

CFAX 1070

Murray Langdon Comment

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Another migrant ship is apparently on its way to Canada; is another crisis in Canadian identity to follow?

It strikes me as obvious what to do with the impending arrival, but popular opinion may not agree. Instead of waiting for it to arrive in Canadian waters, is there nothing that can be done in advance? Is there no UN force or country able to help out with a ship to interdict the vessel's movement?

Failing that, it became quite clear with the last ship's arrival how Canadians feel about forced migration or queue jumping; they hate it. If we are so inclined, letting the ship arrive and dealing with its passengers is a humanitarian gesture. We can ensure health, safety and well-being and immediately begin assessing who is who and what they intend to do in Canada. But at the end of the day, Canadians seem united in their feelings; stop this activity – right here, right now.

I think the idea of setting up UN-backed refugee centres in countries of departure is a start, but should a ship show up here -- we must take the proactive step of stopping this trend. With every ship's arrival, we deepen the precedent and send a message that despite whatever tough talk comes out of our mouths; Canadians are pushovers and are free to be walked all over.

A strong message has to be sent. The last ship galvanized our sense of justice and fairness. It is not fair to covertly show up on our shores, attract all kinds of resources and make people who've been legitimately in the immigration queue wait even longer. The time to act is now . . .