



▶ GROUP OF FIVE

▶ FORMING YOUR GROUP

# SECTION 3:

## *Group of Five*

### *Group of Five*

A Group of Five is any group of five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents that has come together to initiate a sponsorship under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. The individuals who make up this group commit to providing financial, emotional and settlement support for the refugee(s) for the duration of the sponsorship period, which is usually 12 months or in exceptional cases up to 36 months. An assessment by the Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg (CPO-W) will be done to determine if the group and the individual group members meet the eligibility criteria.

To qualify as a sponsor and a Group of Five **each** individual member of the group must:

- ✓ be 18 years of age or older;
- ✓ be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- ✓ live in the community where the refugee will live; and
- ✓ make a commitment to support the refugee financially and with settlement support for the duration of the sponsorship period, which is usually 12 months and in exceptional circumstances can be up to 36 months.

Members who wish to use their employment income to support the refugees must list their current dependants (including any other sponsorship both family and refugee that they are involved in) and give proof of employment and income.

*It is expected that no less than three members of the group make a financial commitment*

As with other sponsoring groups, the sponsorship Undertaking will be refused if a member of a Group of Five is:

- ▶ convicted of serious criminal acts (if five years have not lapsed since the end of the sentence);
- ▶ in default of court-ordered support payments; or
- ▶ removable and person, subject to citizenship revocation proceedings.

## *Forming your Group*

There is no official way of forming a Group of Five or matching individuals interested in getting involved in this type of sponsorship. Most Groups of Five consist of individuals who are friends, family members or individuals with a common interest to come together to sponsor a refugee. Some settlement service providing agencies provide groups with support to form and sustain their Group of Five sponsorship.

When forming your group, consider who you need as part of your group.

For example,

- ▶ How much **money** can you and the other members of your group contribute? How much still needs to be contributed?
- ▶ Is there a family member here in Canada who will also contribute to the sponsorship?
- ▶ Do you know others in your community that have been involved in **previous sponsorships** or other refugee related work who may be able to help with the processing, provide donations, or assist in the settlement of the newcomers?

Being a member of more than one Group of Five depends on your financial capacity and your time. From your application, CIC will deduct any prior commitments from the sponsorship undertaking and consider the number of dependants you are currently financially supporting to assess whether you have the necessary funds and the time to support an additional undertaking based on your previous and present commitments.