



Refuge Canada Opens at the Museum of Vancouver on October 12, 2023

Explore Canada's place in the global refugee crisis.

For Immediate Release: October 3, 2023— Through images, soundscapes, first person accounts, and artifacts, **Refuge Canada** begins “no one wants to be a refugee, anyone could become a refugee.” This powerful exhibition opens to the public on October 12, 2023 at the Museum of Vancouver.

Moving through major waves of arrival from the Second World War era up to present day, *Refuge Canada* does not shy away from opportunities to portray the darker chapters of history. Hopeful stories of optimism and success are balanced by moving accounts of shattered lives, fear, and examples of Canada’s mixed record in welcoming refugees.

The exhibition will draw visitors through five themes: Life Before, Fear, Displacement, Refuge, and Life in Canada, with hands-on opportunities to connect with the content. **Crawl inside a UNHCR tent or find room in an inflatable boat similar to those used by refugees fleeing from Turkey to Greece.** Look out a plane window as the shores of Canada approach and **listen to refugees tell their stories** throughout the exhibit. *Refuge Canada* will challenge and inspire as it brings visitors on a journey from darkness to hope, always calling into question preconceptions about what it means to be a refugee.

“Canada has had a mixed record in welcoming refugees, reacting generously to some while overlooking others. *Refuge Canada* provides the context for Canada’s place in the global refugee crisis and brings to light the challenges faced by refugees in Canada. The exhibition also shares stories of success and contributions made by people who came to Canada as refugees.” —**Dan Conlin, Curator, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21**

“The team at Pier 21 did an excellent job of presenting a range of views, labels, myths, and stereotypes about refugees. The exhibition thoughtfully illustrates how settling in Canada can be quite overwhelming, as refugees contend not only with the everyday hurdles, but also with coming to terms with the depth of their loss while mustering the energy to build a new life in a country they often know little about. The exhibition is the kind of museum project that helps build kinder and more empathetic communities across the nation.” —**Viviane Gosselin, Director of Collections and Exhibitions, Museum of Vancouver**

As Canadians become increasingly aware of the current global refugee crisis, *Refuge Canada* is an opportunity to gain historical context.

Refuge Canada was produced by the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and will be on display at the Museum of Vancouver from October 12, 2023 through February 2, 2024. An opening reception will be held on October 11, 2023.

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Media Tours & Interviews

Members of the media are invited to tour the exhibition. Marie Chapman, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 will be on-site and available for interviews by appointment:

On Wednesday, October 11, 2023 between 11:00am - 2:00pm

At the Museum of Vancouver, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC

Dan Conlin, Curator for the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, will also be available for interviews remotely.

To book an appointment for a walk through, or for other media inquiries and interviews, contact Marketing & Communications Manager, Debby Reis at dreis@museumofvancouver.ca.

About the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21: The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is located in the national historic site at the Halifax seaport where nearly one million immigrants landed in Canada from 1928 to 1971. Today, as Canada's sixth national museum, we share the ongoing story of immigration to Canada—past to present, and coast to coast. Our exhibits immerse visitors in the immigration experience and allow for a deeper understanding of how newcomers shape our country. Our staff and collections provide opportunities for visitors to discover the countless journeys to Canada and find their own family's connection to the story. Countless Journeys. One Canada.

About the Museum of Vancouver: The Museum of Vancouver (MOV) connects Vancouverites to each other and connects Vancouver to the world. The museum's programs, exhibitions, and collections bring people together and inspire conversation about the future. The museum is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring a socially connected, civically engaged city. The Museum of Vancouver acknowledges that the city of Vancouver is on the shared, unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.