



Changes within IRCC

Effective September 12, 2016, responsibility for the delivery of immigration and citizenship programs in Canada was moved under a single Director General located at NHQ. Responsibility for the delivery of integration programs (Settlement as well as the Resettlement Assistance Program - RAP) in Canada was moved under a Director General of the newly named **Settlement Network (SN)** at NHQ in Ottawa.

Citizenship Week

Citizenship Week will be celebrated across Canada from **October 10 to 16, 2016**. IRCC is encouraging Canadians, including former sponsored refugees, to share their thoughts on what it means to be Canadian, stories of citizenship journey, or photos or videos of citizenship ceremony through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the hashtag #MyCitizenship.

Many activities are taking place leading up to and during Citizenship Week, including special citizenship ceremonies, guided walks and the illumination of the sails of Vancouver's Canada Place, the Calgary Tower, the Olympic Plaza, Toronto's CN Tower and Montreal's City Hall and Biosphere with the colours of the Canadian flag.

For maps of the different Citizenship Week events, go to : <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/celebrate/citweek-map.asp>

"Re-imagining Refuge"

The Centre for Refugee Studies and York University's President's Office and Universities Canada are organizing a national symposium on "Re-imagining Refuge". The event which features **Adrienne Clarkson, Loly Rico, Mary Jo Leddy and Jennifer Hyndman** will be held on **Monday, October 17th, from 1pm to 6:30 pm EDT**. For more information or to register, go to this link : <http://uecr.apps01.yorku.ca/>

Webinar on Maximizing the Impact of a Volunteer Program

Charity Village is hosting a free webinar that will talk on how to strategically make the most of a volunteer program. Presented by a volunteer management expert Stacy Ashton, among other things, the webinar will discuss "how to benchmark and track the full impact of your volunteers on organizational success, and build strategy to connect those impacts to fulfilling your mission".

Date: Thursday, October 20 at 1pm EDT

To register today, please go to this link: <https://charityvillage.com/free-webinar-maximizing-the-strategic-impact-of-volunteer-engagement.aspx>

The Mentoring Partnership

Have you recently sponsored a highly-skilled refugee with international work experience? Are they looking to reconnect with their profession in Canada?

The Mentoring Partnership is a program of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC). It matches job-ready immigrants - including refugees - with an established professional working in their field. Through mentoring immigrants gain an increased understanding of the Canadian work environment and access to professional networks in Canada.

To learn more about how the program works and more importantly how it would benefit the highly-skilled refugee, please click on this link:

<http://www.thementoringpartnership.com/about-us/howtheprogramworks/>.

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

You asked... A BVOR couple arrived in June. The wife, the PA was sent a letter requesting a new photo and later sent a card but the husband was not asked for a new photo and no card has come either. The wife's card arrived more than a month ago. I've waited in case the husband's PR card was just late but I don't think this is the case. Do you have a suggestion about how he can inquire about his PR card?

Our response... Kindly go to this link below and complete the form:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/prcard-lost.asp>

After you have completed the form, fax it to:

1-902-564-3148

or

mail it to:

**PR Card Processing Centre,
P.O. Box 9000, Sydney,
Nova Scotia, B1P 6K7**



Once you do that, you can follow-up with the **PR Card Processing Centre**. Although we do not have a direct phone number for this office, you can contact them through **IRCC Web form** or Telephone number: **1-888-242-2100**. A settlement counsellor from our office suggests calling early in the morning. Also, you may need to call while the client is with you; otherwise, the Call Centre staff may refuse to discuss the matter with you due to privacy reasons. Having the client will allow the Centre to confirm that you are authorized to talk and receive information on the behalf of the client .

You asked... We've been approached by someone who is a convention refugee but not yet a permanent resident who wants to sponsor his sister and her family. He is willing to deposit money and work with a church to his sponsor his relatives. We are wondering whether he can co-sign the Undertaking as a co-sponsor without being a PR or a citizen. Can you please advise?

