



SANCTUARY CITY: CONSULTATION GUIDE

COUNCIL’S RESOLUTION:

February 1, 2017 resolved:

That the following actions be taken in response to the President of the United States of America’s executive order to ban individuals and families from Syria, Iran, Sudan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Somalia from entering the United States of America:

- a) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to consult with the Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Advisory Committee (DIAAC) and the community stakeholders who are working on the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, and report back at a future meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee with the appropriate arrangements for the City of London to become a Sanctuary City where residents can expect access to service without fear;
- b) the Mayor BE REQUESTED and the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to communicate to the Federal Government, including the Ministry of Immigration and Citizenship, that the City of London continues to be committed to receiving refugees from Syria, Iran, Sudan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, and Somalia who have been banned from entry to the United States of America as per the President's recent Executive Order;

What is a “Sanctuary City”?

Working definitions are:

Canadian Model	American Model
“City is where all residents have full rights to access all city services and city-administered services without fear, regardless of their documentation”	“City that does not allow municipal funds or resources to be used to enforce federal immigration laws”

What is the Municipal’s role and authority?

Canada is a Federal state and therefore Immigration falls under Federal jurisdiction; The City may not regulate acts, events, or relationships that are defined by the federal government. This means the federal gov’t has control over law enforcement activities related to boarder management and immigration control.

The policies being discussed today are those only related to the areas of access to municipal services under the jurisprudence of the City. Very rarely do City by-laws and policies make immigration status a criterion of eligibility. In most cases, services are provided simply to “residents” of the city.

What do we mean by Undocumented Individual?

“Undocumented individuals” without status refers to a person who has not been granted permission to stay in the country, or who has overstayed their visa. The majority come into Canada through authorized programs but for various reasons, their status lapses.

This includes refugee claimants awaiting a decision, failed refugee claimants still in the country or workers and students whose visas have expired. This can also result from breakdowns in sponsorship and employer relationships.

