

# REFUGEE ARCHIVE OF CANADA



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## 0.2 LIST OF ACRONYMS

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AI	Amnesty International
CIC	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
CanLII	Canadian Legal Information Institute
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CCR	Canadian Council
DOJ	Department of Justice Canada
FAITC	Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IGO	International Government Organization
IRB	Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
LGBT	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer
NGO	Non-government Organization
ORAM	Organization for Asylum and Migration
RAC	Refugee Archive of Canada
RI	Refugee International
RIR	Request for Information Report
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Refugee Archive of Canada will be a comprehensive online resource for information about the relationship between refugees and Canada. At present, no archive brings together Canadian documents and international documents in a single, user-friendly, open-access online repository. The Refugee Archive of Canada will make it possible for academic and non-academic researchers explore and examine a diverse body of documents, ranging from IRB decisions to UNHCR

reports to news stories. The Archive will collect material from the Canadian government and its agencies, international governments and their agencies, NGOs, IGOs, advocacy groups, and news organizations. The Archive will help researchers carry out comparative and contextual analyses of refugee experiences and government actions.

This proposal contains information about the role and purpose of the Archive, the collection development strategy, the information architecture and data standards, and the administration of the project.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

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This proposal introduces the groundwork needed for the construction of the Refugee Archive of Canada (RAC). The RAC aims to provide information and facilitate research about refugee populations who have come to Canada.

According to the United Nations, Geneva Convention amended by the 1967 Protocol, a refugee is

*"A person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."*<sup>1</sup>

However, this is not an exhaustive definition and refugees seeking asylum in Canada do so for various reasons; some that are included in the Convention's definition and some that are not.

The scope of this archive will document refugees based on discrimination of race, gender, sexual orientation, language religion or nationality, as well as those seeking relief from natural disasters. There are no grounds for refugee status in the Convention for those being persecuted for their sexual orientation or for those who have been displaced by natural disasters. However, both groups can achieve refugee status in Canada. This fact makes it incredibly important to document the additional steps that Canada takes in order to protect those who are lacking security in their own states.

## 2.1 Refugee Populations

There are an estimated 11-12 million refugees in the world today. This is a dramatic increase since the mid-1970s when there were less than 3 million refugees worldwide. The end of the Cold War and the dissolution of established regimes led to political upheaval and unbridled persecution that dramatically increased the number of refugees. In 1992, this number spiked at nearly 18 million due to the Balkan conflicts, but is once again decreasing.

How we conceive and treat refugees, are proxies for how we think about social justice, public policy, and the role of Canada in the world. The RAC will make it possible for researchers in Canada and around the world to examine a diverse collection of primary documents related to refugees, their experiences in Canada, and in the national and international context. In doing so, the archive will help reveal how we think about refugees, how we treat refugees, and, ultimately, how we come to understand ourselves as Canadians.

The RAC's proposal covers refugee claims from a variety of nations around the globe and outlines the importance of this task as well as the steps necessary for its successful completion. The fundamental documentation of the archive will consist of Canadian governmental documents, but will also include international documents in order to contextualize the refugee situation.

## 2.2 Rationale: The Place of the Archive

The RAC will fill an empty space in the Canadian information landscape. At present, there is no comprehensive and integrated, online resource for information about the relationship between refugees and Canada. For example, the Andrew Forbes Refugee Resource Collection at York University's Centre for Refugee Studies is the nation's leading collection, but it is not online and its materials do not circulate<sup>2</sup>. Typically, researchers have to use a variety of resources, both online and offline, consuming a great deal of time in order to study this topic. The RAC will make this process much more efficient by providing a wide variety of documents accessible through a single interface.

### Why focus on Canada?

The relationship between refugees and Canada is a natural topic for this project because the archive and staff will be based in Canada. This means that, for the most part, we will be able to obtain Canadian documents and consult local experts without having to deal with extraordinary linguistic or legal hurdles. Familiarity aside, there are a number of unique advantages associated with focusing on Canada.

Canada accepts refugee claims according to the convention categories that have clearly defined criteria. Canada also considers exceptional cases on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. This means that Canada accepts people seeking asylum for diverse reasons, ranging from

human rights violations to disease and disaster. Some observers have even speculated that in the future climate change will be a major cause of displacement, and will create a legitimate reason for seeking asylum. On account of this diversity, the RAC will be a key resource for comparative and contextual analysis.

