

RSTP Bulletin

February 23, 2018

Resettled Refugees in Prince Edward Island

A LOOK BACK

- Total Syrian refugees resettled in PEI from November, 2015 to June 30th, 2017: **285**



Population: **142,907**
(Statistics Canada - 2016)

Prince Edward Island	2015	2016	January 2017 to June 2017
Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs)	80	125	20
Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs)	20	115	25
Blended Visa Office Referred Refugees (BVORs)	5	25	5
Total Resettled Refugees	105	265	50

Source: [IRCC](#)

Support & Resources Available for Privately Sponsored Refugees in PEI

HEALTH

PEI Health Card

- Provides basic health care coverage (doctor and hospital visits)
- Covers many diagnostic services, some pre-natal, birth, and post-natal services, as well as necessary surgeries and surgical expenses
- Does not cover dental or vision

Contact:

Toll-free: 1-800-321-5492

Phone: (902) 838-0900

PEI Pharmacare

- Covers the cost of prescription medications that are listed on the [formulary](#). Assistance is available for people who qualifies for one of the department's [drug programs](#). Sponsored refugees may be eligible for a large variety drug programs

Toll free: 1-877-577-3737

Phone: (902) 368-4947

SETTLEMENT

PEI Association for Newcomers

La Cooperative d'integration francophone

EMPLOYMENT

PEI Association for Newcomers (PEI ANC)

Offers the following employment support programs:

- [Employment Assistance Service for Newcomers](#)
- [Employment Workshops Registration](#)
- [Employment-related Resources and Opportunities](#)

EDUCATION

[Community Connections Program](#) -Volunteer tutors from the local community are matched with newcomers who wish to learn English with the help of a tutor.

Other language programs:

- University of Prince Edward Island offers [summer language programs](#) and the [English Academic Preparation program](#)
- [Holland College](#)
- [Université Sainte-Anne](#)
- [Study Abroad Canada](#)
- [Collège de l'Île](#)
- Various [Private Training Schools](#) offer language training

Resources for Francophone immigrants

[La Cooperative d'integration francophone](#) -offers many services for French-speaking immigrants

To get more information concerning English classes for newcomers, visit [PEI ANC](#), the only SPO on the island!

Highlights from the Financial FAQs & the new Appendix a Guideline

Post arrival Financial Support

- Sponsoring groups are required to provide financial support that aligns with the [RAP rates](#) in the community where the refugee will live.

Keeping Track of financial support

- IRCC recommends sponsoring groups to provide support using cheques, e-transfers or other traceable methods.
- If IRCC request proof of financial support - e.g., in a sponsorship dispute situation –a sponsor may need to show proof of financial support (e.g., copies of cheques, e-transfers, etc.).
- If sponsoring groups have made deductions to the monthly support, they must give an explanation and supporting proof that clearly outlines how the deductions were calculated.

Immigration Loan

- Sponsoring groups are not responsible for covering the costs of the refugee's Immigration Loan
- Sponsoring groups are not responsible for any debt that a refugee incurs in Canada, unless they have co-signed loans.

Loans

- If a sponsor chooses to provide a loan to the resettled refugee, a clear record of agreement and terms should be kept by all parties and interest should not be charged to refugees.
- Any deductions to future monthly support should be done with consideration to the ongoing needs of the family and should not cause undue financial hardship in its repayment.

Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

- CCB, and other federal or provincial tax benefits or rebates, are tax-free monthly payments and cannot be counted as earned income or used to calculate reductions to sponsor support

Personal Assets of Resettled Refugees

Sponsoring groups, including co-sponsors, must not accept funds from the refugee(s) either before or after their arrival in Canada

- If a refugee declares that they have more than the personal asset exemption limits outlined in the [section 17.2 of the RAP manual](#) sponsors can give the option to apply their funds against the balance of their Immigration Loan before deducting any financial support.
- If the refugee still has more than the personal asset limit, you can calculate support on a case by case basis taking into account the concepts of self-sufficiency and factoring in only the portion of assets above the exemption limit.

Employment:

- Sponsoring groups can to make deductions to monthly financial support after **net** employment income becomes higher than 50% of the monthly support payment, at which point income is reduced dollar for dollar for each additional dollar earned above the threshold ([see section 23 of the RAP manual](#))
- Employment income of those attending secondary school on a full-time basis, should not be included in the total of the family earnings.
- The resettled family should be encouraged to declare their income to their sponsors, however, income support cannot be withheld as a result of non-reporting.
- At any time during the commitment period, if the financial situation of the refugee and their family changes, the sponsor must resume financial support, as needed.

For more information:

FAQs on Post Arrival Financial Support: - [English version](#) - [French version](#)

Acceptable and non-acceptable proof of refugee status For Group of five and Community Sponsorship

G5 and CS can only sponsor refugees who have Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Document.

