

REFUGEE SETTLEMENT ACT

CHAPTER 401

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Definitions

1 In this Act:

“committee” means the British Columbia Refugee Advisory Committee continued under section 3;

“program” means the British Columbia Refugee Settlement Program referred to in section 2 (1);

“refugee” means a person who, by reason of a well founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group,

- (a) has been lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence after leaving the country of his or her nationality and is unable or, by reason of that fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or
- (b) has been lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence after leaving the country of his or her former habitual residence and is unable or, by reason of that fear, is unwilling to return to that country

and includes, on designation by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, any other person or class of persons admitted to Canada under section 6 (2) of the *Immigration Act, 1976* (Canada);

“settlement agency” means an organization that

- (a) provides assistance to refugees to settle in British Columbia, and
- (b) is approved by the minister.

Refugee program

- 2**
- (1) The minister must establish a program for the settlement of refugees in British Columbia, to be known as the British Columbia Refugee Settlement Program.
 - (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the minister may enter into an agreement with Canada or a settlement agency or both to provide one or more of the following:
 - (a) financial support to settlement agencies;
 - (b) educational and vocational training for refugees;
 - (c) health and medical services for refugees;

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- (d) social services and income maintenance for refugees;
- (e) direct settlement assistance to refugees.
- (3) The minister may, for the purpose of the program, allocate money provided by Canada or any other person.
- (4) The minister may include among organizations that he or she approves as settlement agencies
 - (a) a nonprofit organization,
 - (b) a municipality or regional district, and
 - (c) a ministry of the government.

Committee continued

- 3 (1) The British Columbia Refugee Advisory Committee established by the Lieutenant Governor in Council is continued.
- (2) The membership of the committee consists of a chair and at least 2 other individuals appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- (3) The committee must assist the minister in all matters respecting the program and, without limiting that duty, may, at the request of the minister, do one or more of the following:
 - (a) assess the needs of refugees;
 - (b) advise the minister in the development and delivery of the program;
 - (c) recommend, for the approval of the minister, settlement agencies and the extent of financial support for the agencies.
- (4) A member of the committee
 - (a) is entitled to be reimbursed for reasonable out of pocket travelling and other expenses incurred by him or her in discharging duties, and
 - (b) may be paid remuneration determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Director

- 4 (1) A program director and other employees necessary for the purposes of this Act may be appointed under the *Public Service Act*.
- (2) Subject to the direction of the minister, the program director must administer the program.
- (3) The program director is the executive director and a member of the committee.

REFUGEE SETTLEMENT — HISTORICAL TABLE

Legislative History

REFUGEE SETTLEMENT ACT

RSBC 1996, chapter 401

Section	History
1	RS1979-360-1.
2	RS1979-360-2.
3	RS1979-360-3.
4	RS1979-360-4.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Amendments Not in Force: If there are any legislative changes to the Act that are not in force as of December 31, 1996, these are identified in *italics* at the beginning of the historical table. The “Section” column identifies the affected provisions of the Act. The “Citation” column identifies the amending legislation by its citation in the 1996 Statute Revision Supplement.

Legislative History: The second part of the table provides a legislative history of each section of the Act between the 1979 Statute Revision and the 1996 Statute Revision. The “Section” column identifies all sections of the Act in force on December 31, 1996. The “History” column for each section begins with the citation of the section immediately before the 1996 Statute Revision. This is followed by a list of citations for the legislation that enacted or amended the section between the 1979 Statute Revision and the 1996 Statute Revision (if a section was repealed and replaced during that period, these last citations begin at the most recent replacement).

Legislative citations have the format of “year-chapter-section”.

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