

# THE EVOLUTION OF CANADIAN SETTLEMENT PROGRAMMING FROM THE MASS RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE (SOUTHEAST ASIAN) REFUGEES TO THE PRESENT

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The 1976 Immigration Act was the first act to establish the fundamental objectives of Canadian immigration policy, define refugees as a distinct class of immigrants, and require the government to meet its obligations to refugees under international conventions and agreements. In 1979, the Mennonite Central Committee Canada (MCCC), an Anabaptist non-profit organization, signed the first umbrella agreement with the federal government to provide private sponsorship of refugees, which led to the development of Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program. The Vietnam War, the Lao Secret War, and the Cambodian Genocide had created massive flows of refugees. The Southeast Asian (Indochinese) refugee movement from 1975 to the early 1990s became a catalyst for the development of various settlement programs to help refugees integrate in Canada. This article examines the evolution of different settlement programming, including ethnic associations, along with their contributions and challenges in the settlement and integration of refugees in Canada.

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