

# Economic and eco-refugees to Canada: How to prepare for them?

**CCRL** The Centre for Civic Religious Literacy  
**CLRC** Le centre de litt ratie religieuse civique

*Fostering understanding about religious, spiritual, and non-religious beliefs in all sectors of Canadian society*

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Kim Campbell,  
Former Prime Minister:

Secular leaders "don't want to engage religion, but religion has to be part of the discussion."

Douglas Roche,  
Former Ambassador  
and Senator:

Issues today "are deeply moral – migration, sustainable development, nuclear war, the environment."

Lt-Gen. Rom o  
Dallaire:

Issues facing the world today require people to "bring our human values into action."

## Civic religious literacy is one socially sustainable, educational solution.

### WHAT is civic religious literacy?

It is a tool and framework to understand the different religious, spiritual, and non-religious beliefs, expressions, and practices in the world for the purpose of social cohesion.

### WHY is civic religious literacy a sustainable solution?

It offers the educational skills and knowledge needed to address and critically analyze the misunderstanding, discrimination, and hate in society. This is especially important as Canadian society becomes more diverse, and visible aspects of difference become targets of hate when economic, political, and social inequities underlie concerns.

### POLICY MAKERS, what can you do?

- Recognize the role of belief in the lives of immigrants & refugees.
- Consider the intersection of belief with other aspects of identity in policy development.

### PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS, what can you do?

- Introduce civic religious literacy training for staff who work with current and new immigrants and refugees.

### NON-PROFITS, what can you do?

- Engage with other organizations that focus on civic religious literacy, in order to recognize the intersectionality of identities.

### RESEARCHERS, what can you do?

- Consider the short and long-term social and personal implications of belief, rather than a study of a phenomenon.

At CCRL, we can offer professional development offerings on civic religious literacy. We are especially equipped to do this because:

- Our team of award-winning academics and educators specialize in the topic of religious literacy.
- We work only in the provinces we live in, to ensure a relevant and local perspective of the topic is included.
- All our PD is catered to your specific industry/sector, province/region, and we strive to include local community voices into all our training.
- We work with public sector, private sector, and in K-12 educational settings.

To learn more about us, visit [www.ccrl-clrc.ca](http://www.ccrl-clrc.ca).

## Why do we need to prepare for them? Scholars say that many economic and eco-refugees will be attracted to Canada.

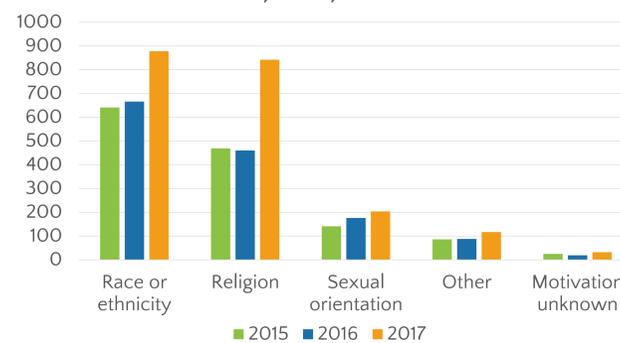
"Canada is among the world's foremost refugee resettlement countries and is signatory to international agreements that affirm its commitment to the protection of refugee rights. Asylum seekers come to Canada from around the globe.

But as climate change continues to affect growing regions of the world—threatening to create as many as 200 million environmental migrants by the year 2050—Canada has not yet begun to address the issue of climate change migration."

– "Environmental Migrants and Canada's Refugee Policy", Sheila Murray (2010)

## To prepare, we need sustainable solutions economically, politically, and socially. BUT, hate based on race/ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation is rising in Canada.

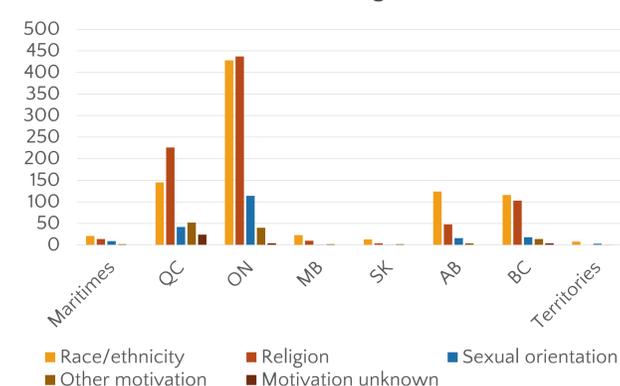
Number of police-reported hate crimes, by type of motivation, Canada, 2015, 2016, and 2017



"If Canadians don't soon start having rational discussions about the economics of immigration, nativist movements 'targeting certain religious and racial groups for outright immigration bans' could quickly rise to the surface, as they have in Europe and the U.S."

– Sanjay Jeram, Political Scientist, Simon Fraser University, in Douglas Todd (2017)

Number of Police-reported hate crimes by motivation and region, 2017



Statistics Canada, Police-reported hate crimes, 2018



### References:

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