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Refugees lose fingers to frostbite as they WALK to Canada from the U.S. - because they fear being sent back to their home countries

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- Refugee groups in Canada claim they have seen examples of people walking across frozen ground from the United States
- They say they are people who fear not being able to stay in the U.S. because of a more hostile environment towards refugees
- Numbers arriving at Canada's land border with the U.S. and claiming refugee status was already up dramatically in 2016
- Liberal prime minister Justin Trudeau's pledge to accept refugees in 2015 is seen as helping drive the influx

By REUTERS

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Refugees in the United States fearing a worsening climate of xenophobia in the wake of a divisive U.S. presidential campaign are flocking to **Canada** in growing numbers.

Manitoba's Welcome Place refugee agency helped 91 claimants between Nov. 1 and Jan. 25 - more than the agency normally sees in a year. Most braved the freezing prairie winter to walk into Canada.

'We haven't had something before like this,' said Maggie Yeboah, president of the Ghanaian Union of Manitoba, which has helped refugees get medical attention and housing. 'We don't know what to do.'

A temporary restraining order by a U.S. judge of President **Donald Trump's** executive order that blocked nationwide the implementation of key parts of the travel ban has provided a reprieve for refugees trying to come to the United States.

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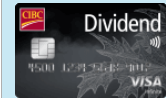
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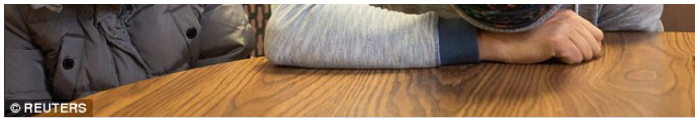
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On their way: Dolma and Tenzin, whose last names were withheld, are originally from Tibet. They are on their way to applying for refugee status at the Canadian border but were photographed in Vive La Casa shelter in Buffalo, New York



Frozen: Since late summer, 27 men from Ghana walked to Manitoba from the United States. Two lost all their fingers to frostbite in December and nearly froze to death.

But Canadian advocacy organizations are bracing for a greater influx of asylum-seekers, driven in part by the contrast between the ruling Liberal government's acceptance of Syrian refugees in Canada with Trump's anti-foreigner rhetoric.

'They will make a dash for Canada, whether they are going to go through cold weather to die or not,' said Abdikheir Ahmed, a Somali immigrant in Manitoba's capital Winnipeg who helps refugees make claims.

Since late summer, 27 men from Ghana walked to Manitoba from the United States, Yeboah said. Two lost all their fingers to frostbite in December and nearly froze to death.

More than 7,000 refugee applicants entered Canada in 2016 through land ports of entry from the United States, up 63 percent from the previous year, according to Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

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Over 2,000 more entered 'irregularly' during a similar time period, without official authorization, such as across unmonitored fields.

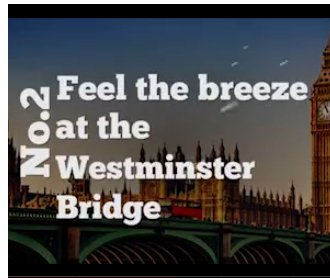
Four hundred and thirty asylum seekers crossed Manitoba's border irregularly in the first nine months of 2016-17, up from 340 the entire previous year, CBSA said.

'The U.S. presidential campaign, putting undocumented immigrants and refugees in the spotlight, terrified them,' said Ghezze Hagos, counselor at Welcome Place. 'The election and inauguration of Mr. Trump appears to be the final reason for those who came mostly last month.'

In Quebec, 1,280 refugee claimants irregularly entered between April 2016 and January 2017, triple the previous year's total.



It's revealed the couple are expecting twins



Kate Moss flashes her racy leather bra as she unbuttons her shirt during dinner in London... before heading home in the early hours bleary-eyed



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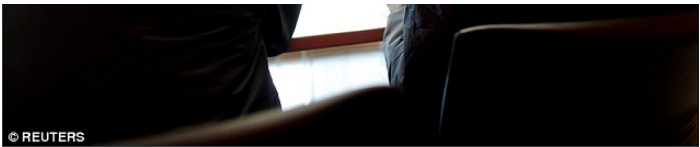


'There was a baby boom!' Jamie Dornan admits erotic Fifty Shades sex scenes with Dakota Johnson led to pregnancy surge



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Seeking sanctuary: Two unnamed Ghanians are interviewed at the Welcome Place, a center for refugees in Winnipeg, Manitoba, having quit the U.S. to seek refugee status in Canada



© REUTERS
Irregular entry: Emerson, in the Canadian province of Manitoba, is one of the places where refugees have been stopping

In British Columbia and Yukon, 652 people entered Canada irregularly in 2016, more than double the previous year.

More of these people would enter at border crossings, advocates say, if Canada didn't have a policy of turning many of them away when they do.

The 2004 Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement requires people to apply for asylum in the first of the two countries they arrive in.

Advocates argue the agreement inadvertently encourages people to dangerously sneak into Canada and make a claim rather than be rebuffed at the border.

If the government doesn't abandon this agreement, they say, it could find itself in court.

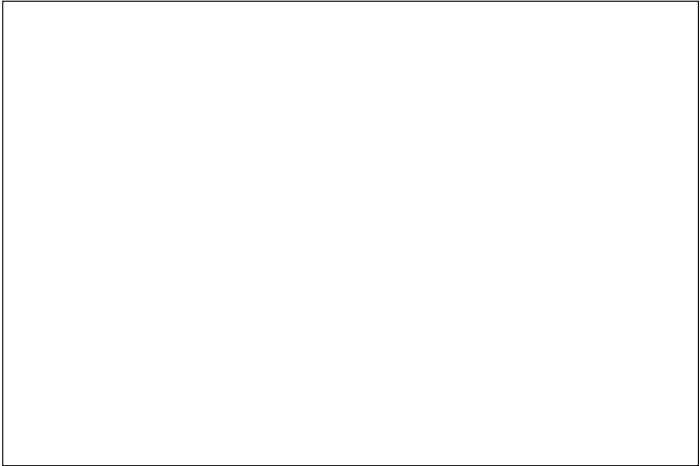
The number of refugee applicants crossing the land border under exceptions to the Safe Third Country Agreement has risen by 16 percent in the first nine months of 2016 compared to the same time period the year before.