In addition, the RAC will provide access to a wide variety of primary documents. We can obtain case decisions and related documents from the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB)<sup>3</sup> and the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CanLII)<sup>4</sup>. Similarly, we can obtain court cases, legal articles, statutes, policy statements, and amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act from the House of Commons<sup>5</sup> and the Supreme Court of Canada.<sup>6</sup>

#### Who will benefit from the RAC?

The Archive will serve the needs of academic and non-academic researchers in several fields. Those who study human displacement, international development, law, sociology, diaspora, and Canadian government policy will benefit from the ability to explore and manipulate a diverse body of documents. Further, we expect that our archive will be useful to journalists, educators, lawyers, policy makers, social workers, and employees of non-governmental organizations. We hope that the archive will benefit refugees, their families, and their descendants by providing access to evidence of personal and cultural history.

## 3.0 COLLECTIONS

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### 3.1 Archival Scope

#### Phase One: Contemporary Archive by Country

- The RAC collects documents from 2000 to 2010 on refugees divided by country of origin
- The RAC will contain holdings about countries with the largest populations of refugees with Canada as a destination. These countries are: Mexico, Haiti, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Nigeria, India, and Pakistan (See Table A).
- The RAC focuses on the document output surrounding refugees from these countries of origin.

#### Phase Two: Historical Perspectives

- The subsequent goal of RAC will be to collect refugee documents leading back to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>7</sup>.
- This will provide a more complete picture of the non-political refugee population in Canada from a historical perspective.

#### Phase Three: Archive by World Region

- Future iterations will collect documents by country of origin into the new decade (2010-2020).
- The next phases will expand the geographical document scope to the next ten countries after the previous list based on population.
- The RAC's ultimate goal is to capture a larger global refugee situation from the Canadian perspective.

### 3.2 Document Selection Policy

#### 3.2.1 Archive Taxonomic Hierarchy

The RAC hierarchically schematizes document priority as follows:

#### First Priority: Government Documents

- Canadian (government and legal)
- International (Treaty, charter, and statute)

#### Second Priority: Non-government Documents

- Refugee advocacy groups (Canada and International)
- Human rights groups

#### Third Priority: Media Reports and Other Sources

- Canadian National Media
- Relevant International media context
- Cultural sources

### 3.2.2 Taxonomic Summary

The RAC takes government documents as top priority for the archive. There are two reasons supporting RAC's policy. First, to enter Canada refugees ultimately fall under governmental documentation. Second, while advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations contribute to the status of refugees and global justice, their concerns are collected into larger, governmental policy issues.

#### First Priority: Government Documents

**Government documents** in the RAC fall into two broad categories. First, the RAC is a Canadian context specific archive. Output from Canadian governmental agencies comprises the core focus. Within Canada, the governmental context is provided by the IRB<sup>8</sup>, CIC<sup>9</sup>, and CIDA<sup>10</sup>. Since we are dealing with other considerations, especially crime and violence against women in non-political refugee claims, DOJ<sup>11</sup> and FAITC<sup>12</sup> are also factors.

In addition, the RAC will create a divisive split between the output of government policy and communications, and legal

documents within Canada. This is still at the level of government. However, legal documents are separate from government documents in so much as they provide specific instances where official policy is tested in the court of law. The RAC is interested in the legal proceedings of refugee claimants and those wishing to seek asylum, as well as challenges to Canadian and international refugee policy. Court cases, legal articles, statutes, and amendments to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act can be found at the House of Commons<sup>13</sup> and the Supreme Court of Canada<sup>14</sup>. Similarly, the Canadian Legal Information institute<sup>15</sup> provides cases that demonstrate the various non-political reasons refugees seek asylum in Canada and the legal action they take.

**The second category is IGOs.** They provide a larger global context supporting Canadian decisions and policies. RAC will collect IGO documents that specifically reflect the Canadian context in international affairs, provide information about the refugee country of origin, or international charters and statutes. Some of the most important documents in this collection include; the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>16</sup>, and Resolution 2198 (XXI) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly<sup>17</sup>.

