

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM34.9	ACTION			Ward:All
--------	--------	--	--	----------

**Requesting the Government of Canada to increase Resettled Refugee Admissions - by Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Neethan Shan**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

### Recommendations

Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Neethan Shan, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Government of Canada to increase the annual number of resettled refugees through the government assisted refugee and blended visa office-referred programs.
2. The City of Toronto stand ready to welcome and integrate these refugees with the support of the federal and provincial governments.
3. City Council further call on other municipalities to adopt similar Motions and encourage federal and provincial leaders to address this need.

### Summary

The City of Toronto notes that of the estimated 22 million refugees globally, 1.2 million of them are in need of resettlement, and less than 10 percent are expected to obtain this solution. In this context, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees is desperately asking nations to increase their acceptance rates.

Given its long history of successfully welcoming and integrating refugees, Canada has once again demonstrated its capacity to receive and support a large number of refugees with the resettlement of Syrian refugees.

Toronto itself is a diverse and welcoming City, and is home to immigrants and refugees from around the world.

The City of Toronto is committed to establishing a caring and compassionate society based on the inherent dignity of all its members, and has taken a leadership role to eliminate

discrimination and disadvantage. It recognizes that a fundamental strength of our community lies in our racial and ethno-cultural diversity of our communities to welcome and integrate newcomers.

City Council also respects the strength and resilience of refugees, as well as the goodwill of individuals and groups that assist them with organization, stabilization and opportunities to rebuild their lives. It acknowledges that many residents of Toronto exemplify the positive contributions that refugees make to our society.

Toronto has to build on this history of acceptance, inclusion and appreciation. Tensions worldwide only seem to be increasing, and Toronto has to prove that it continues to advocate for the abovementioned values by carrying on what it has done so well and pushing for an incremented acceptance of refugees in Canada. The City would not only further develop its diverse and productive society, but also consolidate its role as a global leader on the crucial matter of refugee admission.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM34.9