



## NEWS RELEASE

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Provincial Health Services Authority  
Ministry of Health

### **More interpreters to meet needs of new refugees**

**Vancouver** – In response to Canada’s support of the Syrian refugee crisis, the Provincial Language Service – a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority – is hiring and training 30 additional interpreters dedicated to languages spoken by refugee populations.

The Provincial Language Service provides interpreting and translation services to BC’s health authorities and is responsible for the hiring and training of the new interpreters. The effort is focused on the recruitment of Arabic language speakers.

“We expect up to 3,500 refugees to make British Columbia their new home,” said Health Minister Terry Lake. “It will have been an arduous journey for these families and many will require health care and mental health services. By ensuring BC’s care providers have interpretation services and supports in place, we can make sure that language barriers do not compromise much-needed care for this vulnerable group.”

“These new interpreters will be highly-trained and ready to support the refugee children, youth and adults who will be settling in BC,” said Kiran Malli, director of the Provincial Language Service. “Our recruitment strategy has focused on ensuring a diversity of interpreters is available to serve these newcomers if they need care.”

Selected candidates will receive 75 hours of training which includes instruction in both physical and mental health care interpreting. It is expected new interpreters will be fully trained and ready to offer both in-person and telephone services by the end of January 2016.

Learn more about the Provincial Language Service: [www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/provincial-language-service](http://www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/provincial-language-service)

*The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information, visit [www.phsa.ca](http://www.phsa.ca).*

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