



Public Policy that is Proudly Canadian: 40 years of Private Refugee Sponsorship

V. Peter Harder

Senator Harder is the Government Representative in the Senate.

It felt like a family reunion.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the signing of the first “Master Agreement for the Sponsorship of Refugees”, I hosted a gathering of extraordinary Canadians, all of whom can consider themselves nation builders.

It was in 1979 when the Mennonite Central Committee signed an agreement with the Government of Canada to streamline the sponsorship process that allowed groups of individual Canadians to step up and respond to the urgent humanitarian crisis taking place in Southeast Asia by sponsoring refugees and helping them settle in Canada.

It answered the question so many Canadians were asking, as they witnessed the plight of hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing war and danger in small boats and over land: What can I do to help?

The first master agreement itself was negotiated and implemented very quickly. By August 1979, just five months after the signing of the agreement, 28 national church organizations had signed their own master agreements. At the end of 1979, some 5,500 sponsorships had been received for more than 29,000 refugees, surpassing the initial target of 21,000 set by the government.

In the Salon of the Speaker of the Senate, I, with the Speaker of the Senate, the Hon. George Furey, welcomed retired public servants, representatives of faith groups and community organizations, and academics, all of whom played a role in the development of Canada’s private sponsorship program—from drafting or negotiating the first agreement, to ensuring its implementation, to helping refugees settle in Canada, to promoting private sponsorship around the world.



Gordon Barnett (left) was the Government of Canada negotiator of the 1979 Master Agreement. Bill Janzen (centre) represented the Mennonite Central Committee.

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The Hon. V. Peter Harder, Government Representative in the Senate

“As a former public servant and now as a senator, I hold a profound belief that government can be an agent of good.”



Speaker of the Senate, the Hon. George Furey

“What is so wonderful about the Master Agreement is that it demonstrates just how extraordinary ordinary Canadians can be—Canadians who come together, who mobilize their communities and who commit to helping the most desperate and vulnerable people in the world: refugees.”

Guests heard from the Speaker of the Senate the Hon. George Furey, former prime minister the Right Hon. Joe Clark, Minister of Immigration the Hon. Ahmed Hussen, and Ms. Barbara Gamble, who worked closely with the late Marion Dewar, former mayor of Ottawa, a leader who showed how local governments play a pivotal part in welcoming newcomers.

After speeches, guests nibbled on Vietnamese snacks and caught up with each other’s news, before heading into the Prime Ministers’ gallery of the Senate Chamber to hear Senators’ statements, several of which focused on this important anniversary.



Barbara Gamble, Project 4000: “Those thousands of people in Ottawa who listened to their hearts and welcomed and embraced newcomers have changed lives, this city and Canada for the better, and forever.”

In my remarks, I underlined the extraordinary efforts of the government of the day, led by the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, to deliver on its commitment to welcome to Canada refugees from war-torn Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Public servants in Canada and across Southeast Asia showed creativity and compassion, travelling to 70 distant camps on beaches, islands and jungle clearings across seven countries to identify eligible candidates.

For the past 40 years, thanks to the Master Agreement, Canadians have had a chance to help others fleeing war and displacement find a safe home and a new beginning for themselves and their families. To date, 327,000 privately sponsored refugees now call Canada home.

Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Facilitator of the Independent Senators Group, recalled in his speech in the Chamber how shortly after arriving as a foreign student in Metchosin, British Columbia, he was enlisted by the local Anglican Church to be part of a welcoming party for a family of Vietnamese refugees.

Senator Ratna Omidvar, Scroll Manager of the Independent Senators Group reminded senators that the private sponsorship of refugees—a “made-in-Canada idea”—now serves as a model for other countries.

Barbara Gamble spoke about the individuals and groups who contributed to Ottawa’s Project 4000 in 1979. She recalled the response of 3,000 Ottawans who packed Lansdowne Park’s Civic Centre halls with compassion and goodwill to take collective action on behalf of refugees around the planet. Between 1979 and 1981, more than 300 private sponsor groups were created in Ottawa, eventually helping over 3,600 Southeast Asian refugees settle in the region. That number grew to 6,000 by the close of Project 4000 as a result of facilitated family reunification sponsorships.

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark congratulated the “bold and creative faith communities and civil society and public service who were such driving forces in achieving this master agreement.” He reminded listeners of the parliamentary debate and cross-country hearings which resulted in an all-party consensus in parliament to change Canadian law and open the world’s way to citizen sponsorship of refugees. He spoke with pride of former ministers of his government, including the Hon. Flora Macdonald and the Hon. Ron



The Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Atkey, who implemented this master agreement.

But mostly, the former prime minister wanted to underline the fact that in those transforming months of 1979, the role of his government was not so much to lead Canadians, as it was to respond to Canadians’ extraordinary generosity and sense of community.

In unscripted, personal remarks, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship the Hon. Ahmed Hussen, recalled his experience arriving in Canada as a refugee with his family. He spoke of the generosity of his high school track and field team who made him feel welcome and raised funds to ensure that he too had a team jacket.

Every speaker thanked those present for their lifelong work to help Canada receive refugees and to help newcomers settle into their new country. But few present for this event thought they were doing anything other than what anyone else would do for someone in need. That humility and sense of humanity, which I consider the hallmark of any hero, was the common bond amongst the special guests I was so pleased—and proud—to bring together to mark this historic agreement. Canadians can look at the private

sponsorship of refugees agreement with pride and know that this made-in-Canada public policy has made Canada, and the world, a better place.