#### Second Priority: Non-Government and Advocacy Groups

After government documents, we can obtain additional documents from advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations. The Canadian Council for Refugees<sup>18</sup> and Amnesty International<sup>19</sup> publish documents that are related to our collection. There are many more such organizations. For example, one of the most interesting organizations is ORAM<sup>20</sup>. Their mission is to advocate for refugees fleeing sexual or gender-based violence and, accordingly, it maintains a news archive about LGBT refugees from around the world. We intend to monitor the information output of

these and similar organizations and collect relevant documents. These documents will help to contextualize the decisions of the IRB and the policies of the government of Canada.

### **Third Priority: Media Reports and Other Sources**

Media reports provide the final piece of the refugee context. Media sources also provide information about refugee cases, government statements, and changes to immigration laws and regulations. By collecting media sources, we make it possible for researchers to trace a single story through multiple editorial perspectives and across the public sphere. Media reports often contain the highest emotional impact to the public. However, they are a reactionary body of documents because they report change and notify people of governmental decisions, world events and disasters. For all extensive purposes of the archive they provide a human face to documentation further up the hierarchy.

A final provision RAC document hierarchy is that this schema is for the collection of documents. Users of the archive will not search for documents in this way. See information architecture for more details on user search within RAC.





Table A: Source Countries for Refugee Claimants Arriving in Canada

Source Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Mexico	1381	1704	2083	2612	2802	3446	4946	7227	9532	7608
Hungary	2302	4094	329	56	43	21	27	23	303	2539
Czech Republic	50	40	18	22	15	10		100	848	2103
Haiti	344	230	239	197	174	379	756	3698	4907	1595
Nigeria	870	730	664	639	558	581	674	743	773	783
India	1457	1436	1185	1121	1098	827	770	552	551	490
Pakistan	3246	3159	3547	4226	904	644	616	354	392	427

## 4.0 ACQUISITION

### 4.1 Case Study: Haiti

Haiti's devastating earthquake hit Port-au-Prince on January 12, 2010<sup>21</sup>. It took the lives of 222,750<sup>22</sup> citizens and left 1.6 million people<sup>23</sup> either homeless or displaced. In late October, a Cholera epidemic erupted within the settlement camps<sup>24</sup>. During this state of emergency, the Canadian government decided to give priority to Haitian sponsorship applications to increase the number of allowable refugees to Canada<sup>25</sup>. This unique legal and governmental situation is fit for the archive to document the state of affairs.

Various governmental agencies within Canada provide contextual documents to capture Haiti's situation. Prior to this natural disaster Haiti was already generating a large refugee population that sought asylum in Canada (see Table A). However, the numbers for 2010 will likely reflect this tragedy with an increase in refugees.

### 4.2 Collecting Documents: Haiti

In looking at a Haiti from a Canadian context, RAC will follow the document selection policy and its hierarchy.

#### First Priority: Government Documents

##### Canadian context

The IRB collects documents from the Canadian perspective, which gives context to decisions. Under the Haitian context, directed keyword searches provide numerous Reflex documents<sup>26</sup> (protection decisions), RIRs<sup>27</sup>, and National

Documentation<sup>28</sup> packages in the period (2000-2010) for the RAC phase one archive.

The CIC provides the policy basis for Citizenship in Canada. This government body provides reports on the Haitian context. CIC announces measures that effect IRB policies. Due to increased Haitian need, the CIC has raised the Haitian claimant status to "priority processing" as of March 5, 2010<sup>29</sup>. The CIC contains over 200 other policy and contextual documents surrounding Canada's relation to Haiti.

The House of Commons directly affects the status of refugees in Canada. Archives show that over 7000 documents account and amend the refugee situation between Haiti and Canada (and other countries). The Canadian Government maintains ties with the UNHCR, to provide support for refugees as Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) or as Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR). The RAC will also archive the parliamentary controversy over bill C-49<sup>30</sup> and its conflict with the CIC decision on "priority processing"<sup>31</sup>.

#### International context (mainly IGOs)

The UN, the UN Human Rights and UNHCR documents provide international context, and are quite extensively archived. A preliminary search found 434 documents relating to Haitian refugees within a Canadian context.

