

Migration Emergencies: Are We Ready?

Narrative: Canada and the US are not immune from migration emergencies. The influx of migrating populations in the mid-1990s to the US from Cuba and Haiti, the Mariel Boatlift in 1980, the Sun Sea Ship of 2010 and most recently the recurrent Unaccompanied Alien Children migration across the southern US Border over the past four years. Furthermore, Canada and the US are also at risk for migrating internally displaced populations as seen following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 or the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. We must develop a strategy to appropriately respond to these sudden, mass migrations. This presentation will discuss the challenges and possible solutions to building greater response capability to address migration emergencies in the US and Canada.

Objectives:

1. Describe the challenges of responding to migration emergencies.
2. Discuss successful strategies used across the globe to address these emergencies.
3. Present the US and/or Canadian strategy to support mass migration.
4. Present options for States and Provinces to become better prepared to address migration emergencies.