister Clark commended Montreal's response to the appeal by the Montreal Committee to Save the Boat People. PM Clark had recently met with others in Tokyo to commit to significantly increase Canada's contribution to relief and resettlement. **Refugees as Healthy as the Average Canadian:** Reassurance about health issues was made public by Dr. David Holbrook, a National Health and Welfare medical officer who screens refugees in Singapore. He noted that 12% of those screened are rejected for health reasons. Dr. Jay Keystone, Director, Tropical Disease Clinic at Toronto General Hospital said that many diseases found in Asia would not survive in Canada. He observed that flu and cold infections pose risks to refugees and urged sponsors to help refugees get

immunized. **Refugee Processing Streamlined:** July 18th, a new streamlined processing set a goal of reducing by 50% the documentation required previously. To do this, a new processing record and visa document combines the essential elements of four previous documents. As well, processing of the Social Insurance numbers will be done at the staging areas in Canada. **Edmonton Staging Area readied:** A description of the Griesbach Barracks, then the home of the Canadian Airborne Centre, detailed the various areas that are now put to use to receive refugees. **Housing for Refugees:** In Metro Toronto, 300 housing units provided by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) are now accommodating refugees. Housing will be available for 3-6 months, after which time, the refugees will have a chance to buy the units.

Provincial Focus: British Columbia- the legislature unanimously approved the Refugee Settlement Program of British Columbia Act on Monday, July 30th. **Alberta's** school boards are readying to offer special language training and orientation for refugees. **Manitoba** activity included study of a possible non-profit charitable organization to receive funds and assist service clubs; provincial approval for a \$30,000 grant to the Manitoba Division of the Canadian Red Cross; establishment of a resource centre for sponsors in Winnipeg, and a sponsorship agreement with the RC Archdiocese of St Boniface and Winnipeg. **Quebec** sent two additional officers to Singapore, bringing their total to five offices. In **Newfoundland**, a sponsorship agreement was signed with the Archdiocese of St John's.

Other developments: Minister Ron Atkey presented Immigration Officer Ian Hamilton with a \$2,500 merit award on August 7th, for his work during the Hai Hong crisis in November 1978. Mr. Hamilton and his team worked 20 hour days, processing over 600 persons on a minesweeper in a "tossing sea". Ian Hamilton became known as "Mr. Canada" amongst the refugees. His guidance, personal example and excellent administrative ability made the project a success. **Audio Visuals Produced:** Production is underway by the Public Affairs Division of EIC for a series of videotapes and film presentations related to the arrival of Indochinese refugees in Canada.

Questions and Answers – a new section of the newsletter highlighted specific questions of interest to sponsors. In this issue the questions answered concerned services offered by the federal government to privately sponsored refugees and matching of refugees to sponsoring groups.

Statistics:

Persons Arrived –	5228;
Estimated Arrivals July 13- August 14 –	2042
Grand Total	7270
	Sponsorships – 1263;
	Persons sponsored – 6940

Vol. 1, No.6 – August 22, 1979

A CEIC study, carried out over ten years, found that immigrants and refugees make a major contribution to the Canadian economy and social growth over a short period of time. The study looked at four significant movements of refugees: Czechoslovakians (1968), Ugandan Asians (1972), Chileans (1973-79) and the Indochinese movement.

Refugees can Benefit from the Canada Manpower Training Program: Access to French or English training is available to Indochinese refugees on a priority basis, as a prelude to entering the labour force. Allowances are provided if assistance is needed for living expenses and the courses are free for the refugees. Those requiring skill training are eligible on the same basis as other Canadians. **Immigrants Arrive under Canada-Vietnam Understanding:** Four years of discussion have resulted in a "close relative and reunification of family understanding". Twenty six new arrivals from Ho Chi Minh are the first beneficiaries of this agreement. Up to 1000 are expected. An immigration official did the selection on a liaison visit to Ho Chi Minh Ville in March and those selected were flown to Bangkok for documentation. **Indochinese Minors:** Minister Ron Atkey announced special arrangements were being made to bring adolescent refugees from camps in SE Asia. Provincial cooperation has been sought, to allow for home studies and guardianships. Details of the program will be completed soon. **Griesbach Barracks Hosts First Refugees:** August 14th marked the opening of the Griesbach Barracks. 199 Indochinese arrived on a DND flight, and of these, 100 were Laotian and Cambodian. It was noted that the continuously open dining room was serving more hamburgers and hot dogs than oriental food.

Provincial Focus: BC Human Rights Commission will invest \$50,000 to publicize what Indochinese need to know about their human rights. Saskatchewan gave a \$25,000 grant to the Red Cross for refugees still in camps. **Manitoba-** the Mayor of Winnipeg announced the appointment of Sidney Spivak as head of the Citizen's Committee of the Citizen's Refugee Support Program. **Ontario's** Newcomer's Service has produced a number of important documents for sponsors and refugees – e.g. a book about life in Ontario and services for immigrants, in Chinese; a history of Indochinese immigration to Canada and Ontario. **New Brunswick:** In St John, local businessmen, lawyers, accountants and more than 200 firemen have been organized into a refugee aid association. Several church groups will fundraise to support this association. **PEI:** A Charlottetown radio station CFCY has raised \$5400 to assist refugees. Employment and Immigration PEI staff members led by JR Baxter, Affirmative Action Co-coordinator, have sponsored a refugee family of three.

Other developments: CBC Special to Aid Refugees – The Boat People- Operation Lifeline, will offer live concerts to fund raise for Indochinese refugees. **It Happened in Hong Kong:** Immigration Officer Colleen Cupples was supervising the embarkation of Indochinese refugees for a flight to Canada and spotted a tiny Vietnamese girl in line, carrying a large bucket. Gently questioning, she was told that the bucket contained water because "when we left Vietnam, we were all very thirsty on our boat. Now I 'm going to Canada, I don't know how far away it is and I am never going to be thirsty again."

Statistics: Persons Arrived:	5687
Estimated Arrivals July 20- Aug 21 -	1857
Grand Total	7544

Sponsors – 1,607	Persons Sponsored – 9,036
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Citizen's Coalition that the number of Indochinese refugees coming to Canada will total 750,000 in the not too distant future, based on each newly arrived refugee sponsoring 15 more family members. Mr. Atkey pointed to studies done by CEIC that estimated an additional 80 sponsored immigrants are likely to be landed over a 20-year period. Special factors could lead to smaller numbers – current policy leads to whole families coming together. Further, restrictive policies of the Hanoi government will make it difficult for family members to leave Vietnam.

Activity Highlights - Processing Sponsored Refugees: Priority in processing is given to private group and organization sponsored refugees. Acceptance by an immigration officer leads to 6-8 weeks of processing before arrival. **Refugees to be Screened for Hepatitis:** Dr. Franklin Hicks, Director General of Medical Services Program Development at Health and Welfare Canada, said that all incoming Indochinese refugees will be tested for Hepatitis B, contrary to earlier reports that only samplings would be tested. Dr. Hicks reassured Canadian that Hepatitis B is not a public health risk. **Language Training:** Access to language training is available to refugees as well as other immigrants. In April, the federal government began collecting statistics related to refugee use of the training – in that month, 590 were registered in language classes, amounting to 39% of the total number of immigrants in training at that time. **Refugees no threat to entry of other immigrants:** A statement was made to give reassurance that the refugee operation did not displace the processing of other immigrants or family members. **Wardair to Carry Refugees :** Wardair have signed an agreement to complete three flights in September, bringing refugees from Kuala Lumpur.

