



1949, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. [D2013.1912.24]



1979, UNHCR, RF210501, V. Leduc

Refuge Canada

Overview

Refugees face fear, shattered lives and often dangerous voyages in search of refuge. Canada has provided that refuge for many. However, over the course of the twentieth century, 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.

Drawing upon oral histories, archival images, artifacts and interactives, *Refuge Canada* shares the stories of refugees in an evocative and engaging way. The exhibition aims to create a setting for visitors to make a personal connection to the feelings of pain, danger and hope experienced by refugees, and to be inspired and informed on refugee issues in Canada today.

Highlights

- Draws on oral histories and quotes from personal accounts to **share first person experiences**.
- **Original artifacts**, archival and contemporary images and news footage speaking to refugee experiences.
- **Interdisciplinary** experience, combining aspects of history, personal experiences and challenging range of views, labels, myths and stereotypes about refugees.
- Multimedia including digital interactives and a **UNHCR refugee tent** immersive setting.
- Flexible design includes two to three adaptable layout options, 1300 to 1500^{ft}.

The Experience



2016, UNHCR, RF249469, Agron Dragaj



Nazi authorities forced Jewish people to wear these badges across occupied Europe. This badge was probably worn by Siegfried Meyer, a German Jew who survived the Holocaust and was freed in 1945. Montréal Holocaust Museum

Refuge Canada is organized into five themes:

1. Life Before

No one chooses to be a refugee. Anyone can become one. Refugees leave their homes, families and jobs behind when they are forced to flee. A dramatic depiction of the ruins of a past life will introduce visitors to this experience.

2. Fear

Fear, one of the most primal of human emotions, is central to the experience of refugees. It is also a key part of the United Nations definition of a refugee: "A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution..." Compelling stories, evocative objects and challenging interactives will introduce visitors to the type of fears faced by refugees as they undertake their journey to safety.

3. Displacement

Refugees who flee their homes and life as they knew it have to make uncertain and often dangerous journeys. They need to make hard decisions about survival, returning home, or fleeing precarious temporary shelter to yet another country, often as unwelcome, stateless residents. Stories that bring out the best and worst in people will be explored, including an immersive look at life in the tents of a refugee camp.

4. Refuge

Today, over 65 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes. International organizations and individual nations grapple with the global challenge of offering refuge. How has Canada responded over the course of the 20th century? Canadians pride themselves in welcoming refugees, but there are dark chapters in Canada's response to various refugee crises. Visitors will see the different processes Canada has put in place in the 20th century to respond to refugees.

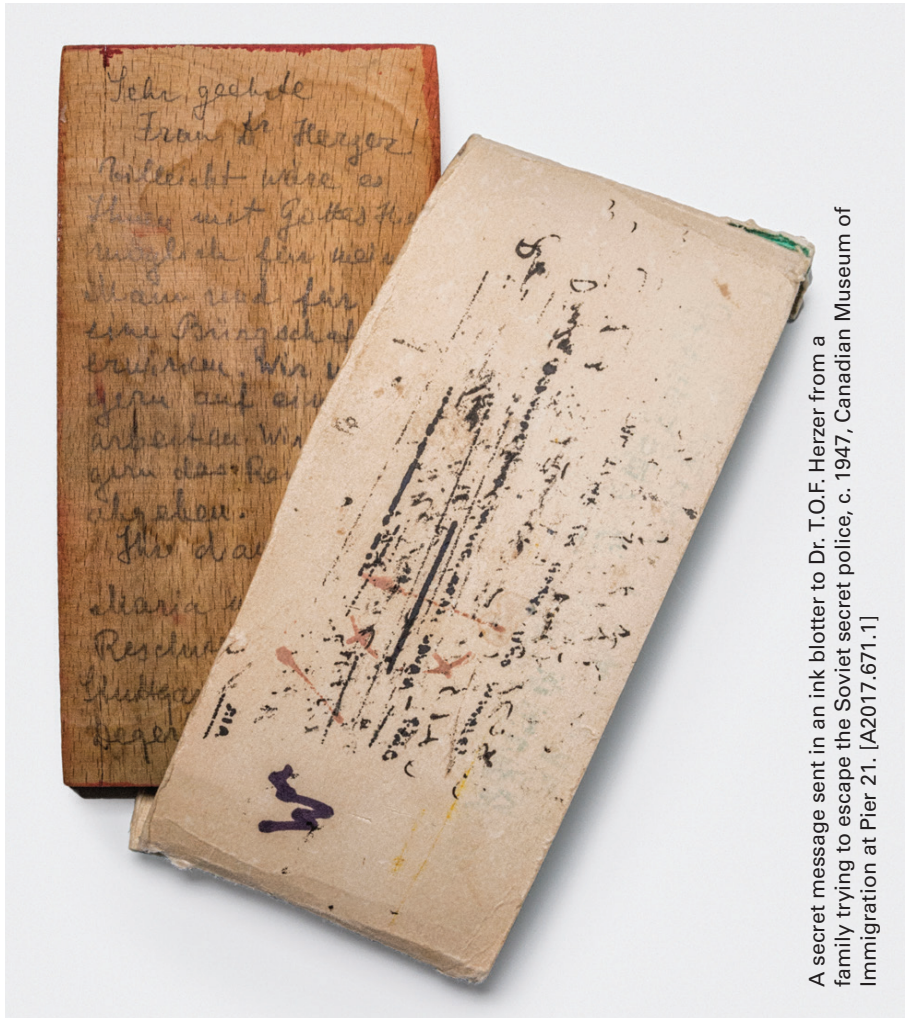
5. Life in Canada

Refugees who make it to Canada face a range of perceptions by Canadians. Visitors will encounter a challenging range of views, labels, myths and stereotypes about refugees. Adapting to Canada is a daunting task as refugees grapple with both everyday challenges and identity conflicts. Canada has enjoyed success with settling past waves of refugees, sometimes with innovative sponsorship programs. Refugee stories of achievements and contribution to Canada will leave visitors informed, as well as inspired by the people who have found refuge in Canada.

Sample Features

As soon as we got the order...saying that within four or five days, you have to leave the country at night, not during daytime. If you try to leave the country during the daytime...you will be taken to the jail.

- Madan Kumar Giri, arrived from Bhutan via India and Nepal, 2006. [14.05.08MKG]



A secret message sent in an ink blotter to Dr. T.O.F. Herzer from a family trying to escape the Soviet secret police, c. 1947, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. [A2017.671.1]

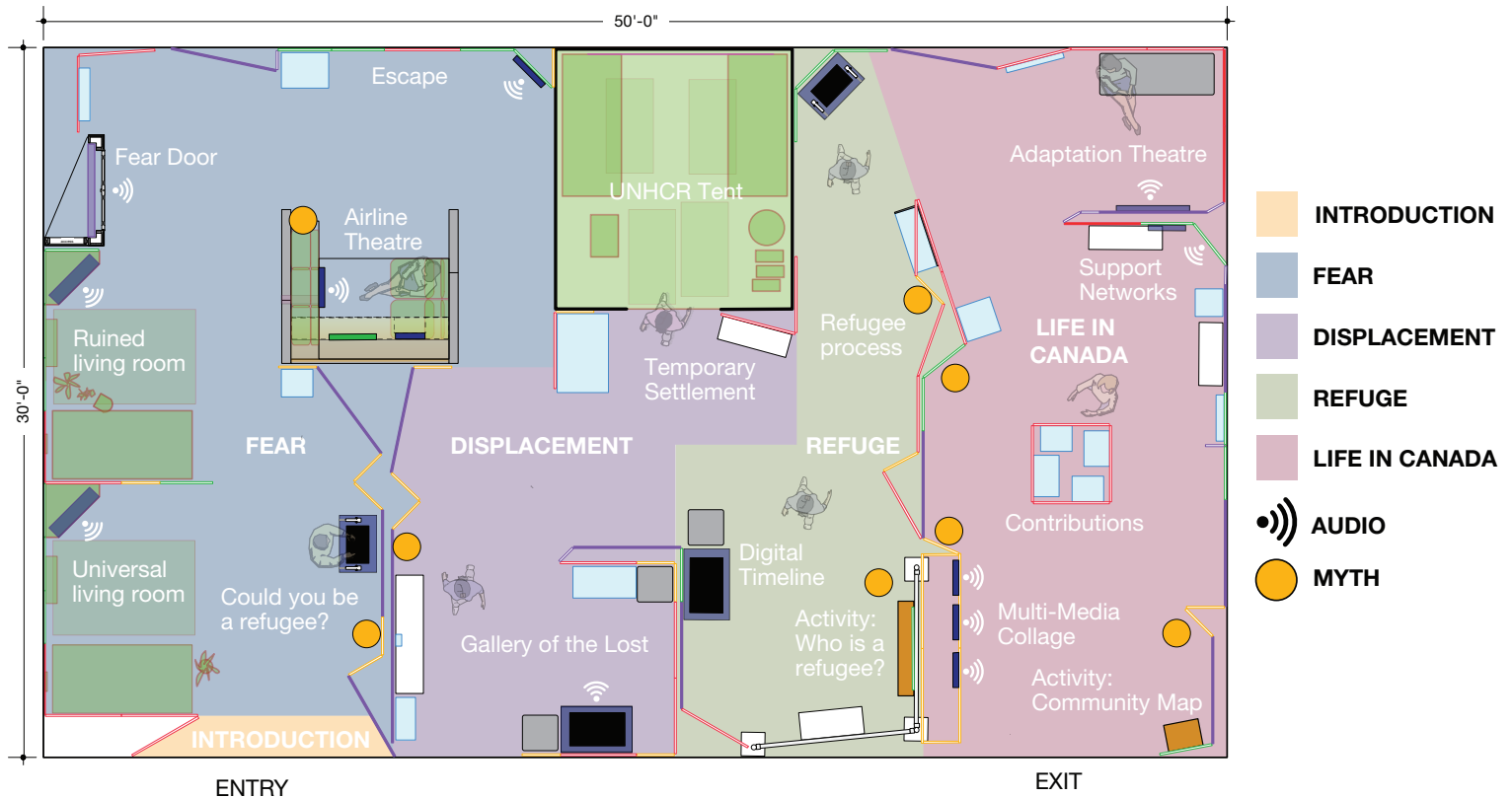


Purse carried by Kim Phuc when she left her flight at Gander, Newfoundland to claim asylum in 1992. She arrived with little more than the clothes she was wearing. Courtesy of Kim Phuc Phan Thi.

My parents persevered and gave us an opportunity to flourish in our adopted country. My entire family gave back tenfold to Canada and continue to do so.

- Laura Guillemette, arrived from Poland via Germany, 1950. [S2012.1345.1]

Floor Plan



About the Museum

As Canada's 6th national museum, the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 explores immigration to Canada to enhance understanding of immigrants' experiences, the role that immigration has played in the building of Canada, and immigrants' contributions to Canada's culture, economy, and way of life.

The Museum is located in Halifax at Pier 21, a National Historic Site which served as the gateway for one million immigrants between 1928 and 1971.

Refuge Canada was developed by the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21.

For More Information

Size:

1300 to 1500 ft² (123 to 139 m²)

Available for display:

