



FOR RELEASE
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A statement by Minister Doug Graham on the settlement of Syrian refugees

WHITEHORSE—Echoing the sentiment of many Yukoners, Minister of Education Doug Graham today issued the following statement on the Syrian refugee crisis:

"All of us have been affected by the images we've seen as the tragic situation in Syria unfolds. Yukoners, like all Canadians, want to do more to support people who have been forced to flee their country. The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting these efforts.

Dozens of Yukoners attended a public meeting this week to look at ways they can help. As a result of that meeting, a new community organization called Yukon Cares was formed to coordinate efforts to sponsor a refugee family.

The Yukon government is ready to work with community groups like Yukon Cares. Once a refugee family has been identified we will be open to discussing funding commitments.

We are also committed to providing settlement services for incoming refugees. The Department of Education funds the Multicultural Centre, which provides English-language training, pre-employment services and employment and training services.

Clearly, there is a groundswell of support to do more to help the Syrian refugees. We are pleased to assist the community in this important effort."

Last week the Government of Yukon committed \$25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross to assist with their efforts. This donation was supported by all three Yukon political parties.

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