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark: “It was a transforming ‘citizens’ moment’, both for the new Canadians who came and for the traditional Canadians who welcomed and sponsored them.

This was Canada-wide and enduring—a more vivid demonstration of who we are than our GDP, or our Olympic victories, or the other conventional sources of our identity and pride.”

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 17 October 2019

The 2019 CIHS annual general meeting will be held at St. Anthony’s Soccer Club, 523 St. Anthony Street, Ottawa. St. Anthony Street runs off Preston immediately north of the Highway 417 overpass.

The club is wheelchair accessible and has free parking.

Our Guest Speaker will be Yasir Naqvi, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship.

A cash bar will be open at 6:00 pm, and the meeting will come to order at 7:00 pm.

The meeting will be accompanied by an excellent Italian buffet at the cost of \$40. Students are particularly welcome and pay half price. We are looking forward to greeting new members and old and extend a special invitation to any members from outside the National Capital Region who happen to be in Ottawa.

Please RSVP rgirard09@gmail.com, info@cihs-shic.ca or call 613-241-0166.

CBC interview: Hector Cowan Remembering Chornobyl

On 20 May 2019, CBC published its [interview](#) of CIHS member Hector Cowan. It focused on his recollections of helping a group of Canadian students leave the disaster zone of the 1986 Chornobyl nuclear plant explosion.

Pier 21: The Musical to Perform at the Canadian Museum of Immigration, Pier 21

Connect with Canada's immigration history in the very gateway that inspired the production *Pier 21: The Musical*.

Refugees and immigrants flee Europe as war breaks out in 1939. After half a million soldiers depart from Pier 21 to fight in the Second World War, War Brides, and a new generation of immigrants arrive at the Pier to take their first steps on Canadian soil.

Site-specific theatre at its best, *Pier 21: The Musical* is a Celtic-and-Swing musical packed with powerful vignettes and characters.

Performances begin 29 June at 2:00 pm, and continue twice daily from 30 June to 8 July, with the exception of 3 July.

Pier 21: The Musical is presented by the Canadiana Musical Theatre Company. Book, Music and Lyrics are by Allen des Noyers. Allen has dedicated this performance to the memory of Danish immigrant, [George Frislev](#), who arrived in Canada through Pier 21 in 1951.



The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Opportunity in a Time Verging on Crisis

Erica Usher

Erica Usher joined the immigration foreign service in 1985 and held a variety of assignments both overseas and in Ottawa. She developed an interest in international migration policy and was twice seconded to the Geneva headquarters of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It was during her second tenure that she led IOM's Global Compact for Migration team and its support to governments throughout the consultation and negotiation process.

In December 2018, 152 member states of the United Nations, including Canada, formally endorsed the adoption of the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (Global Compact for Migration, or GCM). This was the culmination of 18 months of intensive consultations and negotiations launched, along with the [Global Compact on Refugees](#), by the September 2016 adoption of the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#).

While the Global Compact for Migration is non-binding and emphasizes the sovereignty of states, it reflects a collective vision of what good migration governance should be. It also demonstrates a collective commitment by states to work towards attaining that vision. It provides a comprehensive framework for migration management that countries may choose to apply to their own migration management systems by drawing linkages between migration and other public policy areas and recognizing the important role of other levels of government and other parts of society in doing so. It is a non-binding document, and it will be up to each state to decide whether or how to use the framework that the global compact offers.

For decades, a loose group of countries, led primarily by Mexico and the Philippines, have been making a concerted effort to include international migration as a regular item on the agenda of the United Nations. Until 2016, that discussion was limited—taking place only through the lens of development.

The need for a global discussion became urgent in 2015, when an unprecedented number of migrants took to boats on the Mediterranean Sea with tragic consequences. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of people were fleeing conflict

in Syria, South Sudan, Yemen, and the Central African Republic; similar numbers of Rohingya were fleeing Myanmar; and Venezuelans had started their massive exodus from a country in economic and political crisis.

Together, the New York Declaration and the two compacts send an important political message to the global community: Migration and refugee matters are now major issues on the international agenda and there is a pressing need for a comprehensive approach to human mobility and more systemic global cooperation on migration.

The two global compacts came from a desire to seek an international response to the increasing challenges faced by mass movements, based on international cooperation and responsibility sharing. The Global Compact on Refugees, with its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and Programme of Action, provides a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility sharing by states to ease the pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, expand access to third-country solutions, and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

Also based on the principles of international cooperation and responsibility sharing, the Global Compact for Migration is state-led, recognizing the need for migration management in a comprehensive and holistic way at the national and sub-national levels. In addition to international cooperation, the Global Compact for Migration is guided by a number of principles:

- it is people-centred, placing the individual at the core;
- it recognizes that respect for the rule of law, due process, and access to justice are fundamental to migration governance;
- it is rooted in the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and takes from it the goal (10.7) of facilitating “orderly, safe,...and responsible migration”;
- it is child-sensitive, gender-responsive, and based on human rights; and
- it considers that migration cannot be addressed by one government policy sector alone but requires a whole-of-society approach.

Significantly, it reaffirms the sovereign right of states to determine their national migration policies.

The GCM consists of a comprehensive set of 23 objectives. Each objective is followed by a short paragraph stating a commitment, itself followed by the phrase, “To realize this commitment, we draw from the following actions”, thereby linking the commitment to actions or options that states may implement. The GCM can be viewed as a menu of options that governments can adopt to work towards achieving any of the Compact’s 23 objectives. It is non-binding, and so governments are not obliged to do anything, and it is not a one-size-fits-all document. Governments decide which objective or objectives, if any, they wish to make a priority given their context and then decide which of the “actions” they may wish to pursue.