#### Second Priority: Non-government Organizations, and Advocacy Groups.

Human Rights Watch (HRW)<sup>32</sup>. Monitors the situation in Haiti from a human rights perspective outside of the UN context. They provide shadow reports and show both the positive and negative effects of government policy on citizens. HRW is embedded on the ground level, and this capacity they provide information not found through official channels.

**Amnesty International (AI).** AI monitors the human rights situation from the ground level. Their documents provide the structure for future policy. They have been monitoring the situation in Haiti and producing their own communications. They also provide activists the means to express concerns on Canadian soil.

**Canada Council for Refugees.** Provides the Canadian context to the Haitian refugee situation. They also follow Canadian parliamentary bills such as C-49<sup>33</sup>.

### Third Priority: Media Reports and Other Sources

Reports from national media outlets in Canada provide a larger context for the public. Refugee stories are covered more extensively in national media outlets with a larger world focus. Media reports also produce the rapid day to day and reports that are essential when dealing with a natural disaster or crisis situation such as the Haitian earthquake. For example, the Globe and Mail reports on the parliamentary controversy surrounding enacting bill C-49<sup>34</sup>, how it affects refugee claimants and the politics of Canada.

## 5.0 ARCHITECTURE

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This section describes the hardware and software architecture that will support the RAC. It outlines choices for content management software, a hosting service, a metadata schema, file formats and a backup system. In each case, we carried out a comprehensive evaluation of promising alternatives and of the ‘best practices’ employed by other digital archives. We selected a mix of professional and commercial services, as well as free, open-source

technologies. This approach provides a high degree of technological sophistication while keeping costs reasonable.

### 5.1 Content Management Software: DSpace

After evaluating a number of alternatives, both commercial and free, we concluded that the DSpace<sup>35</sup> platform will support the requirements and goals of the RAC. DSpace is a free, open-source software package that makes it easy to create, maintain, and exhibit textual documents and other content web based content. MIT Laboratories created DSpace in partnership with HP. It is the software platform for more than 700 digital projects including the University of Toronto’s institutional repository, the International Development Research Centre’s digital library, and the Human Rights Law Network’s digital library.

DSpace supports text, image, audio, and video content in a wide variety of standard file formats. It supports our preferred metadata schema, has built-in security and permission protocols, supports customized workflows, and interoperates well with other systems and repositories. Users can explore our collection by keyword search (simple or advanced) or by browsing various descriptive categories. The RAC intends to carry out OCR on documents before adding them to the collection, giving users the ability to perform full-text searches.

There is no software license to purchase or lease. The RAC’s investigation revealed that the cost savings of an open-source solution could be offset by the staffing costs associated with initial installation and ongoing maintenance. However, we expect that the long-term costs will be considerably lower than those of a commercial software product. In many instances, small issues can be resolved without additional IT expenses because DSpace boasts a large community of developers and users, an active wiki, and a support forum.

## 5.2 Hosting: Commercial Dedicated Server

By performing a cost/benefit analysis of different vendors, we concluded that only a commercial host could provide the kind of flexibility and scalability required for the RAC. Given anticipated acquisition of many scanned documents in the JPEG2000 format, and that a two-page PDF/A document consumes around 70KB of space this archive will need a large amount of storage space. Moreover, we expect that the volume and variety of documents will increase over time. A university-based host, although low-cost, would limit the size and scope of our collection.

We intend to use Cirrus Hosting<sup>36</sup>, located in Toronto, Canada. Our data will be stored in Canada, free from the political risks associated with data storage in foreign countries. Cirrus's primary data centre is located in downtown Toronto and has a backup centre in central Toronto. If necessary, the archive can be run by the backup centre without any slowdown or downtime. Since we expect that our data storage needs will increase over time, we will purchase a "value server" package that can be upgraded to provide greater capacity.

The RAC intends to use a dedicated server. This means that we will not have to share resources and processing with other websites or software. Users will also benefit from this decision by being able to perform fast searches with quick retrieval time, and have less chance of service interruptions. In addition, we will get better support, an individual firewall, and will not suffer from bandwidth penalties for exceptional use. This means we will be able to expand quickly and without unwarranted complication by simply adding more servers at the back end.