Provincial Focus - Yukon Territory: Yukon Lifeline has set a target of 50 refugees to settle by the end of the year. The first family arrived at the end of July and the second, in early August. Both families found employment within weeks of arriving. **Quebec:** All 225 EIC offices are acting as information centres concerning refugee reception. **New Brunswick:** A total of 40 refugees have not been settled in the St John area, are in language training and some are working with a firm manufacturing Chinese food.

Other Developments: Ice, Time and Escalators: When the first refugees arrived in Toronto before Christmas, they had to be taught how to walk on ice – their experience had not taught them the way to balance. Snow balls became a new experience for children, and for parents, who needed to understand that a thrown snow ball did not mean disrespect. Other advice given by John Chu of the Vietnamese Association was that a watch should be their first investment, since punctuality is an important concept in Canada. Other new experiences for many, are the elevators, escalators, colour TV, supermarket largesse and green space. **Doctors and Nurses Donate Services:** Author Leo Heap organized a 15 member medical team, led by Dr. Robert Stone, Chief Surgeon at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital. The team volunteers to work in refugee camps for periods of up to 30 days a year. **A Song of Hope:** Dick Maloney, an Ottawa entertainer composed a theme song for Project 4000, the Ottawa volunteer sponsorship organization and recorded it using eight Indochinese children and other Ottawa musicians who donated time. The song was also picked up for a Calgary campaign "Someone Cares". Proceeds from the sale of the 45 rpm record go to refugee programs. **Refugee Cousins in Newfoundland:** Three cousins, all 18 years old, have landed in Newfoundland, and all three were hired within a week of arriving, by a St John's restaurant and were being trained to cook Chinese food. **Vietnamese Radio Program at Carleton University:** A new program for Vietnamese refugees will be featured on a weekly basis at CKCU, a radio station at Carleton University, Ottawa. **From Disco to Debussy:** Two musical families settled in Toronto. Classically trained brothers – one a violinist with the Hanoi Symphony Orchestra, the other a pianist

trained with the Vietnamese Conservatory of Music. Two other brothers are bass guitarists, part of a popular Vietnamese rock and disco band.

Questions and Answers: Questions dealt with concerned a number of issues related to registered charities and tax deductions for sponsorship groups.

Statistics:

Persons Arrived: January 1-July 27	5835
Estimated Arrivals to August 28 th	2766
Grand Total	8601

Sponsorships: 1,893 Persons Sponsored 10,643

Vol. 1 No.8, September 5, 1979

Changes to the federal transportation loan program will lessen the financial burden for Indochinese refugees, setting the maximum repayable transportation loan at \$750 per adult, \$350 per child and \$75 per infant and extending coverage to include final destinations.

Activity Highlights: A new *Guide to Working with Vietnamese Refugees* has been produced by Secretary of State. It gives history and culture overviews of the Vietnamese people, and good detail about families, religions, social structures, schooling and education, climate and living conditions, food preferences, work force and economy. **Lutheran Refugee Information:** Canadian Lutheran World Relief and its US counterpart have produced several publications to better inform their congregations about Indochinese refugees. As well, they have made available a film, "Stranger at the Door". **Refugee Sponsorship Agreements:** Virtually the entire spectrum of Canadian churches is reflected in the 22 major sponsorship agreements signed with the federal government as of August 10th, 1979. **MCSC Campaign:** The Montreal Catholic School Commission has given great support to fundraising for sponsorship of up to 1,000 refugees. They are asking every student to donate 25 cents. **Language Update:** More than 970 refugees began language training between April and June. **Toy and Clothing Drive:** EIC, working with the City of Edmonton are collecting toys and baby clothing for Griesbach refugees.

Provincial Focus: Ontario has announced that it will assist in the resettlement of up to 400 teenage Indochinese refugees by the end of the year. **Manitoba:** EIC Region has created an information brochure for groups wanting to organize as a sponsorship group. **Alberta:** Launching their \$2.3 million refugee resettlement program, Alberta will fund payment of health care premiums for refugees, install a toll free line for inquires about incoming refugees and double the number of language training programs.

Other Developments :

Human Rights Commissioner Distressed by Backlash: Gordon Fairweather says Canadians should be welcoming Vietnamese with open arms rather than closed minds. He spoke in Vancouver about the "poison of discrimination", but noted that favourable response from the majority of Canadians has been "deeply and profoundly moving". **Mennonites Reach Ten Per Cent of Goal:** 217 refugees, more than 10% of the 2000 to be sponsored by the Mennonite communities, have now

reached Canada. **Refugees Like Canadian Food:** Although offered Vietnamese fare at Griesbach, refugee preferences run to hot dogs and hamburgers, which disappear “in a flash”. Apples were a close second, due to high prices these fetch in Southeast Asia. **Carleton University to Study Project 4000:** Carleton University professors, John Harp, Gertrud Neuwirth and assistant, Jan Tye, will launch a 2-3 year study on the development and impact of Ottawa’s Project 4000. **Instant Book on Indochinese Refugees:** An Australian newspaper, the Melbourne Age, is publishing an “instant book” on Indochinese and syndicating it in several countries including Britain, Australia, United States and Canada. Canadian experience will be featured.

Statistics: Persons Arrived –	6363
Estimated Arrival Aug 3- Sept 5	1841
Grand Total	8204

Refugees Sponsorships - 2,167 Persons Sponsored – 12,058

Vol.1, No. 9 September 12, 1979
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Minister Ron Atkey addressed allegations that criminals are getting into the country through the refugee movement. He said that we were maintaining our statutory requirements with respect to medicals and background checks and more resources have been deployed to allow this. Risks exist, but have been kept to a minimum.

Activity Highlights:

Matching Procedures Streamlined: Streamlined matching of refugees with sponsors will require a speedier decision by sponsoring groups. Five to ten days before each flight, the Refugee Matching Centre in Ottawa and the appropriate regional headquarters will receive a confirmed passenger list and arrival time. The local Canada Immigration Centre will pass this on to the sponsoring group, asking them to confirm their commitment to accept and greet the refugees. This system will eliminate early notifications which were sometimes delayed due to refugee issues with medicals or family. **What happens at the Staging Area:** Arriving 200 or more at a time, refugees spend a couple of days at one of the staging areas – Longue Pointe or Griesbach. Warmly welcomed, they are given brief customs, medical and agriculture checks, and on their second day would experience immigration procedures, and if necessary, receive medical treatment. Some would need new clothing – often to manage the cold. Basic information is offered about the Canadian way of life and essential information about banking, insurance, labour market and services. Onward travel is arranged and sponsors informed of travel plans. **Vietnamese Refugee Assistance Association Established in Vancouver :** a number of Vancouver groups such as the Chinese Cultural Centre, the Chinese Benevolent Association, the United Chinese Community Enrichment Services Society have set up a sponsorship group to bring in 1000 refugees, at a possible cost of \$2M. This new association follows the establishment of BC Cares, a group of 50 leaders in BC representing the Filipino- Canadian community. **Someone Cares:** an effective organization after two months, this committee of the Calgary Inter-Faith Community Action Association has established refugee sponsor groups, lined up jobs, set up language courses, secured free medical, legal and translation services for refugees in Calgary and other Alberta locales. **Red Cross Campaign successful :** fund collection has reached \$935,000, almost double the \$500,000 objective. These funds will provide

food, clothing, medical supplies and shelter for the thousands in camps in Southeast Asia. A tracing and reunion service is also offered by the Red Cross.