Because the GCM is non-binding, it is also important to note that, unlike some of the other conventions and instruments upon which the GCM rests (referenced in paragraph 2 of its preamble), it contains no provisions for punitive action against adopting countries that fail to make progress in implementing its objectives.

The Compact’s guiding principles, commitments, and actions strike a balance between the perspectives of origin, transit, and destination countries, recognizing that each has responsibilities and a crucial role in governing international migration.

The GCM is the result of months of far-reaching consultations involving partners from across society and the sharing of practices and lessons learned. Grounded in reality from these consultations, the document combines the pursuit of tangible outcomes based on robust evidence with the need to further develop and maintain strong partnerships between and amongst governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

Although it does not affect states’ existing obligations and accountability under international law, the Global Compact for Migration will bring with it political and moral responsibility for endorsing countries to demonstrate how they are working to make progress on at least some of the objectives.

At the time of writing, the arrangements for regional and global reporting were under negotiation. According to the GCM document itself, countries will be encouraged to report on their progress every four years, both at the regional level and at the global level at an international migration forum.

This collective vision of migration governance, endorsed by UN member states, is historic. It is the first time that migration, writ large, has found its way onto the UN agenda—a particularly important achievement in an era of increasing nationalism and isolationism.

Also significant is the clear recognition of the importance of involving different levels of government, civil society, and other stakeholders, not only in implementing migration policy but in actually participating in migration priority and policy setting.

Signing this historic document provides governments with opportunity in an era verging on crisis. Whether to take ownership and to act on this opportunity will be up to those states that negotiated and endorsed the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*.

Dark Days in the Cold War Era

Stan Noble and Nancy Noble

Following an enjoyable posting in Los Angeles, Stan Noble and his wife Reena (known to all as Slim) were posted to Budapest in spring 1969 for an expected two-year assignment. The Iron Curtain was firmly in place at that time, and Hungary was known to suffer the usual inconveniences and privations of Communist rule. One could expect shortages of food supplies and an abundance of police and soldiers keeping tabs on diplomatic personnel.

The usual stresses of life increased suddenly and dramatically when, as a result of Canada's expulsion of a Hungarian diplomat, the Nobles were fingered for retribution and, in spring of 1970, declared *personae non gratae*. Given 24 hours to leave, Stan and Slim elected to travel by car to Vienna, in order to take as many personal items as possible, rather than trusting to the good offices of the Hungarian authorities and administrative personnel at the embassy.

From the beginning, the exodus was nerve wracking. Two cars of Hungarian security men were assigned to escort Stan and Slim to the border: one car in front and one car behind. Stan describes the trip as "a nightmare come to life". One contributing factor was that his tires were in bad shape having been vandalized at various times before his expulsion.

To harass their victims, the Hungarians played speed games, either forcing Stan to drive at what were excessive speeds for the snowy road conditions: or slowing to a stop and then roaring off. Nerve wracking.

When the little caravan reached the border, the Hungarians rolled down their car windows and waved goodbye with a smile that indicated that they had enjoyed the ride! Stan then drove past a machine gun tower to the inspection line, where their diplomatic passports were inspected. Thankfully border officials did not insist on inspecting the fully packed car.

Driving slowly and carefully across no man's land—about a mile—they finally reached the Austrian border and freedom. Although the drive probably lasted about five hours, "it seemed like forever". Stan says one cannot imagine what freedom feels like if one has not been involved in a situation such as he and Slim endured. It was as though a great weight was lifted when they entered Austria: "it was the most wonderful experience imaginable". After a slow and peaceful drive to Vienna, they were embraced by Embassy personnel and allowed to decompress after their harrowing Hungarian experience.

While all this was happening, the Nobles' daughter, Nancy, was a student at Queen's University in Belfast, one of Stan's previous postings. She was having dinner with friends, and for some reason they decided to tune the radio to Radio Budapest. Nancy had never done that before, but her mother had sent letters saying she must not talk to the press if approached. "Very cryptic" says Nancy. The news report in Hungarian was incomprehensible, but she was shocked to hear her father's name! She phoned the embassy in Vienna and was reassured by Harry Cunliffe, the immigration program manager, that her parents were safe in Vienna. Nancy's response was "What is going on?!"

The Bourque Memorial Building

Gerry Maffre

A recent drive down Ottawa's Rideau Street took me past what used to be the Bourque Memorial Building. From the mid-1960s to late 1970s, it was the location of Immigration HQ. A huge sign on the exterior announces the building's rebirth as a student residence in September 2019. I sent word to several colleagues who had worked there, prompting some recollections of the sorry physical state of the building (pictured below).

When the Immigration and Manpower groups left the Bourque for Phase IV of the Portage Complex in Hull, Joe Bissett wrote the following poem. At the time he was Director General of the Immigration Foreign Service. The "Elsa" is Elsa Amadio – one of the early women recruited into the Immigration Foreign Service [See Bulletin 74], who had a favourite office plant. Dick Hunt worked in Foreign Branch's human resources section and was a key figure in organizing the move.

Farewell to the Bourque Building

Joe Bissett, 7 December 1979

This poem was originally published in Bulletin 52, page 15, as "A Moving Experience".