## 5.3 Back-up and Preservation: OCLC Digital Archive

The best option for ensuring the long-term storage and preservation of our digital archival materials is OCLC's<sup>37</sup> Digital Archive service. OCLC is a leader in digital preservation and provides technical services to libraries and archives around the world. Their preservation service is a commercial product, but it offers value-added services that place it in a class well beyond free, open-source products. We will also benefit from their data management and backup, physical security, data security, ongoing virus checks, disaster recovery, support tools to update metadata and access to professional support. OCLC can also provide functional preservation, ensuring that our materials will be rendered accurately over time by maintaining compatibility with technological evolution.

## 5.3 Metadata: Dublin Core and Thesauri

In the context of a digital collection, metadata is structured data or information about each individual item in the collection. Similarly, metadata can also describe the collection as a whole or distinguish sub-collections.

Metadata plays several important roles. (1) Metadata helps users discover and retrieve documents. When users search by keyword or browse by various categories, they are interacting with our collection's metadata schema and our descriptive vocabulary. (2) Metadata supports the authenticity, reliability, and integrity of records<sup>38</sup>. (3) Metadata ensures interoperability between independent collections and systems.

High-quality, meaningful, and useful metadata requires two elements: a metadata schema and a controlled vocabulary. There are a wide variety of metadata schemas, designed for various communities, document types, and descriptive conditions. We have chosen Dublin Core<sup>39</sup> for this project. Our choice reflects the unique character of our content and the practical strengths of Dublin Core itself.

Dublin Core is a simplified, flexible schema, making it ideal for a collection that may expand to include a diverse array of document types and formats. While Dublin Core specifies a 'core' group of elements, it is not limited to those elements. The RAC can add unique elements to reflect the nature of our content. For example, we can distinguish refugee documents by country of origin, by gender or by the status of the refugee claim. This kind of customization will help our users explore and manipulate our content. When the RAC creates unique elements, we will attempt to employ conceptual models from other metadata schemas. This will keep our records within the conventions of document description as much as possible.

Dublin Core is also highly interoperable with other schemas and systems. After gaining the permission to acquire documents from other libraries or archives, we can in some cases import metadata automatically. When adding documents to our collection this will eliminate the need for manual metadata entry. In turn, this will help us build our collection much faster and with fewer errors. At the same time, other libraries or archives can add our metadata to their catalogues, bibliographies, or repositories. This will not only create connections between related collections, but also help to publicize the RAC's collection. Dublin Core is compatible with the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting, so we can become a registered data provider with the Open Archives Initiative.

In the event that we have to create or edit metadata, we will employ trained cataloguers. They will use the UNHCR's International Thesaurus of Refugee Terminology, the UNESCO Thesaurus, and the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules to ensure a controlled vocabulary. The UNHCR<sup>40</sup> Thesaurus provides specialized, up-to-date terminology for subjects related to refugees. The UNESCO Thesaurus provides internationally accepted terminology for subjects related to

society, culture, and law. It also contains names for geographic locations, linguistic groups, religions and ethnicities. The UNESCO Thesaurus is the basis for a number of other thesauri, including the U.K. Archival Thesaurus. The international perspectives of the UNHCR and UNESCO Thesauri are especially well-suited to an archive devoted to migration.

#### **5.4 Digital Files: Open Office XML, PDF/A, JPEG2000, WAV & MJPEG2000**

A number of key factors were considered in selecting file formats for the RAC's content.

- Long-term sustainability of the archive will be encouraged and simplified by minimizing the number of separate formats. With fewer formats, less work is required to migrate the files to the latest versions.
- Ubiquitous formats will be given preference because they are likely to be broadly supported by software suppliers. Moreover, formats that are widely used in digital archives are more likely to be standardized, having followed a formal process such as ISO.
- Stability and compatibility of the formats will be evaluated by identifying the degree to which the format is forwards- and backwards-compatible, the degree to which the format is protected against corruption, and the release frequency of newer or replacement versions of the format.
- Hardware or software dependence and the format's potential interoperability will also be considered.