Here is what you should look for, to make sure that the refugee family you are sponsoring has the right RSD document:

Acceptable & Non-Acceptable Proof of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Documents



Acceptable documents

Key word: Refugee

Text : ... is recognized as a refugee

Possible document names:

Refugee Certificate
Refugee Registration Certificate
Refugee card

Examples of accepted refugee documents:

Refugee Registration Card issued by UNHCR Egypt (**Blue two fold card**)

Not Acceptable Documents

Key word : Asylum seeker

Possible document names:

Asylum seeker certificate
Ration cards etc.
Registration certificate (**Check with RSTP to make sure!**)

Examples of non-acceptable documents:

Temporary protection document issued by the Turkish local authorities (also called kimlik)
Asylum seeker registration card issued by UNHCR Egypt (**Yellow two - fold card**)

Available BVOR Profiles

87 Profiles in the RSTP Matching Database

These profiles include:

- Syrian, Eritrean, Congolese, Ethiopian, Iraqi and Somalian refugees
- Women at risk
- LGBTQ refugees
- More than half of the cases do not have a preferred destination
- 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



Sponsor refugees from Congo, Ethiopia or Somalia through the BVOR Program!

Black History
MONTH | FEBRUARY

A few of the available BVOR cases

BVOR PROFILE #: 0864-01-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Friend in Edmonton, AB

Sudanese family size 5

PA is a 38 year old Sudanese married woman with three children. She has 8 years of formal education. PA and her family cannot return to their home country as they fear for their safety and persecution based on ongoing ethnic conflicts. PA has a friend in Edmonton, AB and it is recommended that they resettle there. The family will appreciate the assistance of the sponsor in the country of resettlement.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0897-01-18

Syrian family size 8

PA is a 38 year old married man with six children. He has 5 years of formal education and experience working as a mechanic. PA cannot return to his home country as he fears for his safety and persecution based on ongoing ethnic conflicts. PA will appreciate the assistance of the sponsor in the country of resettlement.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0852-01-18

Young and single Ugandan male with experience as an athlete. He understands some English and he has completed his education up to Grade 3. The PA cannot return to his home country for fear of his safety stemming from his sexual orientation.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0794-12-17

Ethiopian Family size 2

PA is a 48 year old man with a spouse. He speaks English and has been educated in technical/vocational work. He is experienced working in sales as well as taxi driving. His spouse also speaks English and also has experience working in sales. She has 12 years of education. This couple have been persecuted in their home country based on political opinion and would benefit from the aid of a sponsor.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0797-12-17

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Son on X-ref case. XREF: 0798-12-17

Iraqi Family size 3

Pa is a single mother of 2 (see x-ref BVOR# 0798-12-17 for son). She has 8 years of education, does not have work experience, but her son on BVOR# 0798-12-17 has experience working as a taxi driver. Her daughter is a 13 year old student. It is recommended that these x-referenced cases resettle together. This family has been persecuted in their home country based on political opinion and would benefit from the aid of a sponsor.



RELATED RSTP WEBINAR

Our upcoming webinar on **BVOR Program and Women at Risk** will provide a brief description of the profiles of Women at Risk refugees, including those identified for resettlement by UNHCR, discuss the prospects of durable solutions and look at how sponsors can help resettle Women at Risk refugees through the BVOR program.

When: Thursday March 8, 2018

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm EST

Register by clicking [here](#) or visiting: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/3041457359050848002>

Available JAS Profiles

JAS cases can only be sponsored by SAHs

We have 17 In-Canada JAS cases available to be sponsored!

For more information on JAS profiles or on the 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 & Webinars

Workshops

Ontario

Private Sponsorship of Refugees (In English and Arabic)

Date: Tuesday February 27, 2018

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm EST

Location: Newcomer Centre of Peel, Room 211, 165 Dundas Street West, Mississauga, ON L5B 2N6

To register: please email: aazzawi@ncpeel.ca by February 25, 2018.

Private Sponsorship of Refugees Workshop

Date: Thursday March 8, 2018

Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm MST

Location: FCJ Christian Life Center, 219-19 Ave SW, Calgary AB (Visitor Parking at FCJ Center; please do not park at St Mary's Cathedral)

To register: Please contact Antoinette at agodbout@ccisab.ca or 403-290-5750 by March 5, 2018

Webinars

Family Composition in the context of PSR

Date: Wednesday Mar 7, 2018

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST

Description: This webinar is going to discuss the IRCC family definition and which family is to be included in the PSR applications. It will also walk the participants through the definition of de facto dependants, adult children and non-dependants and how they are reflected in different PSR application forms.

If you are interested in joining this webinar, please register [here](#) or follow the link:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1121299939118521091>

Webinar Series

On RAP Rates for Each Province Continued...

The series will provide sponsors with an in-depth look at the RAP rates for each province, and an understanding of why the RAP rates are important for groups sponsoring under the PSR and BVOR programs.

The date, time and registration link for each webinar if found below:

Saskatchewan Tuesday February 27, 2018

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM CST

Register by clicking the following link:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7988680241062124290>

British Columbia: Monday February 26, 2018

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM PST **Register by**

clicking the following link:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/4876951283781733634>.

Alberta: Thursday March 1, 2018

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM MST

Register by clicking the following link:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8723566325277036034>

Manitoba: Friday March 9, 2018

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM CST

Register by clicking the following link:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/3534443188220547330>

Please visit:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/> for more information on upcoming trainings, workshops & webinars!



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