Our response ... That will not be possible. If he signs the undertaking, he will have to complete the sponsor assessment form that requires one to be a permanent resident or a citizen. Having said that, the church can enter into a side agreement with him and sponsor his relatives. He can still be included in the settlement plan and requested to deposit money. But, this means he cannot be held liable by IRCC in case sponsorship breakdown or default, as he is not a formal signatory of the sponsorship undertaking. However, the church can hold him responsible on the basis of an agreement or MOU signed between the two parties.

There are three options for your group, you can

- 1- Sign a MOU with him, require him to deposit money and proceed with the sponsorship. When he becomes a PR during the process of the application, update the undertaking and settlement plan. At that stage, you can submit the updated undertaking to CPOW (with an explanation that this is not a new sponsorship) if the church needs him to be on a record as a cosponsor.
2. Request him to get another co-sponsor who can sign a sponsorship undertaking while he still deposit money and participates in the settlement of refugees.
3. Wait until he becomes a PR.

UPCOMING RSTP TRAINING SESSIONS

1. Private Refugee Sponsorship: Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date & Time: Thursday October 27, 2016 (6:00 pm - 9:00 pm ADT)

Venue: Holy Redeemer Parish Centre, 7 Pond Street, Charlotte-town PE

Description: This is a free workshop intended for private sponsors of refugees and the workshop will explore the following topics:

- Overview of common settlement challenges and best practice
- Code of ethics for privately sponsoring groups
- What are some ethical practices that private sponsors may wish to consider?
- Managing mutual expectations
- What are sponsors' and sponsored newcomers' expectations of each other and how can expectations be managed to avoid potential conflict?

2. Private Refugee Sponsorship as a Group of Five or Community Sponsors

Date & Time: Wednesday October 26, 2016 (6:00 pm - 9:00 pm ADT)

Venue: Holy Redeemer Parish Centre, 7 Pond Street, Charlotte-town PE

Description: This is a free information session for community members interested in exploring a Group of Five or Community Sponsorship and learning about the requirements for group members, eligibility criteria for sponsored applicants, the sponsorship process, and application tips!

3. Private Refugee Sponsorship: Family Reunification and Group of Five

Date & Time: Tuesday October 25, 2016 (6:00 pm - 9:00 pm ADT)

Venue: Holy Redeemer Parish Centre, 7 Pond Street, Charlotte-town PE

Description: This is a free information session for newcomers interested in exploring the option of bringing their family members to Canada through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program and learning about eligibility requirements for Group of Five refugee sponsors and sponsored applicants; the Group of Five sponsorship process, and application tips!

4. Private Refugee Sponsorship: Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date: Saturday October 15, 2016

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm NDT (Refreshments provided)

Venue: St. Michael & All Angels Anglican Church, Park Drive, Corner Brook NL

Description: This free workshop is intended for private sponsors of refugees and the workshop will explore the following topics:

- Overview of Canada's refugee resettlement program
- Code of ethics for privately sponsoring groups
- What are some ethical practices that private sponsors may wish to consider?
- What are sponsors' and sponsored newcomers' expectations of each other and how can expectations be managed to avoid potential conflict?

5. Private Refugee Sponsorship: Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date & Time: Thu October 13, 2016 (6:00 - 9:00 pm NDT)

Venue: Gander Community Centre, Steele Community Centre, Sports Hall of Fame room, 155 Airport Blvd, Gander NL

Description: This free workshop is intended for private sponsors of refugees and the workshop will explore the following topics:

- Overview of Canada's refugee resettlement program
- Code of ethics for privately sponsoring groups
- What are some ethical practices that private sponsors may wish to consider?
- What are sponsors' and sponsored newcomers' expectations of each other and how can expectations be managed to avoid potential conflict?

6. Private Refugee Sponsorship as a Group of Five or Community Sponsor

Date & Time: Tue October 11, 2016 (6:00 pm - 9:00 pm NDT)

Venue: Association for New Canadians' ESL Training Centre's cafeteria (Smithville Crescent, next to St. Patrick's Mercy Home), St. John's NL

Description: This is a free information session for newcomers interested in exploring the option of bringing their family members to Canada through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program and learning about eligibility requirements for Group of Five refugee sponsors and sponsored applicants; the Group of Five sponsorship process, and application tips!