



## Update from IRCC: Change of destination requests

There are situations where a sponsor may request to change the intended final destination to Canada for their sponsored refugees. In most cases, this occurs because of long wait times in some missions and the sponsor or co-sponsor is no longer residing in the community where the original Sponsorship Undertaking was approved. These change requests typically occur after the Notification of Arrival Transmission (NAT) has been sent.

**If a sponsor requests a change in the refugee's destination based solely on the relocation of a co-sponsor and the SAH and/or CG are no longer based in the community of settlement, then this sponsorship scenario would no longer meet the regulatory requirements of R153 (1) (a) that a sponsor must reside or have representatives in the expected community of settlement.** Furthermore, the definition of "sponsor" as per R138(a): "sponsor" means (a) a group, a corporation or an unincorporated organization or association referred to in subsection 13(2) of the Act, or any combination of them, that is acting for the purpose of sponsoring a Convention refugee or a person in similar circumstances. As you know, clarification on this requirement will be included in the revised SAH Agreement.

The legislative requirements are a very critical piece in this but also important is the logistical and resource challenges that occur when change of destination requests are submitted so late in the game when the refugee's travel has already been booked. This creates a great deal of duplication of work for IOM, for Matching Centre, and for the Visa Offices. It also adds to the burden of the loan costs carried by the refugees themselves as there are additional fees incurred with flight cancellations and re-bookings.

**Therefore, procedures for change of destination requests will be changing effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.** Sponsors will be expected to be proactive and review their caseload to confirm final destinations for the sponsored refugees. If a change of destination is required along with alternate sponsorship arrangements including option to appoint representatives this must be communicated to the newly created Resettlement Operations Center in Ottawa (ROC-O) (new contact info for ROC-O to be provided soon) prior to the Notification of Arrival Transmission (NAT). Should a change in destination be requested after the NAT has been issued, these requests will not be granted. The refugee will be destined to the community on record with IRCC. If the sponsor needs to make alternate sponsorship arrangements post-arrival, any travel expenses for the refugee will be incurred by the sponsoring group. The sponsor will still need to ensure that the residency requirements are being met with the new arrangement and if post-arrival monitoring by IRCC demonstrate that these requirements are not met, then sponsorship default could be a potential consequence.

IRCC is planning to add reminder notifications to confirm final destination in future communications to sponsoring groups. Further details on this to be shared in due course. **At this time, we will ask all sponsors to please review their overseas caseload and confirm that the final destination continues to be the one on file with IRCC as per the Sponsorship Application submitted.** Should a destination need to be changed, they must ensure that alternate sponsorship arrangements are in place in the new community of settlement. If this will involve the appointment of at least 2 representatives in the community of settlement, then they will need to email ROC-O to inform them of the representatives and their names (it will be important to reference that this is regarding an existing sponsorship that has been submitted) along with an updated Settlement Plan. If a new SAH or CG will be involved, then a new Sponsorship Undertaking form (and Settlement Plan, if applicable) must be submitted to ROC-O for assessment to formalize the new arrangement.

## NEWLY TRANSLATED RESOURCES ON RSTP WEBSITE

Translations to Arabic, Armenian, Kurdish-Kurmanji, Kurdish-Sorani, and Tigrinya from the current English factsheets on the following topics, *courtesy of OCASI* :

### **Sponsorship Disputes & Breakdowns**

The Sponsorship Disputes and Breakdown information sheet covers questions around what should be done if there is a sponsorship dispute, where to access information on SAH breakdowns, and consequences of PSR breakdowns.

(Armenian) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Disputes-Breakdowns\\_Armenian.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Disputes-Breakdowns_Armenian.pdf)

(Kurdish-Kurmanji) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Disputes-Breakdowns\\_Kurdish-Kurmanji.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Disputes-Breakdowns_Kurdish-Kurmanji.pdf)

(Kurdish-Sorani) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Disputes-Breakdowns\\_Kurdish\\_Sorani.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Disputes-Breakdowns_Kurdish_Sorani.pdf)

(Tigrinya) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Disputes-Breakdowns\\_Tigrinya.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Disputes-Breakdowns_Tigrinya.pdf)

(English) <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Sponsorship-Breakdown-Info-Sheet-RSTP-Final.pdf>

### **Canada Child Benefit**

As of July 2016, the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) replaces the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB), the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS), and the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB). CCB is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to eligible families in order to assist them in the cost of raising children under the age of 18.

