

RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program

Looking Back and Looking Ahead...



Three years ago on September 2nd, 2015, Alan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy, drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while fleeing violence in his home country. Today, as we remember him and all the refugee children who didn't make it, we encourage sponsoring groups to sponsor families with children through the BVOR program. For those who are able to provide the settlement support but are unable to meet the financial requirement, we would like to remind you that the Refugee Hub fund to facilitate the sponsorship of up to 1,000 refugees through the BVOR Program is still available and you can apply for the fund until **September 17th, 2018!** Refugees sponsored with the support of this fund will arrive in Canada before December 31, 2018.



The Refugee Hub fund is restricted to BVOR profiles already in the matching database to ensure that the 1500 spaces allocated to this program this year are filled.

reminder

To sponsor a BVOR refugee through the Refugee Hub fund please contact bvorfund@refugeehub.ca before **September 17, 2018.**



HURRY UP!

DEADLINES ARE MUCH CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR

Standard Practice for Using Interpreters

According to the information on IRCC website on [conducting interviews](#) overseas, the practices of working with interpreters varies from migration office to office depending on the circumstances. However, the following is the usual order:

1. Migration Office employees (including locally hired staff),
2. UNHCR or IOM interpreters,
3. Interpreters paid by migration office, or
4. Relatives or friends of the sponsored refugee (applicant) or other refugees living in the same camp

“In practice, refugees are not usually requested to provide their own interpreter.”

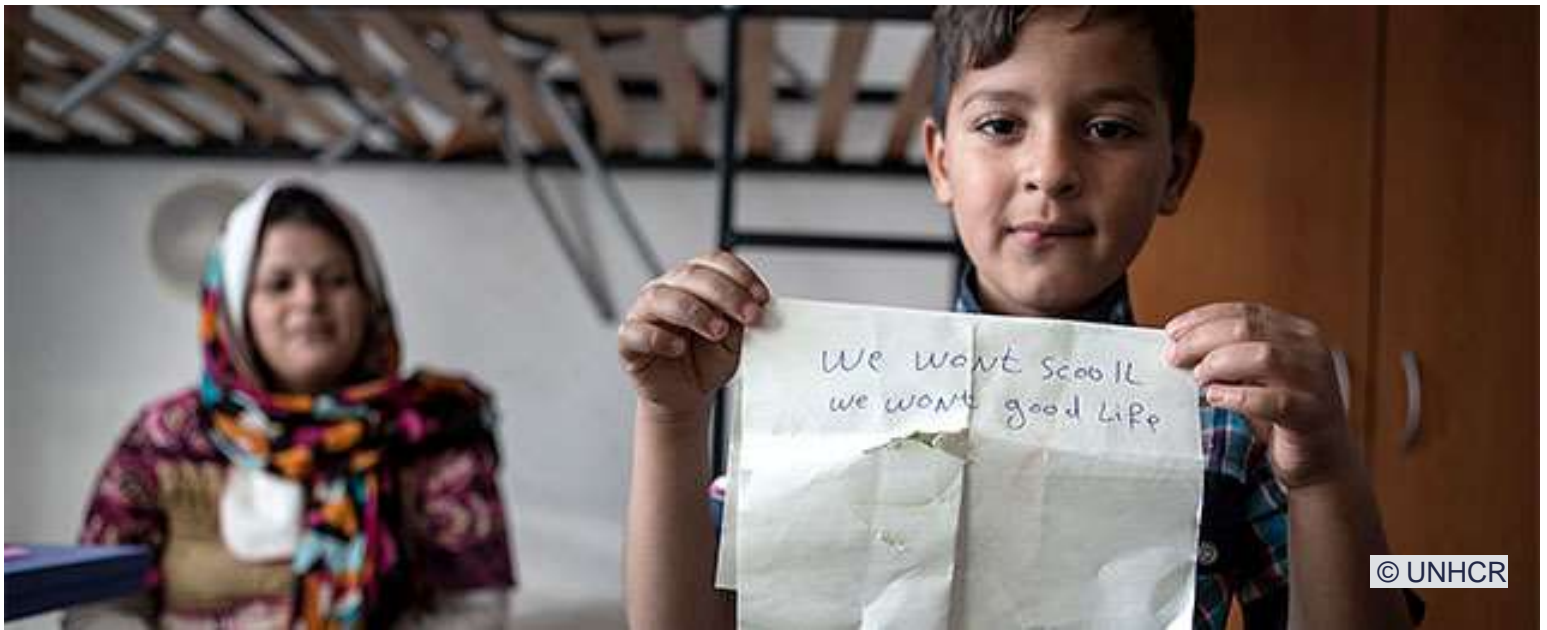
Dear SAHs,

RSTP would love to promote the BVOR program to your Constituent Groups. Please kindly get in touch with us, to help promote the BVOR program and the refugee profiles.

bvor@rstp.ca;

1.877.290.1701 x2403.