Provincial Focus: Northwest Territories – Inuvik welcomed the first Indochinese refugees – two couples arrived to furnished apartments, filled with food. All four will be employed by the Eskimo Inn Motel once they have complete language training. **British Columbia and the Yukon:** in a single week, almost 40 new sponsoring groups were formed. In Vancouver, the Immigrant Reception Centre is conducting employment orientation sessions and a fire preventions seminar is in the planning stages. **New Brunswick:** Over 120 refugees have arrived in NB, of these 40 are in Saint John. **Nova Scotia:** There are more than 100 government sponsored refugees, soon to be joined by the same number of privately sponsored, given 21 applications from NS communities. **Prince Edward Island:** Some Employment and Immigration employees in PEI have sponsored a Vietnamese family of three.

In the News: Ottawa – Senator John Godfrey called a statement made by the National Citizens’ Coalition “ludicrous”. NCC claimed each of the 50,000 Indochinese to be admitted, will sponsor 15 relatives. **Montreal** – the Vietnamese Association of Montreal donated \$5000 to help World Vision’s rescue ship pick up stranded refugees. **Quebec:** Immigration Minister Jacques Couture said that the Indochinese movement to Quebec was helping to “re-set the balance of immigration” in the province. Immigration targets were set at 30,000 annually, but had fallen to 14-15,000. **Toronto:** a 25-station hookup across Canada raised \$600,000 to aid Indochinese boat people. World Vision and 100 Huntley Street organized this telethon. **Tokyo:** US Vice President, Walter Mondale and Japanese Premier, Masayoshi Ohira have agreed on closer cooperation to solve Indochina’s refugee problem.

Questions and Answers: Question was- Why does it take at least five individuals to form a sponsorship group?

Statistics:

Persons Arrived to August 10	6463
Estimated Arrivals Aug 10-Sept 12	2106
Grand Total	8569

Sponsorships – 2,549 Persons Sponsored 14,044

Vol.1, No. 10, September 19, 1979

Two distinguished Canadians, Paul Emile Cardinal Léger and former Governor General Roland Michener, have been named Co- Chairmen of the Canadian Foundation for Refugees. Other board members named were Conrad Black, Marcel Masse, Peter Bawden, A.Gordon Archibald. The Foundation was set up by the government to allow for donations to be made to assist, initially, Indochinese refugees. No target figure was set for the foundation’s fundraising efforts.

Activity Highlights

Its Called Kai Tai West – A visit by an Ontario Region immigration officer to Hong Kong’s most populous camp was reported on. Scott Mullin, an immigration officer working in Hong Kong took John Dunlop through the camp where he sat in on an interview and was impressed by camp conditions he described as “relatively good” despite the large numbers of people living there. **One Thousand through Longue Pointe in August:** During August 1020 passed through this Quebec staging centre, with about one third staying in Quebec, and others leaving for all many other provinces. **Immigration Workers Impressed with Refugees:** Several reports of immigration officers in Canada finding Indochinese refugees a joy to work with – they adapt well and are very eager to find work. **Life begins at Fifty-nine:** 59 year old Ly Si Nghi operated his own automotive equipment business in Hanoi before fleeing his country. A job offer from Suncoast Chrysler owner Bill van Westen in Sechelt, BC, was made and accepted, and the van Westens provided space in their own home until accommodation could be found for the family.

Provincial Focus: Manitoba- A “first” sponsorship agreement between the federal government and a committee, the Winnipeg Refugee Assistance Committee, was signed in September. WRAC will assess sponsorship applications and provide information on the process. **Ontario** – the critical role played by translators was highlighted. In Toronto, Mo Kei Wong is one of five full-time interpreters with Immigration Settlement. Multilingual, she sees as many as 30-40 people a day, sharing information on transit systems, government services. **New Brunswick:** Growing interest in refugee sponsorship has led to the formation of 30 New Brunswick sponsorship groups, many of them, church organizations. **Saskatchewan:** Enthusiastic as they adapt to their new homes, Indochinese refugees are praised by Canada Employment officer Ken Munshaw, an employment counselor. While advice and assistance is offered, increasing numbers are finding their own jobs in service, construction and garment industries. **British Columbia:** Vancouver Fire Department seminars on fire prevention have informed refugees on the hazards of smoking in bed, proper use of western cooking appliances and extinguishing grease fires as well as other dangers.

In the News: Vegreville: 36 Indochinese refugees arrived August 28, the first of 25 refugee families who will settle in this small Alberta town. Many will work at Ezee-On, a local farm machinery fabricating plant. **Montreal:** The Quebec government will donate \$100,000 to assist populations living in Cambodia under severe hardship. **Toronto:** Both **CTV** and **CBC** have produced documentaries on the plight of Indochinese refugees. The *Deadly Tide* was aired by CTV, examining political and social problems in SE Asia while CBC showed *My People are Dying*. **Windsor:** Cardinal Carter spoke at the Jewish Community Centre in September, and condemned bigotry that he called the “current of a closed mind”, saying that Asian refugees will bring a richness to Canada.

Questions and Answers - The concern about health care was the focus for this issue; When does health care coverage for refugees become effective? What, if any, are the premiums and who pays? Is there any difference between procedures for government and privately-sponsored refugees? What kind of coverage is available under the provincial health plans?

Statistics

Persons Arrived, January 1- August 17	7,703
Estimated Arrivals to Sept 19	2,543
Grand Total	10,246

Sponsorships as of Sept 14 - 2,821

Persons Sponsored - 15,482

This issue of the newsletter began with a report on an “unusual situation”. Due to the enthusiastic response of sponsoring groups and despite the priority given to processing privately-sponsored refugees, there are now more sponsoring groups awaiting refugees than there are refugees arriving. Minister Atkey explained that there are valid reasons for spacing the refugee arrivals over a two year period, as initially planned. Patience from refugee sponsoring groups was asked for, and at the same time, the Minister thanked and congratulated them for their compassion and generosity.

