



World University Service of Canada

Referendum Winter 2020

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“Do you agree to support the World University Service of Canada (WUSC)’s Student Refugee Program with a student levy of \$2.00 per student per semester?”

Access to education is enshrined in human rights. In 1948, it was established that “higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit”.¹ However, today, **only 3% of refugee youth have access to education**. It is the United Nation’s tertiary education target for 2030 to enroll **15%** of college-eligible refugees in tertiary education programs.² Partners around the world have stepped up their education commitments to work towards meeting this goal.

Here at UFV, we can do our part. The UFV WUSC Local Committee exists to implement the Student Refugee Program. The SRP is a Canada wide program run through Universities, Colleges and CEJEPS - it began in 1978 and has brought in thousands of refugee students to live and study in Canada - today, over 80 institutions across Canada are sponsoring over 130 students every year. The program sponsors a refugee student’s tuition and all their living costs for one year, after which time the student is supported in finding employment, financial aid or scholarship opportunities to cover the cost of the rest of their studies.

Since 2018, the UFV Local Committee has been active on campus, and through fundraising efforts and partnerships with UFV departments, **we welcomed our first student to Canada in January 2020!** We are now asking for your help - our program cannot be sustained through fundraising and the generosity of UFV partners alone. **If every student contributes just \$2 a semester, we will have enough funding to sponsor 2 students a year.** This would double the size of our program, and allow sustainability for years to come!

For less than what you pay for parking or coffee in a day, you can change the lives of another student forever, enrich our campus with diversity and experience, and contribute towards the global push to provide education for all.

Vote **YES** for the UFV Student Refugee Program!

For more information, questions about the levy, or if you’d like to be involved, please contact us at wusc.ufv@gmail.com or find us on social media @wusc.ufv

¹ Article 26, Universal Declaration of Human Rights. *United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

² Tertiary Education Target, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees <https://www.unhcr.org/tertiary-education.html>