Based on these factors, we have created a simple digital preservation strategy that uses a few key file formats. For all files, we will establish a master copy, from which we will

create a service copy for use in the archive. For image, audio, and video files, the master copy and the service copy will both be the same format. For document files, the master copy will be in the Open Office XML document format, which is standard, widely used, includes metadata, and can be zipped for efficient storage. The service copy will be in PDF/A format, which is designed for archiving and long-term preservation. The PDF/A file should be reproducible for many years because it is wholly self-contained, including content, fonts, and colour. PDF/A has been widely adopted as a standard for archiving, but it is not forwards- or backwards-compatible, so a master copy in XML is necessary.

For images, we have selected the JPEG2000 format, a ubiquitous format, currently being used by the Library of Congress, Library & Archives Canada, and the Google Library Project, among others. JPEG2000 supports either lossless or lossy storage. This means that multiple reduced-resolution versions of the original can be created, allowing users to choose the resolution that meets their needs. For audio files, we will use the WAV format, featuring an uncompressed lossless codec. For video, we will use the MJPEG2000 format, featuring an open lossless codec.

#### Endnotes

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<sup>38</sup> <http://www.oclc.org/digitalarchive/>  
<sup>39</sup> <http://dublincore.org/>  
<sup>40</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a30ba786.html>;  
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## 7.0 Appendix

### **Hungary and the Czech Republic:**

Hungary and the Czech Republic appear second and fourth on the list of refugee claimants respectively. However they represent an exceptional case because the number of refugee claimants was almost non-existent until recently. However, recent amendments to Canadian visa requirements have led to the number of refugee claims spiking substantially in 2009 (See chart above from Citizen and Immigration Canada). Therefore, Hungary and the Czech Republic should be included in this archive, and explicit legal documentation that reflects not only the non-political refugee claims, but also the changing visa regulations and the impact of those changes, should be highlighted.

In Canada, there are numerous sources documenting asylum seekers from Hungary and Czech Republic. The Federal court of Canada provides links to various case law examples:



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Examples of Documentation:

**Czech Republic:**

<http://decisions.fct-cf.gc.ca/fc-eliisa/search?language=EN&courtScope=fc&courtScope=fca&all=refugee+%22czech+republic%22&phrase=&any=&without=&title=&citation=&exactDate=&dateFrom=&dateTo=>

**Hungary:**

<http://decisions.fct-cf.gc.ca/fc-eliisa/search?language=EN&courtScope=fc&courtScope=fca&all=refugee+hungary&phrase=&any=&without=&title=&citation=&exactDate=&dateFrom=&dateTo=>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada published some hearing decisions:

**Hungary:**

<http://www.iijcan.org/eliisa/search.do?language=en&searchTitle=Canada+%28federal%29+Immigration+and+Refugee+Board+of+Canada&sortOrder=relevance&searchPage=eliisa%2FcourtSearch.vm&t=cisr&jurisdiction=ca&text=%22hungary%22&id=&startDate=&endDate=>

**Czech Republic:**

<http://www.iijcan.org/eliisa/search.do?language=en&searchTitle=Canada+%28federal%29+Immigration+and+Refugee+Board+of+Canada&sortOrder=relevance&searchPage=eliisa%2FcourtSearch.vm&t=cisr&jurisdiction=ca&text=%22czech+republic%22&id=&startDate=&endDate=>

**India and Pakistan:**

In 2009 the total amount of refugee claimants entering Canada from India was 490 (down from 1,457 in 2000) and from Pakistan was 427 (down from 3,246 in 2000). (See chart above from Citizen and Immigration Canada).

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The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada provides a good overview of the countries in question with many links to important documents, including those put out by the Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and many other NGOs and IGOs. Documents containing information on these countries can also be accessed through databases such as the World Bank's document publications and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

CanLII provides many easily assessable claims from refugees wishing to come to Canada. The keywords "India" and "Refugee" produced 2039 results. These results include many non-political reasons for individuals to seek asylum (and one can further limit the search by typing in "NOT political"). Some examples of non-political claims in this database are claims based on marital status (i.e. divorced women), spousal abuse, abuse from in-laws, and sexual orientation. Similarly, with the keywords "Pakistan" and "refugee" there were 636 results. It is important to note that the majority of individuals from these countries sought refugee status because of spousal abuse, persecution on the grounds of religion (i.e. Christianity), sexual orientation, and many others. However, many other reasons can be found in these documents. The Canadian Immigration case law provides primary documentations and there are many reports written on the situations in both countries.