When the old Bourque's last hallway is empty
And the wallpaper is shrivelled and dried
When those dirty carpets are faded
And Elsa's house plant has died
We shall rest – and faith we shall need it
Stop work for an hour or two
Till the masters at Phase 4 shall seize us
And put us to work anew

And those that are sad will be sadder
For they'll sit in the same wooden chair
They will squeeze in their 2x4 cubicle
Without room to brush even their hair
They shall find small comfort to draw from
Dim lights, no windows, grey halls
They shall work for an age at one sitting
And never breathe fresh air at all

There will be long lines to wait in each morning
For elevators, buses and loos
Three urinals and only two closets
Can make for very long queues
The building was designed like a factory
They have only forgotten one thing
It's people that's got to go work there
Not robots or cattle or things

For the old Bourque though smelly and threadbare
Lacking in style and third rate
At least lay alongside of Rideau
And had the market, and Alfey's and Nate's
But we'll go now where they send us
We'll not hang our heads down in shame
We'll pretend that a message from heaven
Told us it was Dick Hunt to blame.



Photo courtesy of Capital Modern – capitalmodern.ca

Update on *A Very Fortunate Life*

Michael Molloy

Roger St. Vincent's self-published autobiography, *A Very Fortunate Life* is now on line. The book (which covers St. Vincent's wartime service with the Royal Canadian Air Force, his experience with the Canadian government Immigration Mission in the displaced persons camps in post-war Europe, and the full text of his Ugandan Asian memoir *Seven Crested Cranes*, among other recollections) was presented last year to the head of Carleton University's History Department, Dr. Dominique Marshall. Marshall recognized the book's historic significance as a rare personal account of a career in the immigration foreign service and sought St. Vincent's permission to post it on line for the benefit of immigration history scholars. The library catalogue record for *A Very Fortunate Life* is also available. Thank you to Marshall and George Duimovich, Associate University Librarian, Collections and Technology, at the MacOdrum Library at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Measuring Immigration Policies in OECD Countries

Roy Christensen

Roy Christensen worked for the Delegation of the European Union to Canada for nearly 35 years, the last 20 as press officer. He has published over 200 articles relating to his work and his interests.

On 6 March 2019, Professor Marc Helbling of the University of Bamberg, Bavaria, gave a presentation at Ottawa's Carleton University entitled "Measuring Immigration Policies and Their Effects in All OECD Countries." The title led one to believe that the talk would reveal the effects of immigration in the 33 focus-countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; however, the talk's principal focus was the first part of the title, that is, the methodology of measuring and comparing immigration policies. The data set covered the years 1980 to 2010, a period when immigration policies in the OECD countries differed considerably and therefore posed a challenge in establishing a workable methodology.

Helbling's study is an ongoing project and will continue, he said, even though the governments in question are not keen on his findings, as governments do not want to be embarrassed or criticized. In fact, Helbling emphasized that immigration policies are extremely controversial: restricting immigration is one of the major planks of numerous political parties, particularly for the emerging populist parties on the right. He added that main stream parties on the right have at times been taken over by anti-immigration populists.

Helbling said that in the past most immigration studies focussed on one major movement, a precise group, or a specific



Dr. Marc Helbling next to the poster publicizing his talk

country. These case studies were useful, but his focus was wider, looking at whether immigration policies across a large group of countries were diverging or converging. He looked at whether there was a movement toward more restrictive or more liberal immigration policies and what effect such shifts might have. He was also interested in finding out what socio-economic aspects might attract or deter migration—for instance, what is the relationship between migration and the labour market? In other words, how might it affect a country, politically, economically and socially, when people leave? And when people arrive? In this case he was interested in studying how countries dealt with settlement, integration, and citizenship.

Helbling explained that his work was organized into four categories. In addition to the usual "Economic immigrants", "Refugees", and "Family reunification", he had added "Co-ethnics". These are immigrants who are welcome any time because of historical reasons, or because they share the receiving country's ethnic background or religion, or because they belong to the same commonwealth/empire/union with free movement of people.

In conclusion he said that immigration policies truly matter, a fact that can clearly be seen in today's political environment. Answering questions after his presentation, rather than giving his own opinions he would reply that the recent literature or research suggested this or that. The most interesting and refreshing aspect of his talk was that he approached the subject of immigration in all its facets—from above, across time, and in so many developed countries.

A Reader Finds a Piece of his Family's History in *Running on Empty*

Ed. Note: This is an account of a serendipitous connection made earlier this year when a new reader of Running on Empty contacted Michael Molloy, President of CIHS.

On 23 March 2019, Mr. Chu, a reader of *Running on Empty*, wrote to Michael Molloy, providing historical context for his correspondence. He was born in Nha Trang, Vietnam, and grew up in the United Kingdom. He had recently purchased *Running on Empty*, the last copy available from Amazon at the time. He started to read chapter 20, "Rescue at Sea" and was seized by the account of a group of Vietnamese refugees rescued by Captain Bryan Brown of the merchant vessel *W.A. Mather*. He realized that this narrative was a history of his family's escape from Vietnam. His father is Mr. N, the male nurse mentioned in the book.

Chu wanted to thank Molloy “for the amazing account of this momentous event in my family’s history. I cannot overstate the excitement and joy I got from reading the account”. He also hoped to contact Captain Bryan Brown’s son, Kenneth Brown.