In Buffalo, New York, hundreds of people are streaming through Vive, a shelter that helps refugee applicants to Canada.

Vive's client numbers, including long-time U.S. residents and refugees, spiked last summer and have stayed consistently high since - two or three times what they'd normally see a year or two ago. Vive's Canadian service manager Mariah Walker expects to see even more.

'Clients are definitely spooked by (Trump's) executive orders,' said Walker.

Prime Minister Trudeau took office in 2015 on a commitment to admit tens of thousands of Syrian refugees.



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All welcome: Liberal Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau's public statements are said to be driving asylum-seekers to cross from the U.S.

Canadian PM Trudeau welcomes Syrian refugees in December 2015



'While the majority of the world is turning their backs and building walls, the fact that Trudeau took this bold humanitarian goal put on the map,' said Chris Friesen, director of settlement services at Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia.

But this year, Canada plans to take only 7,500 government-assisted refugees - less than half last year's number. People eager to sponsor refugees find themselves waiting years to do so.

Anisa Hussein, 20, and Lyaan Mohammed, 19, hired a smuggler to take them from Somalia to Minneapolis in August, where they planned to settle in a large Somali community. But Trump's anti-refugee rhetoric frightened them into traveling to Manitoba days later.

'(Trump) said he would turn away the refugees and we would go back to Somalia,' said Mohammed, peeking timidly from behind the hood of a thick parka she received in Canada for winter. 'We were so scared. We just wanted to be a safe place.'

They rode a bus and taxi to North Dakota, then walked for hours into Emerson, Manitoba and filed refugee claims.

They might have been able to cross at a port of entry if Canada's policies were different, says Canadian Council for Refugees executive director Janet Dench.

Her organization, as well as Amnesty International and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, are demanding Canada abandon the Safe Third Country Agreement: Trump's United States is no safe haven, they argue.

The government is standing by the agreement, Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen told the House of Commons last week.

If the government doesn't act, Dench said, her group will sue.

'We are talking about people's charter rights. So, yes, we would expect to see something in the courts.'

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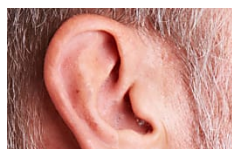
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A man in a high vis jacket was in shot



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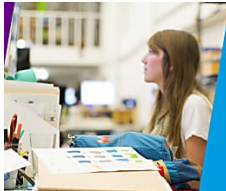
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Carolina_Girl, Raleigh, United States, 2 days ago

So wait. Did anyone notice that, while bragging about Canada being a haven for refugees, this article says they plan to take in less than half the number they did last year? Why's that? Trudeau is talking out of both sides of his mouth. Not to mention that he's allowed to have a set number, while the U.S. is supposed to take all comers. Why? Canada's got just as much room and they've got a comparable country and economy to us.

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BCL1, Parkland, United States, 3 days ago

Canada should build a wall -- and make the US pay for it.

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a design school in east Germany

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'There is certainly a lot more pressure on the girls to be thinner now': Cindy Crawford confesses to loving carbs and needing chocolate 'everyday'

Brit bombshells! Suki

Canada should built a wall -- and make the US pay for it.

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2

5

psvensson75

Goteborg, Sweden, 3 days ago

What a bogus story. The story say that they entered in the first 9 months of 2016 -(2017) Obama was president and Clinton was winning so were they fleeing because of Democrat rule in the US. The travel restrictions were instated less than a week ago and were halted after two days. These Ghana men sneaked in during Obama. As Chelsey Clinton say 'Stop making things up'.

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4

cahser11

Dallas, United States, 3 days ago

Canadians are fools for taking these people in.

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4

Nadalina

Hamburg, Germany, 3 days ago

Interesting how White People of the West (attention:sarcasm) keep forgetting that their upper class = old White Money caused almost all Problems the world is facing today. I can not think of one sigle Country which is at war or unstable today, which hasn't been messed around with in the past and present by British, French, Americans, Spanish, Russians, etc...

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19

cahser11

Dallas, United States, 3 days ago

Why are we not putting these people on buses to Canada? I say that if they want them, we will deliver them.

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22

4

hockey27

Conway, United States, 2 days ago

Maybe Texas can send Sanctuary Sheriff Sally Hernandez to Canada with them.

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6

2

ShaneTowe

Charlestown, United States, 3 days ago

Good Canada, please take them all and also 50 plus hollywood celebs if you can. All we have to do now is, close our border with Canada and let legal people in.

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22

3

The boat guy

United States, United States, 3 days ago

Complete fabrication.

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19

1

Altoidian

Las Vegas, United States, 3 days ago

Wait a minute! If Trudeau welcomes them into Canada, why did they feel they had to sneak in illegally? Why not just show up at the border and say, "Here I am!"? And another questions of some pertinence: with the liberals all touting "Global Warming" how is it the poor "Immigrants" lost fingers to frostbite?

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26

3

texmom32

FULSHEAR, United States, 3 days ago

Poor immigrant lost fingers because nobody in his information system mentioned he should buy gloves or go to the nearest salvation army or shelter run store and buy a pair of gloves.

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Looked fantastic

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The 28-year-old model looked absolutely stunning

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