Please note: when searching for information on Indian refugees most of the information will actually be regarding refugees within India. This is because many groups flee to India, such as refugees from Tibet, Bangladesh, Burma, and Bhutan

Examples of Documentation:

July 2010 serious floods hit Pakistan, this is a further non-political reasons for many Pakistanis to seek refugee status abroad (see news article from UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.ca/news/2011-01-26.htm>).

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**Mexico:**

Non-governmental organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, stand as the principal sources from which to glean relevant and official documents and reports. While the Federal Government of Mexico has recently passed legislation that will afford greater rights and protections to refugees to that country, it remains imperative that the 4th World Archive include materials which reflect the still-large numbers of refugee claimants coming from Mexico.

In a key 2005 document, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada outlines the lack of accountability of Mexican state institutions as a major factor in high levels of refugee claimancy. Further factors include domestic violence against women, numerous instances of discrimination based on sexual orientation, and an entrenched culture of crime and corruption. The IRBC offers a contextually helpful Fact Sheet, as well as a variety of reports and documents from case law that require inclusion in the 4th World repository. In terms of said case law reports, a preliminary search of the CANLII database yields over 1000 hits. Indeed, it is essential that the digital archive bring together official documents that outline the situation under Mexico's federal government, which Human Rights Watch has labelled as "lost in transition."

Examples of Documentation:

[http://www.irbcisr.gc.ca:8080/Publications/PubNDP\\_CDN.aspx?id=4168](http://www.irbcisr.gc.ca:8080/Publications/PubNDP_CDN.aspx?id=4168)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37403&Cr=refugee&Cr1>

Human Rights Watch, Mexico: Lost in Transition: Bold Ambitions, Limited Results for Human Rights Under

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Fox, 17 May 2006, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/44c762354.html> [accessed 1 February 2011]

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Issue Paper: Mexico Situation of Witnesses to Crime and Corruption, Women Victims of Violence and Victims of Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation, February 2007, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/46d2ed512.html> [accessed 1 February 2011]

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Country Fact Sheet - Mexico, June 2007, Research completed: 8 May 2007, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/47de29abd.html> [accessed 1 February 2011]

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Mexico: State Protection (December 2003 - March 2005), 1 May 2005, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/430603104.html> [accessed 31 January 2011]

**Nigeria:**

The two main sources for material in a dossier on Nigeria are reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), and examples of Canadian immigration case law. Human Rights Watch has produced numerous authoritative reports that pertain to Nigeria, including their World Report 2011; Together, Apart: Organizing Around Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; "Everyone's in on the Game": Corruption and Human Rights Abuses by the Nigeria Police Force; and "They Do Not Own This Place": Government Discrimination Against "Non-Indigenes" in Nigeria. Other sources of reports include Amnesty International (e.g. Report 2010), the

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International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (e.g. Nigeria: Dispatch from Bauchi, February 2008), and The International Crisis Group (e.g. Northern Nigeria: Background to Conflict - Africa Report No. 168). The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has also produced a number of valuable documents that relate to possible conditions that would lead someone from Nigeria to seek asylum. Titles include “Breaking the Spell: Responding to Witchcraft Accusations Against Children - Research Paper No. 197”, and “State Failure and Extra-Legal Justice: Vigilante Groups, Civil Militias and the Rule of Law in West Africa - Research Paper No. 166.”

The other major element of a dossier on Nigeria would consist of Canadian case law about refugee claimants from Nigeria. A preliminary search of the CanLII database produces over 600 examples matching the search terms “Nigeria immigration”. Other examples of Canadian case law could be gleaned from other sources as well.

Examples of Documentation:

Amnesty International - [thereport.amnesty.org](http://thereport.amnesty.org)

CANLII - [canlii.org](http://canlii.org)

The Crisis Group - [crisisgroup.org](http://crisisgroup.org)

Human Rights Watch - [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission  
[iglhrc.org](http://iglhrc.org)

UNHCR documents found via Refworld - [www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain)