

Becoming Neighbours

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Fridge Notes for Companions

June 26, 2022

No. 329



POPE FRANCIS IN CANADA
Walking Together
July 24 – 29, 2022
[Click here to learn more](#)

IMPORTANT MOMENTS TO SHARE

We are delighted and feel privileged to share with you this *Special Edition of Fridge Notes* which we hope offers an invitation to each one of us to contemplate more deeply "*this beautiful country we have today and to accept all that we have inherited*" (Chief CADMUS DELORME of Cowessess First Nation). We chose not to celebrate in-person Canada Day 2022, our 155th Canada Day. We still do not want to put anyone at risk and so we have selected pictures from past celebrations which we believe somehow captures the spirit of "who is a Canadian". Immersed in the gift of the SPIRIT, this year we are especially united with you through our mutual gestures of solidarity despite our physical distance.

We are putting in place a possible in-person gathering for our Becoming Neighbours community either on the Labour Day or Thanksgiving Day weekend.

Alumman *Lori Anne Peter*.



O Canada!

Our home and native land!
True patriot love
In all of us command.
With glowing hearts
we see thee rise.

The true North strong and free!

From far and wide,
O Canada,



Canada Day Celebrations—Toronto

⇒ Canada Day - Downsview Park
July 01, 2022 4:00-10:30pm

⇒ Canada Day—Thomson Memorial Park
Fireworks at 10pm!

⇒ [Canada Day—Stan Wadlow Park](#)
Parade beginning at 10am

Celebrating Canada Day



Who is a Canadian? Are there telltale signs of "Canadian-ness"?

IS A CANADIAN SOMEONE ...

- ◊ Who thinks of no one as "them"? Who appreciates and lives the richness of cultural diversity?
- ◊ Who offers their seat on the TTC to a senior, pregnant woman, handicapped person?
- ◊ Who encourages others to be the best that they can be?
- ◊ Who rises up and takes a stand when seeing others hurting?
- ◊ Who understands the global economy in terms of people, land, air and water?
- ◊ Whose favourite phrase is "**Eh**"?
- ◊ Who "accepts the beautiful country that we have today and accepts what we have inherited"?
- ◊ Who gives thanks to God every day for who they are and for the land of Canada?



These are, perhaps, some of the many telltale signs of what it means to be a Canadian.

In the words of Wade Davis: "The world in which you were born is just one model of reality.

OTHER CULTURES ARE NOT FAILED ATTEMPTS AT BEING YOU;

they are unique manifestations of the human spirit."

Canadians, as you know, are not a particular people from a particular place.

Canadians are the embodiment of the human spirit.

To continue Celebrating Canada Day, we invite you to listen to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiMeZgnkBb8&feature=related



POCKETS OF HOPE

ROMERO HOUSE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FRANCESCA ALLODI-ROSS



Former member of the Romero House worker community, then a staff lawyer with West Toronto Legal Services, she is president of the board at Cycle Toronto.

Francesca is “passionate about creating just, and effective social movements”.

We look forward to collaborating with Francesca to welcome and assist refugees!

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH



In the month of June, we commemorate National Indigenous History Month. Take time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples across Canada. [Click here](#) to learn more.

BLESSED AND A BLESSINGS FOR OTHERS

100th Anniversary of the Sisters of Service

Aug.15, 2022 National Daily TV Mass
Presider Mark Miller, CSsR

175th Anniversary of the Loretto in Toronto

Sept. 17, 2022 Eucharist St. Michael's Cathedral
Presider Cardinal Collins

200th Foundation Day of the Basilians

Nov. 21, 2022 Eucharist St. Basil's Church

CONGRATULATIONS LOLY!



“This YWCA Award is a recognition of the YWCA commitment to continue working and walking with refugee women”

LOLY RICO is a prominent advocate for refugee women in Toronto. After fleeing political oppression in El Salvador, Loly and † Francisco, with the Faithful Companions of Jesus founded the FCJ Refugee Centre 31 years ago . Though she was originally trained as a physiotherapist, Loly's personal migration experience exposed her to the vulnerabilities many refugee women and children face and the urgent need for community programs to support healing and safety. With the creation of the FCJ Youth Network in 2018, Loly continues to advocate for refugee women and echoes the core mission of her centre: *“Faced with any need... aim to include, not to exclude.”*

Becoming Neighbours is privileged to call Loly a friend, a colleague, and a wisdom figure.

