



RSTP BULLETIN

MARCH 23, 2016

Image: AFP

RSTP NEWS

Family Links Initiative - Updates

We are still looking forward to having more sponsoring groups on board, especially from the communities where we have the biggest numbers of registered families, as follows:

- Ottawa, Greater Toronto Area, London, Hamilton and Kitchener (Ontario);
- Calgary and Edmonton (Alberta);
- Surry and Vancouver (British Columbia);
- Halifax (Nova Scotia), and
- Moncton (New Brunswick)

Please spread the word far and wide, as the need for sponsors is very high.

E-Training - Introduction to Private Sponsorship:

If any of your co-sponsors or CG members would like to be involved in the next Introduction to Private Refugee Sponsorship e-training session, please have them email etraining@rstp.ca to receive an email once registration for the Summer 2016 session opens up.

Please note that RSTP will be closed on Friday, March 25 and Monday March 28, 2016. No new BVOR cases will be posted on those days.

Update from IRCC on BVOR Program

IRCC is pleased to announce that it will resume posting profiles for Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) refugees on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. So far this year, more than 2,400 refugees have been made available for sponsorship through the BVOR initiative. Our goal for 2016 is to refer up to a total of 5,000 refugees for sponsorship through this program. From March to July, IRCC will post 100-250 persons (depending on availability of travel-ready cases and operational considerations) on a bi-weekly basis, with an expected total of 1,600 persons by the end of July. Most of the refugees posted during this period are expected to be admitted in 2016. In October and November, IRCC will post 100-250 persons, also on a bi-weekly basis, for a total of 900-1000 persons. Most of the refugees posted during this period are expected to be admitted in 2017. The profiles will include refugees from various populations, but the majority are expected to be Syrian. A new website to post profiles under the BVOR program is being developed. Until the website is ready, we will continue to send spreadsheets by email through the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP), as had been the practice in January 2016. **Profiles will be available for 3 weeks, and sponsors will have a total of 6 weeks from the date the profile was first posted to submit their sponsorship undertaking to the Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg.** Groups of Five and Community Sponsors will continue to be able to participate in this program in 2016, and will be able to sponsor refugees from all refugee populations.

Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (Refugee SSP)

The uOttawa Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (SSP) brings together sponsorship experts, pro-bono lawyers, law students, and community organizations to offer direct support to Canadians seeking to sponsor refugees. If you, your CGs, co-sponsors or sponsored refugees are looking for assistance with filling application forms (particularly IMM 6000 forms), Refugee SSP lawyers may be able to assist you in the following locations: [Ottawa](#), [Windsor](#), [Toronto](#), [Calgary](#), [Edmonton](#), [Red Deer](#), [Vancouver](#), [Victoria](#), [Halifax](#), and [New Brunswick](#). For further information, please contact Refugee SSP at refugeessp@uottawa.ca.

You can also view their website here:
<http://refugeessp.ca/home/>

INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES

You Asked:

Is CPO-W still accepting electronic submissions for Syrians and Iraqis? Are there still streamlined processing procedures in place for these two populations at CPO-W?

IRCC has indicated that as of March 21, 2016, the streamlined processing procedures for Syrians and Iraqis are still in place, including accepting applications submitted by email for those two populations.

You Asked:

Are scanned signatures still being accepted for IMM 6000 submissions from SAHs?

For SAH applications, IRCC has recently confirmed that scanned signatures are being accepted for both the SAH's sponsorship forms and the refugee applicant's IMM6000 package forms.

As a reminder, the person signing the Sponsorship Undertaking on behalf of the SAH must be one of the SAH's signing authorities. An individual listed only *as a representative* but does not have signing authority (as indicated in the Global Case Management System or GCMS) is not able to sign the Sponsorship Undertaking.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Overview of Group of Five Sponsorship

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 PM EST

Registration: To register, [click here](#).

EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

REFUGEE RIGHTS DAY 2016

APRIL 4, 2016

Nationwide Events

For information on Refugee Rights Day activities, please see CCR:
<http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-rights-day-2016>

National SAH Conference

MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2016

Saskatoon, SK

REMEMBER TO REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

CCR SPRING CONSULTATION

JUNE 2 -4, 2016

SASKATOON, SK

Changes to Interim Federal Health Program

On February 19, 2016, IRCC announced that full Interim Federal Health coverage will be restored, reversing the changes that were made in 2012. Coverage starting April 1, 2016 will be the **same for all privately sponsored refugees**, replacing the six types of coverage that previously existed.

This document has been prepared for Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) by RSTP.

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