Molloy replied that he would get in touch with Kenneth Brown and ask whether he would allow him to make the connection. Molloy also explained that, some years ago, shortly after CIHS had established its website, Kenneth Brown contacted the Society and offered to share Captain Bryan Brown’s log recorded when the refugees were on board the *W.A. Mather*. A couple of weeks later, Molloy and his wife picked up the package at Ottawa’s main post office and read the log as they sat in the parking lot. The story of courage, compassion and ingenuity instantly made Captain Brown one of their heroes.

Molloy further explained that the Carleton University Archives in Ottawa now hold the log, some pictures, the covering note from Kenneth Brown and a thank you card from one of the refugee families. Molloy arranged for a copy of this file to be made and sent it to Chu. He also obtained Chu’s consent to publish his story in this Bulletin.

Chu thanked Molloy for making the connection with Captain Brown’s son, “It feels like we have found a long-lost family member. We have 43 years of catching up to do!” He added:

Captain Bryan Brown is our Hero, a Good Samaritan and a true Guardian Angel all rolled into one [his] actions of courage and compassion saved all our lives (33 children, women and men) in 1976. [He] went to great lengths to look after our welfare on the WA Mather ship, and his efforts to help resettle us were extraordinary Our parents told us that had we not been rescued by Captain Bryan Brown, our chances of surviving much longer were zero because all the food and water on the boat had been consumed and the weather significantly deteriorated days after we were rescued. It was incredible to read your account of my family’s escape and rescue in 1976. All the stories our parents told us were captured pretty much verbatim in your book. We hope to meet Ken and family in the near future.

We hope so too. The account from Captain Brown’s ship logs can be found in *Running on Empty*, chapter 20, pages 371-378, “The MV *W.A. Mather*, 1976”.

Asian Diary II: Laos and Cambodia

Michael Molloy

Ed. Note: In the fall of 2018, CIHS President Michael Molloy and his wife, Jo, were invited to Southeast Asia to promote the Society’s book, Running on Empty, published by McGill-Queen’s University Press. This piece concludes an article in Bulletin 87 about that tour.

Laos

Jo and I started our program on 12 November 2018 with two events arranged by Tim Edwards, the chargé d’affaires of the Canadian office located in the Australian embassy in Laos. The first event was a group discussion that included seven or eight Laotians from Montreal, Brandon, Red Deer, Edmonton, and Vancouver at a trendy, Canada-inspired restaurant owned by one of the attendees. I told them about the book and the history of the movement, and they told Jo and me about their flight experiences (swimming the Mekong without knowing how to swim, brutal treatment on arrival on the other side, kindness of Canadian sponsors, bewilderment on arrival in Canada followed by impressive successes). It became feasible to return to Laos in safety between eight and ten years ago, the most common impetus being the need to look after aged parents. In other cases, parents remain in Canada while Canadian-born adults run family-owned businesses in Laos. Participants were for the most part very interesting, charming, confident people who are glad to be Canadians and glad to be able to work in or have extended visits to Laos.

The second event took place at the Australian embassy’s recreation facility and was attended by people from the U.S., German, Swiss, E.U., Japanese, and Australian missions along with people from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), CARE, and another non-governmental organization that focuses on human trafficking, as well as two engaging young Canadians of Lao and Pakistani origin. I spoke about the book and the Canadian experience resettling people from the area, especially Laos, and handed out the McGill Queen’s University Press (MQUP) flyer. The far-reaching discussion included such subjects as: how did the sponsorship program come about, why do Canadians sponsor, is our experience transferable, how were activities in 1979 and 1980 coordinated between countries, how is it relevant to the Syrians and other contemporary refugee situations, and what does it take to mobilize a population to support refugees. It must have been interesting as people stayed a half hour beyond the planned closing time.

Cambodia

Jo and I arrived in Phnom Penh five days later and were met by Bunleng Men of Canada's three-person mini-mission, which is co-located with the British embassy. Bunleng is the trade commissioner, but like everyone else in these small overworked offices, he wears more than one hat. One of many Cambodians who took refuge in Canada, he returned to Cambodia on a contract with the IOM 22 years ago and has been here ever since. Bunleng invited us home to dine with members of Cambodia's film and artistic community. All had lost family members during the Khmer Rouge reign of terror, and all had been refugees or children of refugees in France, Canada, or the U.S. They are now rebuilding Cambodia's shattered culture, and we heard a sobering discussion of the challenge of bringing a culture back to life after the murder of 2.2 million of the country's citizens.

On 19 November we were up and away early to deliver a talk about the book and the Indochinese refugee movement to Canada at the fabulous Raffles Hotel Le Royal, a wonderful piece of French colonial architecture. Our host Pou Sothirak, Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, was another returned refugee, who among other things, was Cambodia's foreign minister and ambassador to Japan. The audience consisted of about 40 students from three universities, representatives from a handful of embassies, and the chargé d'affaires from our mission, Allison Stewart, a remarkable young Canadian diplomat. The talk, which provided a now well-rehearsed overview of the material covered in the book, was well received and once more the supply of MQUP flyers disappeared. On behalf of the mission, I presented a copy of *Running on Empty* to Pou Sothirak.

The afternoon was spent at the Documentation Center of Cambodia. It contains more than a million documents from the Khmer Rouge era and has a professional staff of archivists, cataloguers, librarians, and researchers. It has provided most of the evidence used to bring the Khmer Rouge leaders to justice (three were found guilty of genocide the week before our visit). The centre's director, Youk Chang, yet another returned refugee, provided a hilarious account of his visit to Canada, which he crossed by bus, train, and taxi, one January about 15 years ago, losing gloves, hats, and jackets along the way. He then briefed us on the centre's work in documenting the genocide and about the complicated task facing Cambodia as it tries to shed its victim mentality while ensuring that the tragedy is not forgotten. He also spoke about the challenges facing the various components of Cambodia's populations, including the Chinese, Vietnamese, mountain, and Muslim minorities. Once more, we handed over a copy of our book on behalf of the embassy.