(Armenian) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Canada-Child-Benefit\\_Armenian.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Canada-Child-Benefit_Armenian.pdf)

(Kurdish-Kurmanji) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Canada-Child-Benefit\\_Kurdish\\_Kurmanji.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Canada-Child-Benefit_Kurdish_Kurmanji.pdf)

(Kurdish-Sorani) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Canada-Child-Benefit\\_Kurdish\\_Sorani.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Canada-Child-Benefit_Kurdish_Sorani.pdf)

(Tigrinya) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Canada-Child-Benefit\\_Tigrinya.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Canada-Child-Benefit_Tigrinya.pdf)

(English) <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CCB-revised-December-2016.pdf>

### **Sponsorship Cost Table**

IRCC has developed a Sponsorship Cost Table to provide sponsoring groups with an estimate of the financial resources required to support a refugee family for twelve months. Recognizing varying levels of cost of living in different regions across Canada, this table serves as a financial guideline and is roughly based on rates of social assistance.

(Arabic) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Sponsorship-Cost-Table\\_Arabic.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Sponsorship-Cost-Table_Arabic.pdf)

(Armenian) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Sponsorship-Cost-Table\\_Armenian.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Sponsorship-Cost-Table_Armenian.pdf)

(Kurdish-Kurmanji) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Sponsorship-Cost-Table\\_Kurdish-Kurmanji.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Sponsorship-Cost-Table_Kurdish-Kurmanji.pdf)

(Kurdish-Sorani) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Sponsorship-Cost-Table\\_Kurdish\\_Sorani.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Sponsorship-Cost-Table_Kurdish_Sorani.pdf)

(Tigrinya) [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Cost-Table\\_Tigrinya.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Sponsorship-Cost-Table_Tigrinya.pdf)

(English) <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Sponsorship-Cost-Table-Fact-Sheet-1.pdf>

# UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS

## Workshop and Discussion Group: Month 13 Planning

**Date:** Friday, March 03, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm EST

**Venue:** First Baptist, 255 Woolwich Street  
Guelph, ON N1H 3V8

**Description:** The Guelph Refugee Sponsorship Forum is hosting a workshop and discussion group on Month 13 Planning for private sponsors.

Sponsors will learn from an RSTP trainer about: •When to start preparing newcomers for Month 13 •The role of sponsors during the "transition period", including important tasks to consider, and • The post-sponsorship relationship.

For registration, please email:

[guelphrefugeeforum@gmail.com](mailto:guelphrefugeeforum@gmail.com)

## Settlement Workers & Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

**Date:** Friday March 17, 2017

**Time:** 10:30 am – 1:30 pm MDT

**Venue:** Yellowknife Public Library (Community Services,  
2nd floor - Centre Square Mall, 5022 49 Street,  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3R8

**Description:** The goal of this workshop is to assist Settlement Workers in supporting their clients by gaining a thorough understanding of how the private sponsorship of refugees program works, what to do if conflict arises between sponsors and newcomers, and the various ways that Settlement Workers can provide support. Topics which will be explored include: • The different categories of Canadian refugee resettlement • Main sponsoring groups and their responsibilities • The role of a Settlement Worker in private sponsorship • What you can do if there is a sponsorship dispute • Services and resources available to Settlement Workers.

For registration, please click:

<https://rstptrainingspomarch17.eventbrite.ca> or contact the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program at [epak@rstp.ca](mailto:epak@rstp.ca) or 604-254-9626 x 517.

## Information Session and Discussion on Private Refugee Sponsorship Program

**Date:** Friday March 17, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm MDT

**Venue:** Yellowknife United Church (Northern  
United Place, 5403 - 50 Avenue (Franklin Ave),  
Yellowknife, NT

**Description:** In this session, participants will learn more about the Private Refugee Sponsorship program, how it works, eligibility criteria, and how to get involved. Topics that will be explored include: What is the Private Refugee Sponsorship Program? Eligibility Criteria for Sponsors and Applicants, Application Processing Times, and Sponsors' Responsibilities.

For registration, please click:

<https://rstpinfosessionmarch17.eventbrite.ca>

## Private Refugee Sponsorship – Supporting Settlement and Managing Expectations

**Date:** Saturday March 18, 2017

**Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm MDT

**Venue:** Yellowknife United Church (Northern  
United Place, 5403 - 50 Avenue (Franklin Ave),  
Yellowknife, NT

**Description:** This workshop will focus on post-arrival settlement and integration support issues. Topics to be discussed include: Settlement preparation: Approaches and tools to plan for successful settlement of sponsored refugees. Available resources in Yellowknife that will assist in preparing for successful settlement. Managing sponsors' and refugees' expectations of each other and how to manage these expectations to avoid potential conflicts. Power imbalance: Power imbalances affecting the relationship between sponsors and refugees and how to minimize this. When to start preparing for the end of sponsorship period? How to conduct evaluation of achievements?

Please register by following the link: <https://rstpworkshopmarch18.eventbrite.ca> or by contacting the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program at [epak@rstp.ca](mailto:epak@rstp.ca) or 604-254-9626 x 517.



This document has been prepared for Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) by The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP)

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