Activity Highlights: Update on the Canadian Foundation for Refugees- Minister Atkey met with the Foundation Co- Chairs and it is hoped that the secretariat will be in place in the near future. **Immigration Minister Visits Griesbach:** Mr. Atkey visited the staging area in Edmonton on September 20th. **Getting Ready for Sponsorship:** Due to a great response to this booklet produced by the Manitoba Region, it will be produced as a national publication, and will be a supplement to this issue of the newsletter. **Provinces Gear Up for Refugee Students:** Educators across the country are planning for the special needs of Indochinese students who may speak neither French nor English. BC feels its work with previous immigrant groups has left them well-prepared. Alberta’s school system has a program for teaching English, and little impact is expected. In Manitoba, an existing ESL program in Winnipeg will be adapted for Vietnamese students. Ontario has produced a kit with instructions for teaching English to refugees and will have experts advise school boards if needed. A leaflet will explain the school system for Vietnamese parents. In **Quebec**, the Montreal Catholic School Commission will provide welcoming classes for refugee students. No special educational programs will be developed in **New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland**, but individual issues will be dealt with as they emerge. **1,500 Refugees Through Griesbach in September** – the Reception Centre saw 1,500 refugees in September.

Provincial Focus: New Brunswick- two refugee families settling in Woodstock give priority to learning to communicate. Generous support has been offered the nine refugees. **Quebec** – the Quebec Department of Immigration has issued a folder, *Comment parrainer un réfugié au Québec*. A film describing living conditions in Malaysia’s Pulau Bidong camp can be borrowed from the Quebec Dept of Immigration. **Ontario** – settling in to Kitchener, a former English teacher, Quoc Ly, has been hired by a local aid group to teach English and co-ordinate refugee aid programs. Two success stories from Windsor were recounted. **Manitoba** – the Winnipeg fashion industry is providing jobs for newcomers – over 140 have been hired. **Alberta** – Alberta success stories were recounted, all part of growing evidence that Indochinese refugees are adapting quickly to their new surroundings.

In the News: Winnipeg – The Ukrainian Canadian Committee has signed a refugee sponsorship agreement with the federal government. Initially, attention will be on refugees from Eastern Europe who are in camps. **Montreal** – External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald paid tribute in a speech to the Canadian Club in Montreal, to the response of the Quebec government in dealing with the Indochinese issues. **St. Paul** – the RC Diocese of St. Paul, Alberta has signed a refugee sponsorship agreement. **Amherst berg** – Father Tom Lever has been instrumental in seeing three Indochinese brothers settle in the community, with a fourth, a bee-keeper due to arrive soon. **Halifax** – A link has been made between the immigration officials and the Citizens’ Participation section of the

Secretary of State. **Calgary** – 55 jobs were found by the Calgary CEC for refugee clients. Food service, retailing, construction and textiles, recreation and housekeeping were some of the jobs found. **Stratford** - \$12,000 was raised at a benefit concert of “Loves’s Labour Lost” by the Stratford Festival. **Hong Kong**- Speaker, James Jerome, returning from a parliamentary delegation trip to Hong Kong, said “Our performance (in resettling Indochinese refugees) is better than that of anybody else – especially on a per capita basis.” **Ottawa:** Employment and Immigration enforcement officer Ralph Mousaw is chairman of his church refugee committee. They raised \$14,000 and received a family of five in July.

Questions and Answers - Questions dealt with amendments to the federal government’s transportation loan program. Questions related to definitions of “adult, child and infant”, terms and conditions of repayment, where loan payments should be sent and when to begin.

Statistics Persons Arrived, January 1- August 24 – 8,486
Estimate Arrivals, August 24 – September 26 - 10,852
Refugee Sponsorship as of September 21 – 3,122
Persons Sponsored - 17,147

Vol 1 , No.12, October 3, 1979

This newsletter brought news that the publication schedule would shift to every two weeks, rather than every week.

Activity Highlights: TB Among Refugees No Health Threat – Health officials at provincial and federal levels have differing views on the number of Indochinese who have entered the country with tuberculosis, but all agree that the health threat is non-existent, as all refugees would be treated before arrival in Canada that would render TB non-infectious. Dr. Earl Hershfield, executive director of the Canadian Lung Association predicted that Indochinese refugees would account for only a small percentage of the 3,000 cases of TB reported annually in Canada. **Refugee Program Costs** - Employment and Immigration Minister Ron Atkey released preliminary figures of the costs of the Indochinese refugee program for the federal government – estimating \$117 million or \$2300 per refugee. Resettlement and language training were the largest cost items, each at close to \$20M. **Characteristics of the Refugee Movement** –Data from a Canada Employment and Immigration study gave a profile of the movement of Indochinese refugees, at the seven and a half-month mark. Those under 20 years of age were a little more than half of those arriving in the first 7.5 months. Those under 18 made up 36 percent of the 8,486 total. Nearly 57% of the primary school age children and 14 % of the secondary school age had no formal education. Of the principal applicants or heads of family, 73 % had only secondary education or less. With respect to language facility, about 39% of the principal applicants had English or French abilities. **Minister Speaks in Montreal and Toronto** - in each place, his address stressed his pride in the response of Canadians to “this tremendous challenge”. **Jobs and Money for the Refugees** - A significant donation has been made by the United Autoworkers of America (\$12,000) to assist Operation Lifeline in Toronto. Announcing this, Howard Adelman, also confirmed that employers in the Toronto metropolitan area have made offers of 1,856 jobs for Indochinese Refugees. 60% of these are for unskilled workers.

Letter of Appreciation – A refugee family who passed through Edmonton’s Griesbach Barracks wrote a very appreciative letter...”your kindness, your understanding and friendship made us feel like a long lost child returning to a mother. Here was no uneasy feeling or strange feeling to make us feel out of place or cheap. At this special moment I can sense the path before me is wide and unobstructed. This is really my home- Canada.”

The letter was signed by La Chuong Han. **Tenth Time Lucky** - Emily Wong (Vietnamese name, Emily Nu Nuynh) is now a secretary with the Brock House Society, an activity centre for seniors. She arrived in Vancouver on May 2, this being her tenth (and final) attempt to escape Vietnam. She has become a highly effective speaker, detailing her experience in Pulau Bidong refugee camp.

Tibetan Refugee Aid Society – this society, formed over 17 years ago to assist Tibetans who were forced to flee their country, has decided to launch a campaign to raise \$ 80,000 to assist Indochinese and sponsor families.

Provincial Focus: British Columbia – a wonderful story about a taxi driver bringing an Indochinese family from the airport to the Immigrant Reception Centre in Vancouver, and upon arrival, the driver refused payment, instead putting bills into the hands of the father of the family... “Here’s some lucky money, I hope you have a good life in Canada”. The driver was an immigrant from Hungary who escaped in 1956, Ignaz Bing. **Saskatchewan**- Employment counselor, Ann Maaland, working at the Estevan Canada Employment Centre, has been given a \$1000 Public Service Award for her work with refugees – “performance at an unusually high level”. **Ontario** – The Ministry of Education has made extra efforts to accommodate refugees – by naming a coordinator for Indochinese resettlement, by setting up a communications network with contact persons within each school board and by designating a person to be responsible for orientation of refugees to the local school system. Fact sheets and resource materials have aided teachers receiving refugees. **Quebec** - A new transition centre for Vietnamese boat people has been set up by the Immigration department in Montreal. **Nova Scotia** - Sponsorship activity is taking place at all 50 parishes in the province.

