

RSTP Bulletin

April 6, 2018

Refugee Rights Day

Every year, Refugee Rights Day is celebrated in Canada on April 4th, on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1985 [Singh decision](#). On this day, the Supreme Court found that the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) **protect the fundamental rights of refugees**.

In this bulletin, we have taken the opportunity to bring attention to some of the rights that privately sponsored refugees have in Canada. We encourage sponsors to share "[Your Rights as a Privately Sponsored Refugee](#)" document on the RSTP website (translated in 5 languages) with the families they have resettled. By sharing this document with the newcomers, you're assisting them to reestablish the rights that they have lost in their home and asylum countries.



Photo: Richard McGuire

Rights of Privately Sponsored Refugees

Resettled refugees are entitled to receive financial and settlement support from their SAH or private sponsors for the duration of the sponsorship period (which is typically 12 months).

Sponsors Responsibility in ensuring the Rights of PSRs

Sponsors have committed to resettle refugees in Canada. They cannot expect or request anything in return for sponsoring. They will provide adequate financial and settlement support without taking any money from the refugee before or after arrival. Sponsors will orient the newcomer family and provide the settlement support they require to facilitate integration.

Sponsors are responsible for treating the resettled refugees with respect and dignity. They are responsible for making sure that the newcomer family is not being mistreated or exploited. There are many examples of mistreatment and exploitation of resettled refugees, including:

- being threatened;
- being forced to give sponsors money;
- not being allowed to leave the house;
- being forced to work;
- Being forced to do things that the sponsored refugees are not comfortable doing.

IRCC's role in ensuring the rights of PSRS

It's important to encourage the newcomer family to share their questions and concerns with the sponsors or the organization that sponsored them. Communication is key. However, when the families feel that they are still not receiving the support that they are entitled to, and/or are mistreated, then they can contact Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) via email at IRCC.INPSR-PPPRRI.IRCC@cic.gc.ca or contact the police for any serious or urgent matters.

Depending on the circumstances of the case, there may be consequences to the sponsoring group and they may have to pay the government back for the government funding or provincial social assistance that the resettled family receive.

PDF versions of
**Your Rights as a
Privately Sponsored
Refugee in:**

[English](#)
[French](#)
[Arabic](#)
[Armenian](#)
[Kurmanji](#)
[Sorani](#)



Income tax Returns are due on or before **April 30, 2018!**

“If you are a **protected person** (including a refugee) and you received funds from a charitable organization such as a church group or from an individual, you generally don't have to report the amounts on your tax return. However, if a charitable organization hired you as an employee, the employment income you received is taxable.”

- Source: [CRA](#)

Watch: [Segment 7: Reporting income and deductions](#) for more information on reporting income support from sponsoring groups.

Available BVOR Profiles

114 Profiles in the **RSTP Matching Database**

These profiles include:

- Syrian, Eritrean, Congolese, Ethiopian, Iraqi, Somali, Colombian, Sudanese and Burmese
- Women at risk
- LGBTQ refugees
- The majority of the cases have medium to no medical/resettlement needs



If you are interested, **log in to the RSTP Matching Database** with your username and password:

- cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp

A few of the available BVOR cases

BVOR PROFILE #: 0965-02-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Applicant would prefer to resettle in Toronto
PA is a 38 year old Afghani single mother with 4 children. She has work experience in handicrafts, tailoring and hairdressing. All 4 of her children are school aged. This family has been persecuted in their home country based on political opinion, and could benefit from the help of a sponsor.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0926-02-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Would like to be resettled in Vancouver, BC

PA is a 25 year old Iranian divorced man. He has 11 years of formal education and speaks some English. In his home country he was forced to marriage and was persecuted based on his sexual orientation. PA would like to be resettled in Vancouver, BC as his friend has some connections there. He will appreciate the assistance of the sponsor in the country of resettlement.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0971-03-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Cousin, Saskatoon, SK

Syrian family of four with two children. The PA has experience working as a pickup driver and in construction. The family cannot return to their home country as they fear for their safety. They would benefit from the additional support of a sponsor upon arrival to Canada.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0998-03-18

Eritrean family of 4. The PA is educated, has some ability to understand English and is an operating room nurse. His parents were farmers. The PA and his family cannot return to their home country as they fear persecution based on their ethnicity and imputed political opinion. The PA and his spouse have no contact in Canada.



VOR PROFILE #: 0974-03-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: X-ref, mother

XREF: 0975-03-18

Congolese family of 8 with 6 children. The Pa is travelling with his mother on BVOR and would like to be resettled together. The PA can speak some French and has experience in farming. The family cannot return to their home country as they fear for their safety. They would benefit from the additional support of a sponsor upon resettling in Canada.

BVOR PROFILE #: 1039-03-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The PA's spouse has a sister in Regina SK and the family desires to resettle in the same city.

Burmese family of 4 including 2 overage daughters. They have some experience in farming. The two daughters are single, never married with no children. The PA and his family cannot return to their home country as their fear persecution based on ongoing ethnic conflicts. The PA's spouse has a sister in Regina SK and the family desires to resettle in the same city. The PA and his family are seeking a better life and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during their resettlement in Canada.

BVOR PROFILE #: 1040-03-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Kitchener, ON

The PA is a Syrian refugee and has experience working in house painting, interior decoration and construction. He is married and has five young children. Due to the insecurity in Syria, they have been displaced. They are survivors of violence. Given this, the support of a sponsor would be favorable in this family's resettlement process.