“UNDOCUMENTED” The Documentary

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, AKIL AUGUSTINE was brought to Canada at the age of 4 without his parents, permission or knowledge. After living in the shadows for 15 years and graduating from Neil McNeil High School, founded by the Spiritans, Akil would go on to file for landed immigrant status under humanitarian and compassionate grounds with the help of the FCJ Refugee Centre. Not yet available online. [Click here](#) to watch the trailer.

You, my sisters and brothers, are called to be free. Serve one another in love..
(Gal. 5: 13)

Highly Recommended

- o [“Ontario farm convicted of workplace safety violation in COVID death of migrant worker”](#)
- o [“Accompanying migrants at the border enriches our spiritual lives”](#)
- o [“New licensing rule could leave refugees scrambling for new consultants”](#)
- o [“God opens the door’ to Pakistani Catholic refugee family”](#)
- o [“Canada to welcome 4,000 additional migrants from Latin America and Caribbean by 2028, U.S. says”](#)
- o [“Fraser pressed on why Immigration has not approved 2,900 Afghans who helped Canada”](#)
- o [UNHCR updates Ukraine refugee data, reflecting recent movements”](#)
- o [“Refugee Family Celebrates 50 Years in Canada”](#)
- o [“CCRIHC: A Better Canada, A Better World”](#)

Ukraine immigration measures: Key figures

As of June 21, 2022, Canada has had over 43000 Ukrainian refugees arrive in Canada with over 130000 temp. resident applications approved.

UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador BEN STILLER calls for EQUAL TREATMENT OF REFUGEES
– WHOEVER, WHEREVER, WHENEVER”

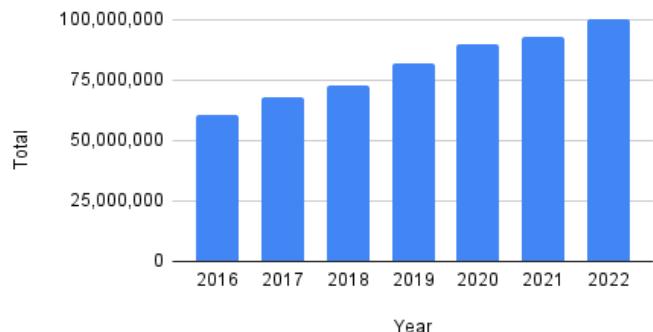
‘Protecting people forced to flee is a collective global responsibility. We have to remember this could happen to anyone, anywhere’



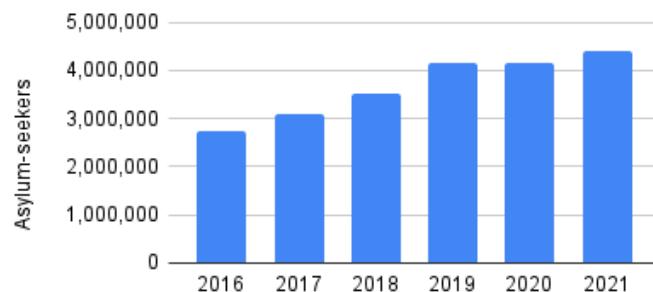
© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

[Click here to read more](#)

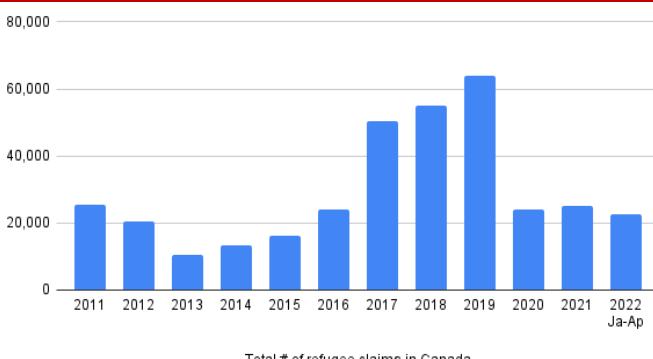
TOTAL GLOBAL ASYLUM SEEKERS



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TOTAL # OF REFUGEE CLAIMS IN CANADA ANNUALLY 2011-22



REMEMBER! Graphs tend to hide the truth:
each count is A PERSON WITH A NAME,
a personal story, a longing for home and family,
A PERSON WITH DREAMS.

#WelcomeAfghans: Key figures

Canada has committed to welcome 40000 refugees and vulnerable Afghans to Canada. To date, 16270 have been welcomed since August 2021.

“Welcoming the Stranger”

[Reflection by RON ROLHEISER, OMI](#)