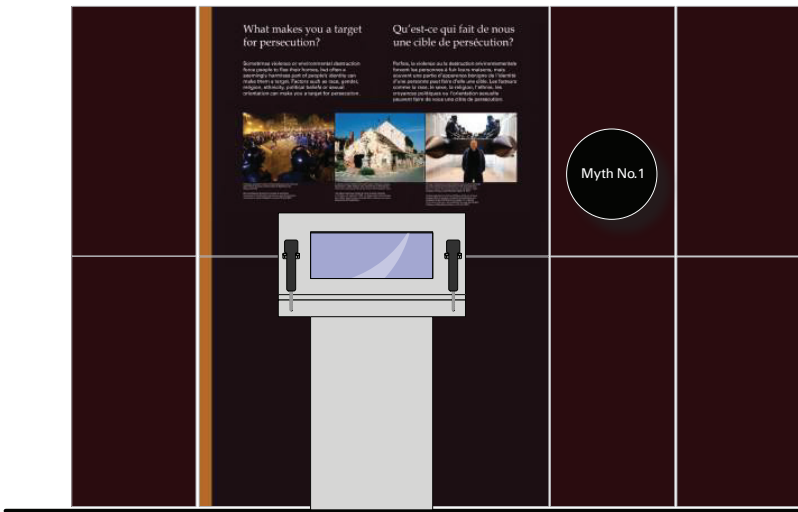
June 2019 to 2024

Fee:

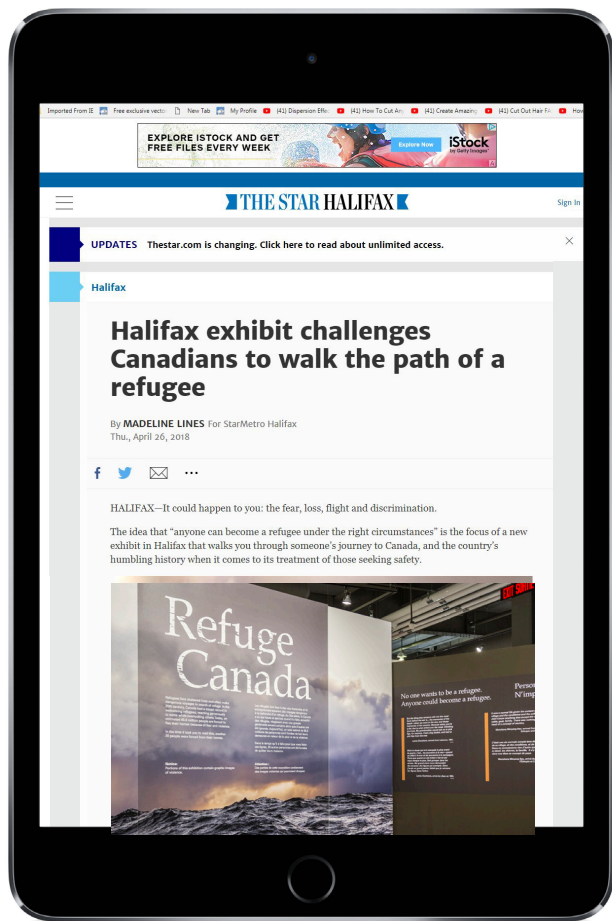
\$15,000 for 12 week display period,
or \$25,000 for 24 weeks

To book now, please contact:

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In the Media



"A new exhibit ... walks you through someone's journey to Canada, and the country's humbling history when it comes to its treatment of those seeking safety."

Halifax exhibit challenges Canadians to walk the path of a refugee. - *The Star Halifax.*

CULTURE

CULTURE FASHION & BEAUTY LIFESTYLE BLOG VLOG T. VIET

Home > Culture > Finding Refuge In Canada



"Assumptions and stereotypes are debunked and visitors can learn the truth about refugees."
Finding Refuge in Canada. - *Culture Magazin.*

"The highlight for us was the refugee display - it is something all Canadians and Americans need to see. It really helps you to see what refugees go through just to get to a safe place and have chance at a better life."

- Reviewed by a *TripAdvisor* traveler, July 9 2018.

"There was a special exhibit about Refugees. It was outstanding personalizing the experiences of individuals from around the world who have immigrated to Canada. The stories were amazing, heartwarming and the exhibit thought provoking."

- Reviewed by a *TripAdvisor* traveler, July 11 2018

"The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 hopes to change that this summer with the Refuge Canada exhibition, a truly transparent look at the history of Canada's role with refugees since the Second World War."

Museum exhibit explores Canada's role in global refugee crisis. - *The Chronicle Herald.*

"Visitors are invited to walk a mile in the shoes of people for whom a mile is longer than most."

Hottest tickets in Canada: Five things to do across the country. - *The Globe and Mail.*



Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Musée canadien de l'immigration du Quai 21

Canada