In the News: Saint Paul University in Ottawa is holding a French-language symposium on the refugee problem. CIDA, CIC and the UNHCR will be involved. **Bridgewater, NS**, declared two months as “refugee months” to share information and fund-raise. **Toronto** – a letter to the Globe and Mail from four Canadian religious leaders decried the National Citizens’ Coalition ads questioning the acceptance of 50,000 Indochinese refugees. **Leamington** – Canada Farm Labour Pool annually calls for workers, and often has trouble finding enough to do the work collecting tomatoes from the fields. This year, Indochinese refugees took the work – 13 the first day, 21 the second, and more on each successive day. **Saint John** – the President of Rotary International has called on all Rotarians in Canada and world wide, to aid the refugees of SE Asia.

Statistics:

Persons Arrived - January 1- August 24, 1979 -	8,486
Estimated Arrivals – Aug 24- October 3	5,404
Grand Total	10,852
Persons sponsored	17,147
Sponsorships	3,122

Employment and Immigration Minister Ron Atkey announced on October 1 that agreement had been reached with Ontario to accept up to 400 unaccompanied minors. Sponsorship can be used, although only one person or family would take on guardianship. The Immigration Regulations will be changed to ensure the legal commitment is binding until the child reaches 18. This agreement helps many who might have been left behind in camps.

Activity Highlights: Canada has done more – The Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Murray Maclehoose, says Canada has done more than any other nation to aid Indochinese refugees. On a visit to Canada, he thanked Canada for the “lead they have given ... in helping to solve the problem”.
Sponsorship Kit from Edmonton - a kit developed by a group of citizens will be used throughout Alberta. It features a one hour cassette of interviews of a Vietnamese refugee, a sponsoring family and an immigration office. **Accueil Parrainage Outaouais** – this group has been formed to help in the co-ordination of various groups involved in sponsorship. **Vancouver Pamphlet helps refugee workers** – this paper prepared by the Vancouver Task Force on Vietnamese Refugees to background information on cultural and societal issues that impact on refugees’ responses upon arrival in Canada. **Canadian Asian Studies Association** – a national society operating out of Carleton University has a wealth of background information on Southeast Asia and is ready to offer it’s expertise to Canadians.

Provincial Focus: Newfoundland and Labrador – Labrador City welcomed two families recently, and it is reported that the Mennihek Committee for the Boat People is pleased with their progress in settling in. **Nova Scotia** –The Roman Catholic Diocese of Antigonish became the second in the province to sign a sponsorship agreement. There is interest from the Anglican Diocese as well. **New Brunswick** – 30 groups in NB are actively sponsoring groups or intend to. **Quebec** – Robert Lapointe, a Foreign Service Liaison Officer in the Quebec Region, has formed a sponsorship group with thirty friends and each will play an active role with their family – organizing themselves like a “government department” with a Reception Dept, a Finance Dept, Consumer Dept. etc. When the family of Lam Vinh Tuong arrived, the group was very prepared to receive them. **Ontario** – The Ontario Conference of the Seventh –Day Adventist Church signed an agreement to sponsor refugees. **Saskatchewan** – the largest single group of Indochinese destined for Saskatchewan arrived in Regina on September 26th. Many sponsors were there to welcome them. **Yukon** – many caring people are helping refugees settle. One woman came in from her home in the bush to offer a hand made quilt, because they could not sponsor anyone, living where they did.

In the News: Mayor Jean Pelletier of Quebec City has offered \$20,000 per year to a welcoming committee helping SE Asian refugees. In **Montreal**, the Berthiaume du Tremblay Foundation donated \$200,000 to Montreal’s Diocesan Fund for Indochinese refugees. In **Ottawa**, Lily Schreyer, wife of the Governor General, joined the Board of Directors of Project 4000.

Statistics: Persons Arrived, January 1- September 21, 1979 - 10,048
Estimated Arrivals – September 21 – October 17th - 3,454

Sponsorships	3,243	Persons Sponsored	17,798
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in October 1979, Parliamentary Secretary, Paul McCrossan announced that Canada would open its doors to more of the “difficult” cases found in the Indochinese camps. Working with provinces, these cases will include TB cases, where medical treatment can be offered; unaccompanied minors, where homes can be found, and families whose large numbers might make settling more difficult as well as families with one member having a handicap. Some of these may be received by groups of sponsors where joint government and private sponsors help might be needed.

Operation Lifeline Conference in Toronto Many of those involved in the Indochinese Refugee movement in Canada, gathered at the University of Toronto for October 19-20th, 1979. Government representatives, university researchers, the UN, non – profit service providers, and medical practitioners all met to discuss various aspects of the movement of refugees to Canadian communities. Integration, education and employment were all discussed. A round table discussion on government policy was animated by CBC host, Barbara Frum. Speakers included Hon Ron Atkey, Hon Robert Andras, Robert Kaplan, and Paul McCrossan. Howard Adelman, Director of Operation Lifeline, and a York University professor, spoke about the benefits of private sponsorship, as a counterweight to those who feared the impact of 50,000 refugees’ arrival in Canada. Freda Hawkins, a University of Toronto professor spoke of the international perspective of other countries participating in the Indochinese movement. UNHCR representative, Raymond Terrillon outlined the UNHCR role and Gerald Dirks, from Brock University also spoke about the UN role. Operation Lifeline produced a report on the conference that was publicly available.

Special Service offered by Catholic Family Services in Toronto - The Catholic Family Services will put in place a special 12 person unit to respond to problems facing Indochinese refugees relating to culture, health or lodging.

A look at the history of the Canadian welcome to Indochinese refugees - a short summary of the movement of Indochinese, beginning in 1975 with some parents of Vietnamese and Cambodian Canadians. In May 1975, Cabinet decided to admit up to 2,000 who were evacuated to the US following the fall of Southern Vietnamese government. In 1976, after a UNHCR appeal, Canada agreed to accept 180 from the sea,. A further 450 persons were authorized in 1977. In 1979, more precise contributions were made – 5,000 government assisted , which later increased to 8000, with additional numbers to be sponsored by groups or families. As problems increased, in July 1979, Cabinet authorized the admission of 50,000 before the end of 1980. This was in addition to the 8,000 previously approved and 42,000 others to come under joint sponsorship, allowing the government to sponsor one refugee for every one sponsored by the private sector.

US Survey on Indochinese Adaptation - A study done by Darrel Montero of the University of Maryland, looked at 145,000 Indochinese refugees who have settled in the US. Indications are that they are settling well. While many were employed below the level they enjoyed previously, most were increasing their earning levels, and not relying on social security.

Vietnamese Cellist in Toronto A 25 year old Vietnamese cellist, former member of the Hanoi Symphony, arrived with his brother, also a talented musician. M. Ngo Can Tuong, through the auspices of Mr. C. A Allen, a Canada Employment and Immigration officer, was given a meeting with the principal cellist of the Toronto Symphony. There was a possibility of a scholarship for the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Provincial Focus: Prince Edward Island – Employment and Immigration Canada is collaborating with medical authorities of PEI to ensure medical assessment and follow-up of all refugees from Indochina arriving in the province. A medical exam will be given within 24 hours of the arrival. If treatment is needed, the file will be shared with the immigrant or the doctor to do

follow-up. **Nova Scotia-** By mid October, 40 groups have plans to sponsor 180 refugees. **Quebec-** This province has established its own sponsorship program, with 302 groups applying to sponsor 1510 refugees. Quebec will give a \$400 grant to each sponsoring group. Settlement services will be offered through the COFI (Centres d'orientation et de formation des immigrants). **Ontario-** In London, Ontario, several groups collaborated to offer a series of information sessions for those sponsoring refugees. **Saskatchewan-** Community colleges are offering lots of choices for English as a Second Language classes. 75% of the students are Indochinese refugees.

Alberta- Stories of successful sponsorship are reported from Fort MacMurray and Hinton. **British Columbia-** Terrace has welcomed 19 new arrivals, and 10 of the adults have already found jobs.

In the News - UNICEF Canada and the Red Cross are launching a campaign to raise funds for food, medicine and other help for Cambodian children, threatened by famine. In **Toronto**, the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church collected \$29,135 to assist families settling in the Toronto region. **Regina** – Open Door Regina is offering a program to help refugees adapt to winter. **Belfountain** - a small village mounted a Lifeline Monte Carlo night to raise funds for the two families of Indochinese refugees now part of the community. Eddie Shack, a hockey figure, was MC for the night. **Montreal** - Radio station CFMB, a multilingual station, added a half hour program in Vietnamese, its 24th language. **Ottawa** - 300 joined together for an evening organized by the Chinese Community Association – refugees, their sponsors and Marion Dewar, Mayor and Project 4000 supporter.

Questions and Answers The issue explored was the Family Allowance, and who was eligible.

Statistics	Arrivals January 1- September 21	10,048
	Estimated arrivals Sept 21-Oct 31	5,912
	Grand Total	13,502

Sponsorship 3,646	Persons Sponsored	19,897
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Volume 1, No. 15, November 15, 1979

In November, 1979, External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald announced a \$15M pledge to help relief efforts for victims of a serious famine in Cambodia, tripling Canada's contribution. This was in response to a \$110M appeal by UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Activity Highlights Matching Update -A new system for matching refugees with sponsor groups will result in more efficiency, with a matching centre that deals with passenger lists of upcoming flights, to have them matched at the time of touch-down in Canada. This results in less lead time for sponsoring groups, but helps to reduce delays for refugees. The objective was to reduce the time officers needed sending telexes updating Canada about any changes happening to refugees waiting to come to Canada, and more time interviewing refugees.

Immigration Officials Tour Southeast Asia In mid-September, two senior officers, JC Best, Executive Director of Immigration and Demographic Policy and W.K. Bell, Deputy Executive Director, traveled to Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Thailand. They hoped to gain first-hand knowledge of the realities of the movement. **Hong Kong-** The Governor of Hong Kong praised Canada as a model, setting standards of efficiency for other resettlement countries. Hong Kong was operating 16 refugee camps, with 60,000 refugees. Some 11,000 of these were able to find employment in Hong

Kong. **Malaysia** - The visit included Palau Bidong, on Bidong Island, which housed 26-27,000 refugees, where all supplies have to be brought in by sea. Also visited was Cherating camp. Here 7500 refugees lived under trying conditions. As well, they were favourably impressed with Cheras Convent transit camp, near Kuala Lumpur, which held those ready to begin their journeys. Mr. Best praised immigration staff in Malaysia – they work 7-day weeks, endure harsh conditions and frustrations, but continue to deal with the needs of thousands. **Thailand** Kirk Bell and JC Best met with the Chairman of Thailand’s Security Council, Air Vice-Marshal Siddhi, who expressed deep appreciation for the growing Canadian effort in his country. 166,000 refugees were in Thai camps, most from Laos and Cambodia, and some from the hill tribes, the Hmong. At Nonghai, 39,000 Laotian refugees made up the largest Laotian community in the area.

In summarizing the value of the trip, Mr. Best expressed how impressed he was with the “tremendous work” being done by our staff in SE Asia, and said they have “ set an example and developed a reputation for Canada that is going to stand for a very long time.” **Almost 2,300 School- Age Indochinese in Canada** - One quarter of the 8,823 Indochinese who arrived in the first 8 months of 1979 were school aged children: 1,122 were between 6-12, while the remainder of the 2273 were between ages 13-17. **Winnipeg’s Refugee Assistance Committee** produced a publication “Help Sponsor A Refugee Family”. **Saint John and District Refugee Aid Association** has raised more than \$12,000, collected a warehouse full of furniture, clothes and household goods, created a job bank and apartment finding service, and been involved in language training and volunteer counseling to help refugees. 16 groups have approved sponsorship applications, with 8 others underway. **Notre- Dame-des- Laurentides.**, north of Quebec city, will celebrate its 75th anniversary by resettling two refugee families.

Provincial Focus: Alberta - The rapid influx of Indochinese refugees into Alberta has meant heavy workloads for the Canada Employment Centres in the province. A group of counselors help refugees settle in their community. Calgary counsellor, Ted Friesen was given a merit award for his work assisting refugees. **Quebec** - A Quebec government program will allow unaccompanied minors to come to Quebec under guardianship. Four organizations signed agreements, and this will allow families to take responsibility for the minors until they reach the age of majority.

In the News: In **Cornerbrook, Newfoundland**, radio station CFCB raised \$7200 during a pledge day for sponsorships. In **Charlottetown**, a baby born to Vietnamese refugees was the first born in Canada. **Montreal** - The **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace** has contributed \$50,000 towards a shipload of medical supplies and food for refugees in Cambodia. As well, \$25,000 will be used to help with widespread disease and starvation. **Toronto** - Refugees have received almost 2000 job offers more than they can fill. Fewer than 5% are unemployed. **Winnipeg** - 400 people attended a sponsorship workshop offered by the Mennonite Central Committee. **Alberta-** The Council of Lions Clubs of Alberta will assist in resettlement through a project that will assist and orient refugees who are newly arrived.

Statistics

Persons Arrived January 1- October 7	12, 845
Estimated arrivals –Oct7-Nov 15	5,546
Grand Total	18,391

Refugees Sponsored	22,706	Sponsorships	4,165
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Canada is making efforts to increase the number of Cambodians coming to Canada as part of the Indochinese refugee program. However, circumstances may lead to little increase in the short term, with an emphasis on the \$15 million relief aid that Canada has pledged, and assistance to the International Red Cross by adding supplies to the charter that currently goes to Bangkok to pick up refugees. Cambodian refugees in camps in Thailand, 15,000, have been offered resettlement in the USA. In the early summer months, 40-50,000 more Cambodians fled to Thailand, but were returned. However, the outward flow continues. Canada's priority will be to reunite families.

Activity Highlights This edition of the newsletter contained a special feature – “*Indochinese – The Health Issue*”. **Minister visits Longue Pointe**- Minister Ron Atkey, and Deputy Minister Doug Love visited the Longue Pointe staging area. During the tour, a CEIC information office, Claude Bourget, met a Cambodian friend who had attended McGill University. **Americans Laud Canada's Refugee Program** - In an American Public Welfare Association newsletter, a two-part feature on Canada's refugee program talked of “streamlined efficiency and humanitarian concern”. The article touched on Canada's ability to reduce by half, the paperwork required of officers processing refugees. They also made note of the flexibility afforded officers in their decision-making – “the old and the disabled ... are not refused admission simply because they cannot work.” As well, they spoke of the interest-free transportation loan program – noting that immigrants have a “stake in their resettlement”. **Clothing Issue** - Indochinese refugees arriving at Griesbach Barracks in Edmonton are outfitted with basic winter wardrobes. Those going farther north receive additional protection. Extra articles, donated, are also available. **The Iowa Refugee Service Center** The US resettlement program is largely a federal program, however Iowa is the one state directly involved with its own program, and has developed many approaches that are similar to the Canadian model, with sponsors, and support for a goal of self-sufficiency. **Immigration Official speaks at Vancouver Conference** - Immigration Officer, Ian Hamilton, who served during a very intense period in Malaysia, told the Annual Conference of the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian studies that he was not prepared for the degree of human suffering he encountered in SE Asia. He found it “overwhelming” to see the thousands of helpless refugees in the camps and in boats. He spent 18 hours a day, interviewing, moved by the need he saw. When he first arrived in Malaysia in 1977 there were 3600 boat people. When he left in July, 1979, there were 59,000. **Information on the Cambodians and Laotians** - the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Council, USA has prepared useful publications with information for those sponsoring Cambodians and Laotians, touching on culture, religion, family structure etc. **It Happened in Winnipeg** – In mid-October, Quoc Chu, father of six arrived in Winnipeg with his wife and five of his children. The sixth child, a 19 year old had become separated, and unknown to the family, had been sent to Winnipeg. When Quoc Chu arrived at the International Centre, he inquired about his son – and a sharp-eyed interpreter, Rebecca Lai, managed to recognize the family resemblance, and put the family back together.

Provincial Focus -Alberta – The City of Edmonton gave a \$15,000 grant to the Chinese Community Services Centre, to help with the expansion of its refugee program. This is the first time the city has directed financial assistance to refugees, but other aid agencies may apply.

Saskatchewan -The Mennonite Central Committee in Saskatchewan has been very active in sponsoring refugees – as of early November, 59 church and other groups had applied to sponsor 72 families or 400 refugees. At least 30 families have already arrived. **Quebec** - More than \$100,000

was raised in the first day of a province-wide campaign in Quebec to raise funds to help Cambodian refugees. The money will be sent to the Quebec section of the International Red Cross. **Nova Scotia** - In Halifax, a Vietnamese association has been formed. It will distribute clothing and other goods, and will provide interpretation services. **Newfoundland and Labrador** – As of November 2nd, 15 sponsored families have arrived in the province, while 49 government-sponsored have also been settled.

In the News -Several hundred Ottawa children raised over \$1,000 through car washes and other means related to the city’s Summer Fun Program. The money will help refugees in Cherating refugee camp in Malaysia. **Kuala Lumpur** – the 10,000th Vietnamese refugee from Malaysia to be resettled in Canada left Kuala Lumpur November 10th. **Geneva** – The United Nations will set up a temporary centre in the Philippines to house up to 50,000 refugees.

Questions and Answers – The issue dealt with in this issue was the heavy emphasis Canada is putting on settling Indochinese people.

Statistics -

Persons Arrived -	January 1- November 2	16,277
Estimated arrivals –	November 2- 30	4,746
Grand Total		21,023
Persons sponsored	25,059	Sponsorships 4,622

Volume 1, No. 17, December 13, 1979

This volume opens with seasonal greetings from Minister Ron Atkey, and he underlines that “the year 1979 will be remembered as the year Canada’s humanitarian capacity was mobilized and put to work in a manner unparalleled in our history.” He thanked the public in Canada for their generous support in the goal of bringing 50,000 Indochinese. Gratitude was also expressed for the provinces and the staff of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. He noted that “new concepts of service and action” have emerged, demonstrating that “partnership.. can respond effectively to the needs of suffering people”. He closes with “everyone who has served on the ‘front lines’ of this refugee program has made this year a symbol of hope and of new beginnings for so many unfortunate people.”

The remainder of the issue is an overview “The Quiet Victory” touching on the highlights of the past year from the perspective of Operations, Impact, New Directions for 1980, a provincial roundup, It included a special article written by Leo Verboven “Through the eyes of an Immigration Officer”. Leo focused on his work in the refugee camps in Thailand – he describes quite vividly the experiences of interviewing many different ethnic groups – there were camps for Vietnamese, Laotians, Cambodian, Khmers, and Hmong and Yao (Hill-tribe people). Leo concludes by saying “Considering the never-ending crushes of people and the unremitting scenes of camp life—children playing in open sewers, hospitals without beds, and people generally living in conditions far worse than any slums I could imagine --- the refugees zest for life, continuing sense of humour, strong family ties and sheer determination are amazing. And it is these qualities in the people that makes

immigration officers feel that the work we do is worthwhile". In a summary of the sponsorship experience, Helen Rattray, a member of Glenwood United Church in Windsor, Ontario wrote "our commitment to the Vietnamese project has grown considerably... we now have 18 people we are sponsoring and three we are co-sponsoring... this family have become by nature of our sponsorship, part of our church family, but we have also become their family. They share their hopes, aspirations, frustrations and anxieties with us and let us share their celebrations. Our lives have been enriched by this experience as, I'm sure, have theirs."

Indochinese Refugee Statistics

Persons Arrived, January 1- November 1979 - 18,879

Vietnam	14,979
Kampuchea	702
Laos	2485
Others	713

Government Sponsored	10,043
Group sponsored	8,221
Relative sponsored	615

Estimated Arrivals – November 15 – Dec 31,	4329 -
Grand total -	23,208

Volume 11, No.1, January 24, 1980
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Employment and Immigration Minister Ron Atkey announced that the 50,000 refugees Canada pledged to bring to Canada will have arrived by the end of October 1980. This has been possible due to the unprecedented response from voluntary groups, coupled with a streamlined selection and processing system abroad. 27,000 refugees have been brought to Canada in a ten month period, with charter and regular flights. During 1980, 10,800 refugees will come from camps in Thailand, 8,600 from Singapore (selected in Indonesia), 4,600 from Hong Kong and 2,800 from Malaysia. Of the 26,800 arrivals expected, 15,900 will be destined to Eastern Canada and 10,900 for Western Canada. The overwhelming response to the request for private sponsorship groups to welcome 21,000 refugees has meant we have gone beyond this original target. Minister Atkey, following consultations with the provinces and others, decided to maintain the overall 50,000 intake, but to respond to the assistance of the voluntary groups, allowing them to help more than 21,000, with the government offering financial assistance to those with demonstrated need. The Minister also stated that Canada has pledged \$15 million to a major aid program to assist Kampuchean who have fled to Thailand, who are thought to be best assisted as a group in Asia.

Activity Highlights - Cardinal Leger, co-chair of the Canadian Foundation for Refugees, toured for eight days the refugee camps in Thailand and returned profoundly moved by the suffering. **Health Status of Southeast Asian Refugees** - this extensive article was written by Dr J. S. Keystone, Director of Tropical Disease Unit at Toronto General Hospital. It provides a comprehensive overview of the health issues affecting Southeast Asian refugees. It deals with risks

posed, need for medical screening, and medical problems that sponsoring families can anticipate. **American Praise Canadian Enthusiasm** – In the second of a two-part feature on Canada’s refugee program, the American Public Welfare Association finds a “high degree of enthusiasm and personal motivation” on the part of voluntary groups in Canada and the staff of Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. **Language Teachers offer more than Words** – language learning is an essential part of integrating into Canadian life – and language teachers find themselves acting in a number of additional roles to help immigrants. Often trusted contacts to help communicate with landlords, employers and institutions, or to help unravel a problem. Students often keep in touch long after their courses are completed. **Money Raised in Quebec for Cambodian Refugees** - Mouvement Desjardins led a two week campaign which raised \$719,000 for the International Red Cross work with Cambodian refugees living along the border with Thailand. In addition, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Peace and Development have donated and delivered supplies worth \$150,000 to Cambodia. **Toronto Interagency Project** has seen seven agencies and organizations in Toronto join together to be more effective in delivering services and programs for Southeast Asian refugees. **A Community in action** - St Jerome, Quebec has been very involved in welcoming 60 refugees from SE Asia. A Diocesan committee, the city and the CEGEP, a hotel and many residents, and students have planned special activities. To thank the community, the Vietnamese prepared a special meal for all those involved in welcoming them. **Czech Refugee Remembers** - a former refugee himself, Paul Calda, the city manager for Halifax, recalls the difficulty he had with technical language learning, and is sympathetic to the challenges ahead for the Vietnamese refugees.

In the News - New York – Canada has increased its contribution to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees by 12.5 %, contributing \$2.25 million in 1980. **Geneva** - French President Valéry Giscard d’Estaing spoke upon receiving the Nansen Award from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, calling for resettlement of refugees in the same area of the world as their home countries. **Montreal** – at a mid-November conference of North American Jewish Federations, the US Secretary of Health, Patricia Harris, stated that Canada is the world leader in taking refugees from SE Asia. **Hauterive-** In the Quebec region of Manicouagan, a committee has been set up to welcome SE Asian refugees. Nine groups have been formed and they will welcome about 50 refugees. **Toronto** - The Ontario Public School Men teachers’ Federation has budgeted \$30,000 in matching funds to help settle refugees in Ontario. **Ottawa** - Five SE Asian journalists recently made a tour of Canada, including a visit to the staging centre at Griesbach.

Indochinese Refugee Statistics

Persons Arrived January 1- December 29, 1979		23,583
Estimated arrival January 1- January 31, 1980		4,800
Grand Total		28,383
Sponsorships as of January 18, 1980	5,766	Persons sponsored 31,963

Volume 11, No.2, February 14, 1980

Employment and Immigration Minister, Ron Atkey announced that \$1,310,000 will be available to strengthen the work of the voluntary, non-profit organizations who are working to help Indochinese refugees adapt and integrate to Canada. A granting program of \$710,000 will immediately help with administrative costs of the non-profit

organizations which are not receiving support through the Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation (ISAP) program. Complementing this grant program is an additional \$600,000 to ISAP for purchase of additional services such as interpretation and counseling.

Activity Highlights - Mistakes Happen - Employment and Immigration Canada has inadvertently mailed over 700 transportation loan repayment notices to refugees in care of their sponsors. These should be ignored and a second letter will follow, explaining the repayment procedure and steps to be followed. This is a routine letter sent to refugees after one month in Canada. **Resettlement of Disadvantaged Refugees in Canada** - CEIC has begun discussions with the provinces and master and joint agreement holders to develop a program to settle Indochinese refugees needing a high level of support. A working paper will kick off the discussion. **A Day at Sakeo Refugee Camp** – Marc Landry, a Counsellor (Development) at the Canadian Embassy in Bangkok was one of 12 Canadian volunteers who went to Sakeo Refugee Camp in Thailand last October, in response to a UNHCR request for workers. Mr. Landry wrote a dramatic account of his time in this camp, where there was no infrastructure established, and hundreds of Kampuchean arrivals arrived every hour. He took part in putting up shelter for a hospital area, a challenge with mud, very ill patients and rudimentary conditions in the extreme.

Canadian Citizenship - the basics of Citizenship were outlined to give sponsors and refugees a clear sense of who is eligible, the timing of eligibility and the process that will be followed. **It's a Privilege, Says Sponsor** – To refugee families, the assistance provided by sponsorship groups is crucial. From the perspective of the sponsorship group, what they do allows them many benefits – working together to help those in need, satisfaction of seeing families start to settle in so well. Most consider it a real privilege to work with their new Indochinese friends. **Refugees Adjusting to Life in North** - A Yellowknife sponsor group, World Neighbours of Yellowknife, a group of four local families, have seen good adjustment for the family of Chinh Van Hai, his wife and six children. As well, a brother-in-law, with a six year old son has been welcomed. All have been learning English, attending school and both men have found work at the Gold Range Café. **Celebrating Tet in Saskatchewan** - Tet, the New Year celebrated by the Indochinese people, takes place in late January or early February. In Estevan, Saskatchewan, Ann Maaland, an officer with Indochinese refugees, has become well-acquainted with customs and traditions of the Indochinese, and she notes that Tet is the most important holiday of the year for them. **Food Talk** – a background note on rice, the important staple of the Indochinese diet.

In the News

Edmonton –An Air Canada stewardess working on charter flights bringing refugees from Singapore to Canada has gone beyond the scope of her job – she has collected clothes, persuaded Air Canada to take 12 boxes from Vancouver to Edmonton, where they were distributed at the Griesbach staging centre. **Winnipeg** – A series of six video programs were produced by Doreen Old of the International Centre's Consumer Help Office in Winnipeg, focus on Survival – Outdoor Clothing. **Canberra** – an Australian Refugee Advisory Council has been established to enable government to receive expert advice on the resettlement of refugees and displaced persons in Australia.

Questions and Answers - Questions and answers clarify the relationship between the annual immigration levels, the refugee resettlement plan and the selection criteria point system. It explains that the Indochinese Refugee Program was not a part of the Annual Refugee Plan, but was the result of unanticipated, extraordinary circumstances.

Indochinese Refugee Statistics

Persons Arrived January 1, 1979 – January 4, 1980

Vietnam	18,586	Government Sponsored	11,193
Kampuchea	1,160	Group- Sponsored	12,618
Laos	3,799	Relative-sponsored	770
Others	1,036		
TOTAL	24,581	TOTAL	24,581

Estimated Arrivals, January 4- February 29, 1980 - 9,652

Grand Total 34,233

Refugee Sponsorships 6,003 Persons Sponsored 33,114

Summary prepared by Martha Nixon(2012-13)