The next day had a grim beginning. Bunleng suggested a trip to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, and it was an experience I'll not soon forget. Located in a complex of buildings where the Khmer Rouge incarcerated and tortured thousands of innocent men, women, and children to death, the museum is a somber place indeed. We have all heard about the killing of 2.2 million Cambodians by the Khmer Rouge, but what shocked me most was the care they took to document each and every person they killed. As they did not have time to destroy all the evidence when the Vietnamese overthrew them, the macabre collection of artifacts and photos of thousands of people about to die has to constitute one of the most terrifying archives in the world. I didn't take any pictures: there are already too many.

Things picked up after that with a visit to the excellent National Museum. Situated in a beautiful, red-roofed, red-walled complex surrounding a tranquil garden, the museum provided a much-needed injection of hope and beauty. The bulk of the collection consists of statuary from Angkor Wat. The quality, elegance, and grace of the pieces match anything you would see from ancient Greece or the Renaissance.



Left to right: Serei Sopheak, Michael Molloy, Allison Stewart, Richard Yim, Phloeum Prim, Bunleng Men

After a spectacular lunch at the Palace Gate Hotel, we repaired to the Elephant Bar of the Raffles Le Royal for a meeting with three returnees. Unfortunately, the fourth, David from the first "baby lift", could not attend. The first to arrive was Serei Sopheak of the Arbitration Council Foundation. His medical studies were interrupted by the war and he spent 11 years as an anti-Khmer Rouge "freedom fighter" based along the Thai border. A devout Buddhist, he spent about a decade in France before returning to Cambodia where he specializes in peace-building. He shared some very thoughtful views about the negative effects of repressing traumatic experiences.

Richard Yim, a bright, young engineer educated at the University of Waterloo, was not a refugee; his family was sponsored by an uncle who was. Richard and some fellow students did research on robotic mine clearance, and he

returned with the idea of producing an economical model that can be used to clean up mine fields. His company has just conducted successful field tests of the fourth prototype. Phloeum Prim's parents were peasant farmers who were resettled in the Montreal area when he was a baby. He provided more information on the struggles of the non-elite Cambodians who arrived in the 1970s and 1980s than any study I have ever read. This group had little education, found work in the factories of Montreal, and then had to reinvent themselves as the factories disappeared; nevertheless, Phloeum earned a business degree. His parents saved enough money in Canada to establish a small hotel in Siem Reap (closest urban centre to Angkor Wat World Heritage Site), and with his new degree Phloeum was sent to oversee its construction and initial operation. He planned to stay for two years ... that was 20 years ago. He was involved in establishing Artisan Angkor, Cambodia's leading marketer of art and handicrafts and now runs Cambodia Living Arts, which recently send a classic Cambodian dance company on a world tour.

On 25 November Canada's Ambassador to Thailand, Donica Pottie, flew to Siem Reap to attend the last two events of our Asian book promotion tour. The first was organized by the local consular warden Tammy Durand and took place at the Mirage Art Space and Gallery, owned by Montreal expatriate photographer Sareth Siv. After I spoke about the book, a lively discussion ensued about the 1979-1980 refugee movement from Cambodia, the impact of the genocide and the Vietnamese invasion, and the subsequent return of the refugees. The meeting provided the ambassador with an opportunity to reach out to members of the Canadian community and to answer questions relating to immigration and consular issues. The gallery itself is another example of how returning Cambodian Canadians are building a vibrant artistic and creative culture in Cambodia.

The evening event, which took place on the grounds of a large and very active Wat, was organized by Ms. Samedy Suong of the Center for Khmer Studies. I was surprised that most of the 25 who attended were Europeans working for humanitarian NGOs in Cambodia. I took advantage of the technology available to use my PowerPoint presentation. It was well received, but many in attendance seemed to have problems understanding why Canadians would trouble themselves to sponsor complete strangers in such large numbers. This presentation completed the series of events organized by Ambassador Pottie (Thailand), Tim Edwards (Laos), and Bunleng Men (Cambodia).

I was able to promote *Running on Empty* to about 100 people and present copies of the book to appropriate officials and institutions on behalf of our embassy and its micro-missions in Vientiane and Phnom Penh. The extraordinary generosity of Canada's Embassy to Thailand and its micro-missions in sponsoring and organizing this promotional visit is deeply appreciated.

***Running on Empty*: New Year Promotion**

Vancouver

On 13 January 2019, Mike Molloy, Donald Cameron, and John MacEachern made a presentation to promote *Running on Empty* at the Vancouver Public Library's Fraserview Branch. It was organized by Hop Phan of the Vancouver Vietnamese community, and approximately 40 people of all ages attended. From the start there was a strong buzz, and people seemed happy to be there and eager to participate. Unfortunately, Margaret Tebbutt had to cancel because of the 'flu. Her absence was very much regretted by all, and people hoped there would be another opportunity to meet her.

Molloy spoke about how and why he and his fellow authors wrote the book. Don Cameron told human-interest stories, including the Ron Button fighter pilot story, and also provided examples of bureaucratic and organizational challenges. The latter drew the most comments and appreciation. A number of former refugees said how little they understood what it took to get them out of the camps and into Canada and how glad they were to know more about this aspect.