BVOR PROFILE #: 1016-03-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Windsor, ON.

XREF: 1017-03-18

The PA is 55 year Iraqi man with a spouse and 3 children. He has 8 years in formal education and experience as an electrician and concierge. The PA is seeking a better life for him and his family and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during their resettlement in Canada. The PA's son is on BVOR 1017-03-18 and they would like to settle together. The PA has a brother in Windsor and would like to resettle close to him.

- **X-Ref:** The PA is a single Iraqi man with no children. He has grade 7 education and experience working in a Restaurant. The PA's parents is on BVOR 1016-03-18 and they would like to settle together. His uncle is in Windsor, ON.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0972-03-18

Eritrean family of four with two children. The Pa and family cannot return to their home country as they fear for their safety. They would benefit from the additional support of a sponsor.

BVOR PROFILE #: 1064-03-18

The PA is a 48 year old widowed Colombian woman with a lot of different work experiences. She is coming with her 2 daughters and grandson. She fears for her safety and for the lives of her two young children and grandson as they continue to suffer in Ecuador, their country of refuge. The family has been victim of violence and trauma and will likely benefit from social support. The PA has lost her spouse and one son. They cannot return to her home country for fear of her safety. The PA is a single woman-at-risk, no contact in Canada and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during their resettlement.

BVOR PROFILE #: 1029-03-18

The PA is a 39 year old Sudanese single man. He has a basic knowledge of English and has significant work experience. He has good education, work experience and Basic English. PA should be able to find employment and integrate well. He would greatly benefit from the assistance of a sponsor as it would facilitate his successful resettlement in Canada.

Available VOR Profiles

44 VOR Profiles in the RSTP Matching Database

Most of these profiles are destined for Ontario

These profiles include:

- Applicants from Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestinian Authority, and Syria.
- Recommended destination: Toronto, North York, Oshawa, Mississauga and Pickering.
- Country of current residence: Iran, Pakistan, Ukraine, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia
- For few profiles: The PA speaks English well.
- 7 of the cases are travel ready. Please note that cases not travel ready may be pending all assessments or may be pending only one or two. ROCO will continue to monitor the cases and will provide updates regularly with any that become travel ready during the posting period

Available JAS Profiles

JAS cases can only be sponsored by SAHs

We have 38 In-Canada JAS cases available to be sponsored!

Including

PROFILE #: 1002-03-18

Location: Winnipeg, MB

Family composition: The PA, her spouse and 2 children arrived in Canada last year.

Language: Parents are not literate in English or French. PA and spouse had informal education.

Support needed: They will require a wide range of support including, education, medical, psychological, financial and above all, life skills coaching which will undoubtedly enhance the family's ability to settle in Canada without added difficulties.

PROFILE #: 0694-10-17

Location: Calgary, AB

Family composition: Burundian single mother with six children – aged infant to 15 years.

Language: The mother's English is limited. As caregiver, she has been unable to attend English classes. The three oldest children are in school and speak English.

Medical needs: The infant has on-going medical needs. The mother requires counselling and emotional support due to past trauma and violence.

Support needed: Language and skills training to become more independent; social and emotional comfort and support.

For more information on JAS, VOR or BVOR program, contact our Refugee Resettlement Project Worker at bvor@rstp.ca or click on: http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Blended-VOR-FAQ_2017-1-1.pdf

Upcoming RSTP Workshops

Alberta

Refugee Mental Health: Addressing Common Trends

Date: Tuesday April 17, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm MDT

Where: Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111-11 Ave SW (Rm # 315), Calgary, AB

Description

This workshop will explore the topics of:

- What is mental health?
- How mental health affects people in general;
- Common mental health concerns for refugees; and
- How a sponsor can support a refugee affected by mental health.

Register by clicking here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/refugee-mental-healthaddressing-common-trends-tickets-44498117066> or by contacting RSTP Alberta Trainer, Anoush Newman, at 403-515-5868/ mnewman@rstp.ca.

Sponsoring Refugees as a Group of Five or Community Sponsor

Date: Wednesday April 25, 2018

Time: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm MDT

Where: Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111-11 Ave SW (Rm: 315), Calgary, AB

Description:

This information session is for those interested in sponsoring refugees as a Group of Five or a Community Sponsor.

In this session, attendees will learn about:

- The application process;
- Who can be included?
- Application forms;
- IRCC updates; and
- Sponsor's Settlement Support Responsibilities.

Register by clicking here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/refugee-sponsorship-group-of-five-and-community-sponsors-tickets-44498795094> or contact RSTP Trainer, Anoush Newman, at 403-515-5868 or mnewman@rstp.ca.

Ontario

Workshop for Community Sponsors

Date: Friday, 13 April 2018

Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT

Where: Cambridge Community Church, 73 Pollock Avenue, Cambridge, ON N1R 2B4

Register by clicking here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/workshop-in-cambridge-for-community-sponsors-tickets-44893343198>

Training for Front Line Workers

Date: Friday May 4, 2018

Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT

Where: Mennonite Central Committee Ontario, 203-50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener, ON

Register by clicking here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/training-and-information-session-for-front-line-workers-in-kitchener-tickets-44915102280>

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/>



RSTP Training session on Private sponsorship of Refugees Program in London, Ontario.

CONTACT US VIA:



Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
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