

Myth Versus Truth About Refugees

- 1 MYTH** - Nova Scotia (and Canada) cannot afford to accept that many refugees.

TRUTH - Turkey hosts 2.9 million refugees, Lebanon hosts 1 million, and Kenya hosts 523,500. Canada is one of the richest countries in the world (#18). If they can support refugees, why can't we?
- 2 MYTH** - The refugees that are coming are terrorists.

TRUTH - Refugees are identified, screened, verified and screened again. Refugees aren't creating terror, they are fleeing from it.
- 3 MYTH** - There are no jobs in Nova Scotia.

TRUTH - On any given day, there are more than 4,000 jobs posted for positions in Nova Scotia.
- 4 MYTH** - Refugees will take jobs from Canadians.

TRUTH - Refugees often take jobs that have been unfilled for a long time.
- 5 MYTH** - Refugees get more government funds than senior citizens in Canada.

TRUTH - Refugees have to live on the same amount of income as those who receive social assistance.
- 6 MYTH** - There is more support for refugees than there is for regular Nova Scotians who are struggling.

TRUTH - The outpouring of support for new Nova Scotians is something all Nova Scotians could benefit from. We must consider the needs of everyone in our community and use this opportunity to advocate for better services for all.
- 7 MYTH** - Refugees will change our community.

TRUTH - Yes they will — just like your ancestors did. The French, Irish, Scottish, Germans, Dutch, and African Nova Scotians all left their mark on Nova Scotia. Immigrants are hard-working, entrepreneurial and innovative.
- 8 MYTH** - Refugees don't share our values.

TRUTH - Accepting refugees to Canada and settling new Nova Scotians is an expression of some of the best Canadian values we have — and they want to be part of it!
- 9 MYTH** - Refugees are a drain on public services.

TRUTH - New Nova Scotians don't detract from our economic wealth. Over time, refugees contribute greatly by increasing the population, being consumers, taxpayers and citizens.
- 10 MYTH** - Refugees get doctors and extra medical attention ahead of Canadians.

TRUTH - Access to family doctors is a challenge for some Nova Scotians. The situation for new Nova Scotians is no different. This is a social problem, not a refugee problem.
- 11 MYTH** - Refugees are taking up all the affordable housing.

TRUTH - This is an international crisis. But people are opening up their homes, developers are making apartments available. It's an opportunity for us to highlight the need for access to affordable housing for all Nova Scotians.
- 12 MYTH** - There are refugees in my community.

TRUTH - There are new Nova Scotians in your community. Once refugees find a country to make their home, they are no longer refugees. They are your new Nova Scotian neighbours. Welcome them!