

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

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TO: Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit

DESTINATAIRE : Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire de la ville d'Ottawa

FROM: Dr. Isra Levy,
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DATE: November 27, 2015

27 novembre 2015

FILE NUMBER: ACS2015-OPH-IQS-0002-IPD

SUBJECT: PREPARING FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN OTTAWA

OBJET : PRÉPARATION EN VUE DE L'ACCUEIL DE RÉFUGIÉS SYRIENS À OTTAWA

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of Ottawa Public Health's (OPH) current work with community partners in preparation of the arrival of Syrian refugees in Ottawa.

The Canadian government has pledged to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by February 2016. Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has activated its Emergency Operations Centre to support the health system's response to the

resettlement. Ottawa has been identified as a potential centre for resettling refugees in Ontario. In preparation to welcome refugees to our community and to enable a healthy transition, OPH has established an internal working group tasked with organizing our contribution to this initiative. OPH has also joined [Refugee 613](#), a grassroots initiative that is coordinating local partner agencies, such as Community Health Centres, to prepare for the arrival of refugees. OPH is participating in the primary care sub-group of Refugee 613, which is preparing to provide health assessments and support to refugees settling in our community. As refugees arrive in Ottawa, OPH will work with partners in the health system, as necessary, to ensure the control of communicable diseases and adequate immunization of this population. OPH will offer health promotion and other services available to vulnerable populations including [dental services](#) and the [Healthy Babies Healthy Children program](#).

OPH is a partner in both the City of Ottawa's Syrian Refugee Resettlement Taskforce and the Mayor's Refugee Working Group. OPH will continue to communicate regularly with our local and provincial partners as the situation evolves and more information becomes available regarding local implications.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Dr./ D^r Isra Levy

Medical Officer of Health/ Médecin chef en santé publique

Ottawa Public Health/ Santé publique Ottawa

CC: Ms. Gillian Connelly, Board of Health Secretary
Ms. Esther Moghadam, Deputy Director and Chief Nursing Officer