

Quebec Getting 96% Of Illegal Border Crossers

MONTREAL: Quebec continues to receive the overwhelming majority of asylum seekers in Canada, with 96 per cent of illegal crossings into the country so far in 2018 happening at its border with the United States, according to recent RCMP statistics.

The rapid increase in the number is spurring calls from politicians in the province and community groups for Ottawa to change an agreement with the United States they say is encouraging people to get into Canada outside official ports of entry.

Out of 7,612 people who crossed illegally into the country during the first four months of the year, 7,307 came into Quebec – 2,479 in April alone, a 32 per cent increase from March.

Manitoba and British Columbia received the remainder, with about 150 asylum seekers each entering those provinces so far in 2018.

The Quebec government said projections suggested there could be as many as 400 crossings per



A group of asylum seekers arrive at the temporary housing facilities at the border crossing Wednesday May 9, 2018 in St. Bernard-de-Lacolle, Quebec. The Canadian Press/Ryan Remiorz

day this summer, compared to 250 in 2017.

In recent months, the number of new arrivals has increased dramatically, with many would-be refugees coming from Nigeria after spending only short periods of time in the United States before boarding buses destined for the border.

Stephan Reichhold, director of a Montreal-based group that represents 140 Quebec organizations working with refugees, immigrants and people without status, said it's unclear exactly why Nigerians are coming to Canada in greater numbers.

“There have been very little decisions taken regarding the recent arrivals by the immigration and refugee board,” he said. “So we don't know very much on what basis they are claiming

asylum in Canada.” But a quick look at news reports from that country tells a story of a region rife with conflict.

Amnesty International's 2017-18 report on the country details the violence carried out by jihadist militant group Boko Haram, and notes Nigeria has 1.7 million internally displaced people.

“The military arbitrarily arrested and held thousands of young men, women and children in detention centres around the country,” the report states, while “inter-communal violence linked to lingering clashes between herders and farming communities resulted in more than 549 deaths and the displacement of thousands in 12 states.”

Reichhold says his group is trying to persuade Quebec political parties to lobby Ottawa to end the so-called Safe Third Country Agreement signed with the United States. It came into effect in 2004.

The deal forces asylum seekers to make a claim in the first country in which they arrive – except if

they cross at an illegal entry point. Reichhold says suspending the agreement would likely not reduce the number of asylum seekers, but would lessen the stigma associated with people who cross “illegally” into Canada.

Furthermore, the agreement was signed when the two countries had “comparable” refugee systems, which he says is no longer the case due to the strict immigration policies of the current U.S. administration.

Quebec's official opposition, the Parti Quebecois, has called for Ottawa to suspend the agreement. Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said earlier this month his government was in exploratory talks with the United States to reopen the deal.

Aside from illegal border crossings, 7,810 people arrived at an official Canadian point of entry – land, marine or air – and applied for asylum status in the first four months of 2018.

Roughly 65 per cent of those were in Quebec and about 30 per cent in Ontario. - CP

Hardish Dhaliwal Among 10 New Citizenship Judges

OTTAWA: Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Ahmed Hussen, today announced the appointment of 10 citizenship judges.

- Joan Mahoney, full-time judge in Halifax (NS)
- Marie Senécal-Tremblay, full-time judge in Montréal (QC)
- Rania Sfeir, part-time judge in Mon-

- tréal (QC)
- Hardish Dhaliwal, full-time judge in the Greater Toronto Area (ON)
- Rodney Simmons, full-time judge in the Greater Toronto Area (ON)
- Albert Wong, part-time judge in the Greater Toronto Area (ON)
- Rochelle Ivri, part-time judge in the Greater Toronto Area (ON)

- Suzanne Carrière, full-time judge in Winnipeg (MB)
- Claude Villeneuve, full-time judge in Edmonton (AB)
- Carol-Ann Hart, full-time judge in Vancouver (BC)

All these judges and their profiles are listed in the backgrounder. Each judge was appointed to a 3-year term from an open, transparent selection process

These 10 highly qualified individuals were selected for their embodiment of civic values and their inspirational contributions to their communities and to Canada. Supporting the Government of Canada's commitment to diversity and inclusion, these individuals will play the important role of fostering a sense of belonging and attachment to Canada for aspiring and new Canadians. Citizenship judges are responsible for making decisions on some citizenship applications, presiding over citizenship ceremonies and administering the

oath of citizenship to new citizens. They also play an important role in promoting Canadian citizenship and civic values.

Citizenship judges are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. New appointees are chosen from a list of qualified candidates who have gone through an open, transparent and merit-based selection process. Candidates for citizenship judge appointments are evaluated against the skills required by the position: judgment/analytical thinking; decision-making; effective communication; cross-cultural sensitivity; and community standing.

Hussen said: “I am pleased to welcome these diverse and talented Canadians from across the country as citizenship judges. Each judge, bringing an impressive set of skills and experience, was appointed to promote Canadian citizenship and help build an inclusive society”.

ALAM LAW OFFICE
INJURY LAWYERS

INJURED? CAR ACCIDENT? SLIP & FALL? INSURANCE DENIED CLAIM?

INJURY LAWYERS TEAM
...is here to fight for your legal rights and ensure that you receive maximum compensation for your injuries.
24/7 Hotline: 416-625-2636

ALAM LAW CHAMBER
(This building and facility is owned and operated by Alam Law Chamber)
with Lawyers Exclusive Practise In

- Real Estate
- Criminal Law
- Immigration Law
- Family Law
- Employment & Labour Law
Human Rights Law
- Highway Traffic Matters
Contract Disputes
Small Claims Court
Municipal Law
Will & Estate Law
Tax Law

CALL NOW 905-564-5953

5100 Dixie Road, Mississauga, ON L4W 1C9 Visit us online at www.thealamlaw.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Take an Action

Be part of the change

- Donate Funds and/or Food
- Sign up to volunteer at Sai Dham Food Bank
- Spread the word using social media

SEND MONEY TO

AVAILABLE SERVICES:
EXCHANGE USD TO CAD & CAD TO USD
CURRENCY EXCHANGE & WIRE TRANSFER
GUARANTEED BEST EXCHANGE RATE IN CANADA
PAYMENT AFTER DELIVERY**
CASH PICK-UP AND DIRECT BANK DEPOSIT ALL OVER THE WORLD

BRING MONEY FROM

INDIA, DUBAI, KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, PAKISTAN, OMAN, QATAR, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA, UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, CANADA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

TO

*No Service Charge & No Commission **Subject to Credibility

Call ZAKIRBHAI
ZAKIRBHAI WILL GUIDE YOU:
How to bring inherited property sale money from India to Canada without paying TAX.

JACK FILLED FOREIGN EXCHANGE INC.
102-305 Milner Ave., Scarborough, ON M1B 3V4
416-901-9995 416-439-9995
jackfilledinc@yahoo.ca www.jackfilled.com

MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY YOU CAN HELP END HUNGER

SAI DHAM FOOD BANK

Do you know someone who's struggling with hunger?

DON'T DELAY Call Now

Open 24/7

Free Delivery GTA/Peel Region

Monthly Food Services

Emergency Food Services

We Serve: Elderly, Seniors & Physically Challenged

We Provide: Emergency food for one-time use only

Find out how you can make a difference

Email: sai@saidham.ca Website: www.saidhamfoodbank.com
437-988-4422
A Proud Member Of

Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy, MBO, Chambre de Commerce Indo-Canadienne, Chamber of Commerce