



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-02584**

BY: **Ms. MAY (SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **HONOURABLE AHMED HUSSEN**

Response by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Refugees

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Resettling refugees is an important part of Canada's humanitarian tradition. The Government of Canada works closely with Canadians to welcome refugees.

Canada welcomed more than 57,000 Syrians as part of its Syrian Refugee commitment, including more than 26,000 privately sponsored refugees. Applications submitted up to March 31, 2016, are now complete or in process.

The fact that more Canadians are sponsoring refugees reflects both the success of our refugee sponsorship program, and the generosity of Canadians. In response, annual immigration levels space has more than tripled in this category in recent years. In 2018 the resettled refugee target is 27,000, and will grow to 29,150 in 2019 and 31,700 in 2020, representing 17% growth between 2018 and 2020. At the same time, in the face of ever-growing demand across all immigration streams, the Government remains committed to maintaining a well-balanced immigration system within the overall Immigration Levels Plan.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada remains committed to the timely protection of refugees, who often face significant vulnerability while waiting for their application to be processed, and continues to work to reduce application inventories and wait times for this category.