Molloy followed by reading Tebbutt's account from *Running on Empty* dealing with refugees from the *Clara Maersk* at a Gurkha-run refugee camp in Hong Kong right after the fall of Saigon, MacEachern's memoir of rats in the night on Pulau Bidong (we were delighted that MacEachern came to the event, though he preferred not to read), and Colleen Cupple's story about a little girl and her bucket of water.



L to R: Mike Molloy and Don Cameron with gifts of appreciation from the Vietnamese-Canadian community

After a long question-and-answer session, members of the audience shared their memories. One was a harrowing account by a man who was steering a boat with 75 people on board when, within sight of the Malaysian coast, they were attacked by two Thai pirate boats. The refugees decided to fight and repulsed repeated attacks over several hours until the pirates rammed them from either side, destroying their boat. The speaker and another young man (now in Australia) clung to a piece of wood from the wreckage for 13 hours until they were rescued by Malaysian fishermen and taken to a refugee camp. Seventeen of the refugees had survived. The following day, he was summoned to the “office”. He borrowed a towel because it would have been disrespectful to appear without a shirt, especially since he was covered by jellyfish stings. He spoke to a Canadian visa officer who listened to his story and on the spot accepted him and the 10 survivors who had no links with other countries.

Another participant spoke about how, at the end of his interview, the visa officer, one Donald Cameron, stood up, shook his hand, and said “Welcome to Canada”. Many described how they and their children (and grandchildren) were contributing to Canada. They were Canadians and obviously very proud to be so.

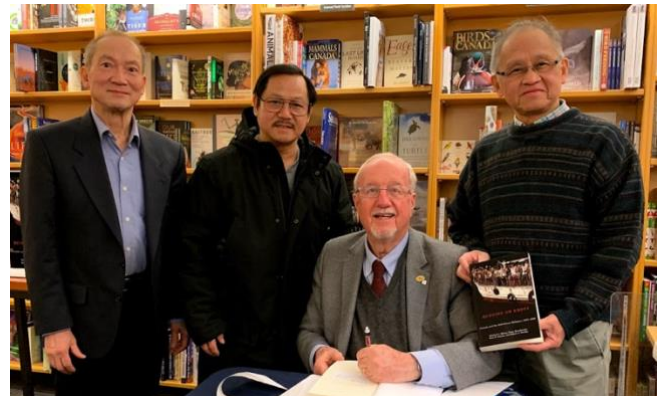
All but six of the books had been sold before the program began, and everyone who had a book wanted to have it signed. The book plates with the authors’ signatures were a hit, and Cameron and MacEachern added their signatures as well. The organizers had booked the room for three hours, and there was considerable lamentation that this was not enough time because not everyone had been able to meet the presenters or tell their story. Fifteen more books were requested, and Molloy placed the order the next day.

As the book took shape the authors had a secret hope that it would be of value to the Indochinese community. It is humbling to find that is indeed the case.

Saskatoon

After a short break, Mike and Jo Molloy arrived in Saskatoon on a bitterly cold evening. It was 4 February, the Vietnamese equivalent of New Years’ Eve, and as a result turnout at the magnificent McNally Robinson book store was sparse even though the book store’s event coordinator, Rachel Fowlie-Neufeld, did an excellent job preparing posters and promotional material.

Vietnamese community representatives in attendance covered the full span of immigration from that troubled country. Community president Thai Trung Nguyen arrived in Saskatoon as a Columbo Plan scholar in 1967. He received permanent resident status when Saigon fell in 1975, graduated as a chemical engineer, had an interesting career in various uranium mines in northern Saskatchewan, and rose to the position of chief engineer.



L to R: Thai Trung Nguyen, Dong Van Tran, Michael Molloy, Kyon Tran

At the other end of the spectrum was another attendee, who escaped from Vietnam in the late 1980s, two months after the Comprehensive Plan of Action closed off the resettlement option. He and more than 60 other Vietnamese who escaped with him (three children drowned in the process), were stranded for 19 years in the Philippines before the Canadian-Vietnamese community persuaded Minister Jason Kenney to admit them to Canada. The Vietnamese community paid the resettlement costs in 2008. The son and grandson of Mike Fitzpatrick who directed the establishment of the Griesbach Barracks reception centre attended the event.

Despite the small turnout, nine copies of *Running on Empty* were sold. This event completed the Western Canada promotional tour.

Running on Empty: The McNabb Community Centre, Ottawa

Michael Molloy

On 24 March 2019, Peter Dushinsky, Kurt Jensen, Robert Shalka, Jo Molloy and I attended a presentation of three books: *Running on Empty* and two memoirs by Vietnamese-Canadian women, one in French and one in English. The event was made more interesting by the fact that after the authors spoke about their books, three commentators—Ngoc Tran, David Kilgour and Vinh Nguyen—each spoke about one of the books.

This event was organized by a group of Vietnamese-Canadians with which we had not engaged before. Among the 60 people in attendance were two who had been interviewed as part of the Hearts of Freedom project, several former

Foreign Affairs colleagues, a former MP (Kilgour), an amazing 90-year-old Canadian Navy veteran who was at D-Day among many other actions, and many Vietnamese-Canadians who were new to us.

We thought our promotion activities were coming to an end, but the Hearts of Freedom project has now given us access to leaders of the Laotian and Cambodian communities in the Ottawa-Gatineau area, and so we shall see....

