

RSTP Bulletin

Q&A: Returning to the Country of Origin or Country of Asylum

Are there any forms to be completed if a privately sponsored refugee wants to return to the country of asylum?

There are no forms that need to be completed. Though returning to a country of origin could raise concerns that could possibly lead to initiation of cessation proceedings by the Canadian government (see question and answer below), this would not apply for returning to the country of asylum.

Do permanent residents who were resettled to Canada as refugees, require permission from the Canadian Government or their sponsors if they wish to travel to their country of origin or country of asylum?

No, however the Canadian government can make a cessation application against anyone who was granted protected person status in Canada (this included privately sponsored refugees) and who is not yet a Canadian citizen for reasons such as that the person travelled to their country of origin or applied for a new passport from their country of origin. Cessation however does not occur automatically.

What happens when the Canadian government makes a cessation application?

When the Canadian government makes a cessation application, the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) decides whether or not the person is still a refugee. If the IRB decides that the person is no longer a refugee, then that person loses their permanent residence status. That person becomes inadmissible and immediately removable. Please note that a cease status decision can't be appealed to the Immigration Appeal Division.... ([Continues on page 2](#))

REFUGEE SET FOR A NEW LIFE

On March 28, 2015, the East Kootenay Friends of Burma welcomed Nahom Teklemichael, a 22 years old Eritrean refugee. " Kim Eaton and Barb Ryeburn were in Eritrea volunteering as teachers in the mid-2000s where they met Teklemichael, who became close friends with their oldest son, Lukas. They've remained in contact ever since that trip.. Recently, the EK Friends of Burma was able to secure sponsorship to bring him over to Canada. Now, he will be living with the same family who befriended him in his home country so many years ago"

Click [here](#) to read more. **Congratulations** Barb, your family and Shauna, and thanks for sharing it !



Lukas Eaton, Nahom Teklemichael, Barb Ryeburn and Kim Eaton are reunited at the Canadian Rockies International Airport .



Available VORs

VOR 032

The PA is a single 20 year old Burmese refugee of Shan ethnicity who was born in a refugee camp. He currently lives with his mother, step-father, brother and two half siblings in the camp. He is a Shan refugee, and his family was forced to flee the ethnic conflict in eastern Myanmar. He fears persecution based on his ethnicity.

VOR 045

The PA is a single 19 year old Burmese refugee of Kayah ethnicity with 11 years of formal education who speaks some English. The PA and his family have lived in a refugee camp for 9 years. In 1996, the PA's family, along with other villagers, were forced to relocate to a different region. He is unwilling to return to his country as currently, people of his ethnic origin are still severely discriminated.



Q&A: Returning .. (continued from page1)

How can a permanent resident (resettled refugee) obtain a travel document?

They will need to apply for a refugee travel document from Passport Canada. This document allows them to travel outside of Canada, except to the country of their citizenship or the country of claimed persecution. They will need to provide proof of their status in Canada (i.e.: Confirmation of Permanent Residence; Permanent Residence card) to Passport Canada. For

What about the loan that they were issued by the Canadian Government through CIC?

The loan should be repaid before the privately sponsored person leaves Canada. Any outstanding debt can affect the person's application for a travel document at Passport Canada and prevent their departure from Canada by the CBSA (Canada Border Services Agency). If the person leaves Canada without having cleared outstanding debts, CIC will try to locate them with the help of the CBSA and Canadian embassies overseas to recover the payment(s).

Available VOR .. (continued from page 1)

VOR 076

The PA is a single 25 year old Ethiopian man of Oromo ethnicity. The PA has suffered violence and torture at the hands of police due to his father's political affiliation. About 4 months after being in prison, his health situation deteriorated and his uncle managed to bribe the officers to release the PA. He was taken to the hospital and remained there for a week. After his release from the hospital his uncle paid a smuggler to help the PA leave the country. During his journey, the PA was again a victim of violence. He cannot return to Ethiopia as he fears he would be imprisoned and tortured.

VOR 079

The PA is a single 26 year old Colombian refugee of Mestizo descent. He has completed secondary education and speaks Spanish. One day, while working in the potato fields, the PA witnessed the death of a farmer at the hands of paramilitary forces. The PA was able to escape, but following this incident, he started receiving threats from the paramilitary group. They accused him of reporting the crime he had witnessed to authorities. Despite living in fear, the PA remained in the same employment. A few weeks later, while working in the fields, the PA was shot. After recovering, he lived in another village, but the threats continued and the PA decided to flee to Ecuador. He cannot return to his home country for fear of his safety.

A friendly reminder! Please note that the deadline to register for the SAH conference is April 13, 2015. Kindly register ASAP!

Upcoming Events

Workshop Title: Private Sponsorship of Syrian Refugees

Date: Tuesday, April 14

Time: 6:30 – 8:30pm

Location: Burnhamthorpe Public Library in Mississauga, Ont

Registration: RSVP with Yosief Araya at yaraya@rstp.ca or 1-877-290-1701, ext. 402

Workshop Title: Introduction to Private Refugee Sponsorship

Date: Wednesday, April 22

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Location: MOSAIC, 1720 Grant Street, Vancouver, BC

Registration: RSVP with Nadine Nasir at nnasir@rstp.ca or 1-877-290-1701, ext. 404

Workshop Title: PSR and BVOR Workshop for SAHs and CGs

Date: Thursday, April 23

Time: 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Location: Pastoral Centre, 4885 St. John Paul II Way, Vancouver, B.C.

Registration: RSVP with Felisa Ponce at fponce@rstp.ca or 1-877-290-1701, ext. 403

Workshop Title: Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Forum

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 9:30am – 3:00pm

Location: Bethlehem Retreat Centre, 2371 Arbot Road, Nanaimo, B.C.

Registration: RSVP with Nadine Nasir at nnasir@rstp.ca or 1-877-290-1701, ext. 404

Workshop Title: on Refugee Sponsorship

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 9:30 am – 4 pm

Location: Church of St John the Evangelist, 154 Somerset West (entry off Elgin Street

Registration information: RSVP with Norma McCord 613.745.4626 or cor@bell.net

Registration: RSVP with Felisa Ponce at fponce@rstp.ca or 1-877-290-1701, ext. 403