

News and Announcements

[2014 Directory of Community Legal Clinics in Ontario Now Available](#)

Sponsors in Ontario may be interested to know and to share with their sponsored newcomers the latest edition of the [Directory of Community Legal Clinics in Ontario](#). It includes a listing of the community legal clinics and specialty legal clinics in Ontario, by region, with their addresses and phone numbers.

“Community legal clinics provide information, advice, and representation on various legal issues, including social assistance, housing, refugee and immigration law, employment law, human rights, workers’ compensation, and the Canada Pension Plan. Some legal clinics do not handle all of these issues, but staff may be able to refer clients to someone who can help. Community legal clinics are staffed by lawyers, community legal workers, and sometimes law students. Each legal clinic is run by a volunteer board of directors with members from the community. All help is private, confidential and free of charge.”

For information about legal clinics and pro bono legal advice available in other provinces, please follow links below:

Alberta – click [here](#)

British Columbia – click [here](#) and [here](#)

Manitoba – click [here](#)

New Brunswick – click [here](#)

Newfoundland and Labrador – click [here](#)

Nova Scotia – click [here](#) and [here](#)

Prince Edward Island – click [here](#) and [here](#)

Saskatchewan – click [here](#)

[The refugee challenge: can you break into Fortress Europe?](#)

The Guardian has published an article with interactive features that asks the readers to imagine themselves being a refugee fleeing Syria and asking them to make a decision regarding their escape. Here is what the Guardian writes in the description of the challenge: “As EU governments have made it harder to seek refuge in Europe, the flow of refugees fleeing the world’s most desperate conflicts is increasing. We invite you to make the choices real refugees have to make and find out what it’s really like to look for safety in Fortress Europe”. Please click [here](#) to take the challenge.

Upcoming events

[Southern Ontario Sponsorship Group meeting](#)

Date: February 5, 2014

9:30 am – 3 pm

Location: St. Andrew’s Anglican Church; 7 St. Andrews Ave (just off the QEW), Grimsby, ON L3M 3R9

[CCR Overseas Protection and Sponsorship Working Group meeting](#)

Date: February 28, 2014

9:30 am – 5 pm

Location: Salvation Army, 160 Jarvis Street, Toronto, ON

[Addressing refugee trauma in resettlement: Is PTSD under-diagnosed or over-diagnosed?](#)

The CAMH Refugee Mental Health Project invites to attend its second annual educational and networking titled: Addressing refugee trauma in resettlement: Is PTSD under-diagnosed or over-diagnosed?

Date: Friday, February 28, 2014

12:30 PM – 03:30 PM

Location: CAMH, Room 2029, 33 Russell Street, Toronto Greater Toronto Area

[Webinar on Citizenship: Understanding Basic Concepts](#)

Date: Thursday, February 06, 2014

02:00 PM – 03:00 PM

This is not an RSTP event; for more details and to register, please click [here](#).

Mock refugee camp outside of the Carlton University

On January 24, 2014 WUSC Carleton hosted a Mock Refugee Camp in the University Centre Atrium on January 24th.

Students were on hand to answer questions regarding the Student Refugee Program, Protracted Refugee Situations and the work that our NPO, World University Service of Canada, is involved in.

A video from this event is available [here](#).

Sponsorship made possible with the help of former refugees

Last fall, Prince Albert, SK welcomed a new family - former refugees from Myanmar, sponsored by Wesley United Church. Five months later, these family of four "doing very well". "The kids are getting along in day care and school, and the parents are attending English language classes every day through the YWCA."

A big contribution into the initial fundraising efforts was done by the Karen community of Prince Albert who themselves were sponsored refugees not long ago. "Fourteen different families ultimately contributed \$1,030 to the refugee fund."

To read more about this family and their sponsors, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

If you have any PSR news on cases or arrivals that you would like to share with the SAH community, please send a message to info@rstp.ca and we will gladly include it in our next bulletin.

Inquiries & Responses

There has been a lot of discussion in the sponsorship community on the subject of local integration and how it is being assessed by the Canadian visa officers. We would like to address this question in the I&R section of this Bulletin.

When processing refugee applications for the purposes of PSR, Canadian visa officers assess possibilities of local integration of the applicants before making the final decision. [The Overseas Processing Manual \(OP5\)](#) provides guidelines to visa officers with regard to making determination on local integration prospects. Section 13.2 of the Manual provides the following guidelines:

"The following questions should be central to any assessment of local integration. They describe a minimum standard that should help officers distinguish between applicants who are locally integrated (or who are likely to become so in a reasonable period of time) and those who are not:

Questions	Answers
Q1 Does the applicant (whether or not legally recognized by the state as a Convention refugee) face a significant possibility of refoulement or deportation to the country of origin now or in the foreseeable future?	YES. Therefore, the applicant does not have a prospect of local integration in a reasonable period of time. Move on to assess other possible durable solutions. NO. Go to Q2.
Q2 Does the applicant have a well-founded fear of persecution in the country of refuge on	YES. Therefore, the applicant does not have a prospect of local integration in a reasonable period of time. Move on to assess other possible durable solutions. NO. Go to Q3.
Q3 Does the applicant have access, or is likely to have access in a reasonable period of time and on a basis similar to nationals of the country, to all three of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• participation in the economy to earn a livelihood?• property?• rental housing?	YES. Go to Q4. NO. Therefore, the applicant does not have a prospect of local integration in a reasonable period of time. Move on to assess other possible durable solutions.
Q4 Does the applicant have the ability to freely move in the country of refuge or is likely to have the ability in a reasonable period of time? Note: The legal right to travel in and out of the country of refuge is not a requirement to be locally integrated for the purposes of applicant selection in Canada's resettlement program.	YES. Go to Q5. NO. Therefore, the applicant does not have a prospect of local integration in a reasonable period of time. Move on to assess other possible durable solutions.
Q5 Does the applicant have access, or will likely have access in a reasonable period of time and on a basis similar to nationals, to all three of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• public health care?• social services?• elementary education for children?	YES. Applicant is probably locally integrated. NO. Therefore, the applicant does not have a prospect of local integration in a reasonable period of time. Move on to assess other possible durable solutions."