We came with 30 books. We sold 30 books.



Michael Molloy addressing the group



L-R: Michael Molloy, Peter Duschinsky, Robert Shalka, and Kurt Jensen

In Memoriam

Remo Caldato

Raphael Girard

Remo Caldato died in Rome in March at the age of 88. His passing elicited a number of spontaneous memorials from former colleagues whose lives he touched over the course of his long career.

Remo was born in Vancouver of immigrant parents, and life did not treat him gently at the beginning. His father was interned as an enemy alien during World War 2, and consequently he and his mother had to deal with great hardship. Nevertheless, he persevered and he earned a BA in Economics and English from the University of British Columbia and a Certificate in Education. After graduation he became an immigration officer at Douglas from 1954 to 1956 and then took a commission in the RCAF. He returned to Immigration in 1958 when he qualified for the Immigration Foreign Service. Early postings took him to Bristol and Italy, where his linguistic talents and knowledge of local culture made him a valuable resource person for officers less familiar with the clientele.

Remo was most at home running line offices abroad where he mentored scores of young officers in the craft of counseling and selection. His marriage to Cherry Wall and a family brought him the contentment that had eluded him in his early years. He served with distinction in a number of posts in Europe and South America and finally retired to the shores of Lago di Bracciano north of Rome after an assignment there as an enforcement liaison officer.

A memorable example of his concern for staff is found in an unsuccessful attempt to convince the Department to move the consulate in Milan, which he considered a dangerous place to work because of frequent armed robberies in the bank immediately below the visa office. In frustration Remo wrote that if the department could not find alternative premises at least they could pay to armour plate the underside of the secretarial chairs as a defence against the bullets that occasionally came through the floor. After some delay, Headquarters replied that while they could not approve the money immediately, they would authorize him to assure the staff that "they would certainly get it in the end".

Remo will be remembered as a decided asset to our service. He was known as a very kind person, very collegial, and in possession of perceptive and empathetic traits that were greatly appreciated in the often-difficult work environments in which he served.

Remembered by Nestor Gayowsky

In the early 1960s, Remo was a line officer in the Rome office when we were processing about 25,000 immigrants a year. Owing to his Italian background, language skills, and knowledge of local mores, he was wonderfully helpful to all and particularly to incoming officers. His lovely sense of humour and wit added to the pleasures of working with him.

Stanley Gordon Noble
 Joyce Cavanagh-Wood

Stanley Noble passed away on 27 April 2019 in St. Catharines, Ontario. A veteran of World War 2, he made his way to the Immigration Foreign Service, representing Canada in many postings, including Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin, The Hague and Los Angeles. Late last year, he and his daughter wrote the article Dark Days in the Cold War, which appears in this issue of the CIHS Bulletin. Noble's obituary is available on the website of [Morgan Funeral Home](#), Niagara on the Lake.

In 1972 I was cross-posted from Paris to The Hague on short notice after being in Paris less than a year. I was not happy about this transfer and arrived with a low expectation of what life would offer in the immediate future. I credit Stan Noble and his wife Slim with making my two years in Holland very happy indeed. Stan was the first boss I had who was not terrified by the idea of a female being a visa officer. He, René Bersma, and I made a good team and the office ran smoothly.

Stan encouraged me to travel around Holland presenting evenings of movies about Canada and answering questions from the audience. We were in recruiting mode in those days. Office work was remarkably varied, as we dealt with every sort of application: visitors, diplomats, refugees, etc.

We spent a lot of time together outside office hours. Stan and Slim were exceptionally fine hosts, each with a great sense of humour, enjoying entertaining and being sociable. Stan kept René and me abreast of every move that HQ made, and did not hesitate to consult us when policy input was sought from the field. He was inclusive in decision making and encouraged staff to offer ideas for change and improvement in operations. Above all, Stan was a gentleman with a strong sense of loyalty and humility. He had a ready smile and a forgiving nature. He was respected not only by his colleagues, but also by his contacts in the Dutch government and other diplomatic and international missions in The Hague.

I kept in touch with Stan long after we both retired. I last spoke with him a few months ago when he told me he had been advised to move to assisted care as he ought not to live alone. (Slim had been in care for a while and still is). He seemed sad, but accepting; his voice and mind were clear, and I expected to chat with him again. Stan lives on for me: a strong, bright force at a time when that was what I needed, and ever after as a dear friend.

CIHS thanks its corporate members - IRCC, P2P and Pier 21 - for their significant support as well as its life and annual members. All these contributions allow us to pursue our objectives and activities.

<p>The Canadian Immigration Historical Society (www.CIHS-SHIC.ca) is a non-profit corporation registered as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act.</p>	<p>The society's goals are: - to support, encourage and promote research into the history of Canadian immigration and to foster the collection and dissemination of that history, and - to stimulate interest in and further the appreciation and understanding of the influence of immigration on Canada's development and position in the world.</p>	<p>President - Michael J. Molloy; Vice-President - Anne Arnott; Treasurer - Raph Girard; Secretary - Gail Devlin; Editor – Diane Burrows Members at large - Brian Casey, Roy Christensen, Valerie de Montigny, Peter Duschinsky, Charlene Elgee, Kurt Jensen, Gerry Maffre (Communications), Ian Rankin and Robert Shalka Member emeritus - J.B. "Joe" Bissett IRCC Representative - Randy Orr Webmaster: Winnerjit Rathor; Website translations: Michel Sleiman</p>
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