

RSTP Bulletin

In-Canada Processing times and Status Update Request

We have requested CIC for clarification about in-Canada processing times for refugee sponsorship applications and the appropriate time to request a status update. Below is their response:

- SAH applications are taking 1-2 months on average
- Groups of Five applications are processed within 3-5 months
- SAHs can request an update 3 months after submission of an application, while Groups of Five can inquire once 6 months have passed since they submitted their application

Toronto church and mosque come together to bring refugee Syrian family to Canada



The First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto and members of Masjid Toronto, a Toronto mosque, are working together to sponsor a Syrian family of four that escaped civil war in Syria two years ago. They have decided to sponsor the family with a view of responding to the dire refugee crisis in a tangible way. As one of the participants put it, “this is a Canadian thing to do”.

Motivated by “a mutual understanding of love and justice,” the two religious groups have pooled their resources to sponsor the family. Members of the downtown mosque are also discussing with a synagogue to start another sponsorship. For more info click on this [link](#).

Kudos to members of the Canadian Unitarian Council and Masjid Toronto!

Please feel free to share with us any positive or uplifting news, including news about arrival of refugees and interfaith work.

Available BVORs

BVOR 243

The PA is a Myanmar refugee of Shan/Pa’O descent. He is married and has one child. PA was subjected to forced labour during his adolescence. He fears for his and his wife’s safety, as he would be forcibly recruited to porter for the military, or be detained for leaving the country. They would like to improve their lives and resettle in Canada, and would benefit from the assistance of a sponsor.

BVOR 247

The PA is a 48 year old divorced Chinese woman. The PA has a 15 year old daughter who speaks English. The PA has a University degree in Industrial Management and extensive experience working as a supervisor, an administrative assistant, a director of sales, a marketing vice president and a reporter. The PA and her daughter were persecuted in their home country on account of their religion and imputed political opinion. They are educated, motivated, and eager for support during their resettlement process and look forward to improving their lives in Canada. The PA has a friend who resides in Vancouver, BC, and therefore she would prefer to settle there. Please contact Felisa Ponce at fponce@rstp.ca for more information.



INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

YOU ASKED... On Schedule A, question 2.k asks the applicant to indicate whether she/he has 'had any serious disease or physical or mental disorder'. We are looking for guidance in the interpretation of the word 'serious' for the purpose of this question. What sorts of diseases, physical or mental disorders could be considered serious where the applicant would have to indicate 'yes'? Is there a guide that CIC has or some general direction in terms of the categories of such conditions, or would it be more subjective (left up to the applicant to determine)?

OUR REPLY... *CIC's response:*

"CIC does not have a repertory of 'serious medical conditions' and what consist a 'serious' medical condition. However, one might think that diseases of public health significance could be part of this category. Additionally, conditions for which medication needs to be taken consistently or if not taken the medical condition could rapidly deteriorate and cause grief to himself or individuals nearby (diabetes, schizophrenia etc.). Finally, we may also want to think of diseases that even if medical treatment is provided, there is a progression of the disease such where more cost/treatment/surgery would be needed in order to regain a certain control."

YOU ASKED... On Schedule A, p. 2, Q.8, Personal History. The instructions explain how many years must be accounted for and also explicitly requires that the activity be described, including things like, 'unemployed, studying, traveling,' etc. What is the minimum period of traveling time that one must report? If they are gone on a holiday for 3 weeks or a month (and then return), must they report that? Sometimes people travel with their work and they would require many pages to document every time they went someplace else and were not at home.



CIC REPLY... "They should provide as much detail as possible. Feel free to use as many sheets of paper as it takes to explain that. Travel from and return to the country of origin is very relevant to the assessment of a refugee resettlement application. Information in the application should be consistent with information in the passport (entry/exit stamps, etc)."

YOU ASKED... For Syrian passports, which is the passport number? Is it the issue number? Or the one at the bottom of the passport? If it is that one, there is not enough room to write every single number.

CIC REPLY... "There is an "issue no." on the biodata page above the name. Opposite the biodata page (may be a cover) on the left side (or top, depending upon how you turn the document) above "Ministry of Interior – Department of Immigration and Passports" there is a Passport No which starts with N followed by 9 digits. "