



RSTP BULLETIN

MAY 18, 2016

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Applications Submitted by SAHs - Review of Changes

On Friday, May 6th, changes were made to guidelines on all applications submitted by SAHs. The modified administrative procedures put in place for Syrian and Iraqi applications since October 2015 have now been adopted as best practices and expanded.

Effective May 6th, the following apply to all applications (for all populations) submitted by SAHs:

- CPO-W will accept emailed applications from SAHs **for all populations**
- CPO-W will accept scanned refugee signatures on the IMM6000 (IMM0008, Schedules 2 and A) from SAHs for **all populations**, and will accept digital photos; client photographs will be collected overseas for PR card purposes.

No other temporary measures are in effect, and these changes apply to SAHs only. Groups of Five and Community Sponsors must submit applications by mail with original signatures on the sponsorship undertaking and IMM6000. Incomplete applications for all refugee populations may be returned to sponsors (SAH, G5, CS) if the information provided is inadequate/missing.

Instructions for e-mailed applications from SAHs:

To facilitate the receipt and identification of applications emailed to CPO-W, SAHs are requested to **separate the application into three separate email attachments:**

1. **Sponsor documents.** Name this file: "PA LAST NAME, First Name– Sponsor documents"
2. **IMM6000 package.** Name this file: "PA LAST NAME, First Name– IMM6000"
3. Supporting documentation. Name this file: "PA LAST NAME, First Name– Supporting documentation"

CPO-W is unable to open ZIP files and they will therefore be returned as incomplete. For ease of processing and transferring electronic files to overseas missions, CPO-W requests that files be sent in 5MB or less segments if possible. Information may be provided in multiple emails if required.

IRCC has requested that if an application is submitted by email that it not also submitted by mail.

News, Events and Training Sessions

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 course, please have them email etraining@rstp.ca to receive an email once registration for the Summer 2016 session opens up. The Summer 2016 course will begin on Monday, June 13th. Additionally, if you or any of your CG members have taken the Introduction course and are interested in participating in the Advanced course, please also contact etraining@rstp.ca to register at any time.

Application Forms Clinic for Ontario Sponsors

Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT

Where: Catholic Crosscultural Services, 55 Town Centre Court Suite 401, Scarborough, ON M1P 4X4

Are you located in Ontario and sponsoring a refugee? Do you need help completing the application forms? RSTP Ontario is hosting a free application forms clinic. Bring your application forms, and we will provide you with immediate feedback, advice and guidance! To confirm your attendance, please email ontariosponsors@rstp.ca.

Toronto Newcomer Day - An Invitation from the City of Toronto's Newcomer Office

Welcoming and Celebrating New Torontonians

Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Time: 11:30 am-3:30 pm

Location: Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West

@TONewcomer | #TONewcomerDay

The City of Toronto's Newcomer Office invites you to this year's annual Toronto Newcomer Day celebrations taking place on Tuesday, May 24th from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at City Hall. Toronto Newcomer Day is especially meaningful this year given the overwhelming outpouring of support from Toronto communities in light of the national Syrian refugee resettlement effort. Family-friendly activities and entertainment is planned for the day, including remarks by Mayor John Tory during the 12:30-1:30pm formal program on Nathan Phillips Square. More details are available at toronto.ca/newcomerday.

Family Links Initiative Updates:

Effective as of Monday, May 16th, as per IRCC instructions, the registration of families to be sponsored is now closed.

For anyone interested, a webinar will be held on May 31, 2016 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT. It will provide an overview of the FLI initiative and the profiles of the families registered. It will be a joint webinar between FLI staff and RSTP Trainers. To register, please click [here](#).

The Family Links Initiative now has a Facebook page and a twitter account. The link for the Facebook page can be found [here](https://www.facebook.com/familylinksinitiative/).

Top 10 Cities with Family Links Initiative (FLI) Cases

Do you or your CGs live in one of the cities found on the table below? These are currently the top ten cities with the highest number of FLI cases. For further information or matching, please contact fli@rstp.ca.

No:	Cities:	Number of FLI Cases:
1	London, Ontario	256
2	Toronto, Ontario	204
3	Regina, Saskatchewan	183
4	Mississauga, Ontario	174
5	Red Deer, Alberta	118
6	Edmonton, Alberta	97
7	Ottawa, Ontario	92
8	Calgary, Alberta	86
9	Hamilton, Ontario	78
10	Kitchener, Ontario	56

Can refugees from Europe be sponsored?

The RSTP has been receiving a number of questions on the submission of PSR applications out of Europe and countries that are deemed to offer a durable solution. Thus, we would like to provide an overview of some important information from the Overseas Selection and Processing of Convention Refugees Abroad Class and Members of the Humanitarian-protected Persons Abroad Classes (OP5), Section 7, on the identification of applicants for Canada's PSR Program. The OP5 provides guidelines for procedures that visa officers follow when assessing applications in countries that:

- are signatories to the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and/or the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967); and/or
- provide fair and effective protection for refugees and asylum seekers.

[Click here for a list of signatory countries.](#)

The OP5 indicates that any person who wishes to apply for resettlement to Canada through the Convention Refugees Abroad Class or the Country of Asylum Class in signatory countries may apply. The OP5 states that "there is no basis for refusing to consider an application simply because the person made the application in a signatory country." Applications are assessed according to whether the signatory country provides a "fair and effective protection regime" (see pgs. 31 -32 of the OP5). While there is no clear-cut definition of what constitutes a "fair and effective protection regime," factors considered include the commitment to not return asylum seekers to their country of origin, as well as whether asylum seekers hold particular rights and standards of treatment. The following are guidelines that visa officers will consider when assessing a PSR application from a signatory country:

▶ **If there has been an application for refugee protection in the host country**

Drawing from the OP5, Section 7, if the applicant has applied for protection in the host country (a Signatory to the 1951 Convention) and the application is still in process, a Canadian visa officer can refuse the application for resettlement in Canada, advising that they do not meet the requirements of the relevant class. This is because of *the possibility of a durable solution* and a solution being available within a reasonable period of time. Exceptions do exist to this and the OP5 cites examples such as the refugee's physical security being in jeopardy or situations where humanitarian considerations such as family reunification (especially separated spouses and dependent children) exist.

▶ **If there has been a withdrawn application for refugee protection in the host country**

If someone has withdrawn their application for refugee protection in the host country, the Canadian visa officer may refuse the application on the basis of *the possibility of a durable solution*. The exceptions mentioned in the previous paragraph should be kept in mind (i.e. the refugee's physical security, humanitarian considerations, etc.)

▶ **If the applicant has applied for protection in the host country and the application has been accepted**

In most instances, the visa officer will refuse the application for resettlement to Canada through the PSR Program if the applicant has applied for protection and has been accepted.

▶ **If there has been an application submitted for refugee protection in the host country that has been refused**

When the visa officer assesses the application and finds that *all meaningful avenues of appeal* have been exhausted, **demonstrating that there is *not the possibility of a durable solution*** the applicant may then be considered for resettlement to Canada.

The main consideration in answering this question ultimately is **the assessment of whether the individual (or family) could have a durable solution in the country** in which they are living and **whether a durable solution other than resettlement to Canada exists**. Please consult the OP5 for further details.