Thank You



Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)

Refugees sponsored under the JAS program have special or enhanced needs that will likely result in a longer or more difficult period of integration in Canada due to:

- Trauma from violence or torture;
- Medical disabilities;
- Effects of systemic discrimination; or,
- Large family units (such as a single parent with several children).

Under the JAS program, the government and a private sponsor support refugees for up to 24 months, depending on the need of the resettled refugee. In a few cases, the private sponsor may support refugees for up to 36 months. These refugees get income support from the Government of Canada and are matched with a private sponsorship group to get help in adjusting to life in Canada by giving them settlement help and emotional support.

Some refugees are identified overseas for the JAS program due to special needs. Others are converted into JAS cases after they arrive in Canada if it becomes clear that they need more support.

Many In-Canada JAS Refugee Profiles waiting to be sponsored!

Including

Refugee PROFILE #: 1377-07-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Toronto, ON

Linked Profile: 1378-07-18

IRCC Local Office: Toronto, ON

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: 1

Family composition: A 26 year old male and his wife who is on file JAS 1378-07-18. Both are taking language classes and are connected with a settlement worker in their family. They require significant support from their caseworker to manage their mail, banking, and scheduling appointments – much of this related to English language limitations. Both the husband and his wife are illiterate even in their own language.

Special needs: The wife has health issues and receives medical support from their family doctor. The family wants to be able to navigate their lives on their own in Canada, and recognize that English language skills are necessary to do this.

Support needed: The couple would benefit from having a sponsoring group that can support their desire to learn English – speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing.

Refugee PROFILE #: 1406-07-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: London, ON

IRCC Local Office: London, ON

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Eritrea

FAMILY SIZE: 4

Family composition: A 35-year-old single mother, with 3 children between the ages of 9 months and 10 years old. She has work experience as a cook and cleaner. She is illiterate and does not speak English. However, she is taking language classes. She has been connected with a settlement worker in the community to assist her in her day-to-day activities, while integrating into Canadian society.

Special needs: The mother and children have a family doctor, and receive regular medical support and follow ups. As the principal applicant is still suffering from previous trauma as a survivor of violence, she would benefit from on-going emotional support, to help build self-esteem and confidence.

Support needed: A sponsoring group can support this family in their desire to learn English, which includes speaking, reading, writing and sign language for the principal applicant. This family has no relatives or friends in Canada and would benefit from receiving support to integrate into Canadian life. Any additional counselling and psychological support will assist the family in becoming secure, confident, medically fit and positively responsive to all daily needs.



Refugee PROFILE #: 1311-06-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Calgary, AB

In-Canada JAS **1310-06-18** (Uncle)

In-Canada JAS **1312-06-18** (Sister)

IRCC Local Office: Calgary, AB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: 1

Family composition: A 28 year old single Iraqi woman with experience in farming and housekeeping. She arrived in Canada with her sister and uncle. She is living with her sister.

Special needs: The principal applicant has difficulty managing her appointments given she is also taking full time language classes. She is facing emotional stress because of her concern for family back in Iraq, and the impact of mental health issues resulting from past trauma. Also, she requires further life skills and support while she transitions to life in Canada.

Support needed: With the support of a sponsor group financially and in her settlement, her stress would be greatly relieved, thereby allowing her to focus on her language learning and on her ability to manage her life independently. Furthermore, they would benefit from having social support beyond regular work hours. She will benefit physically, emotionally, and socially to be surrounded by trusted people to help her with her settlement in Calgary.

Refugee PROFILE #: 1002-03-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Winnipeg, MB

IRCC Local Office: Winnipeg, MB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria

FAMILY SIZE: 4

Family composition: Husband, wife and 2 children arrived in Canada last year. Parents are illiterate in English and French. However, they had informal education.

Special needs: The family has a lot of medical appointments and are having difficulty adjusting to life in Canada while balancing these appointments. It is believed that due to the unique and exceptional nature of the experiences that the family has had in the past, they will require a wide range of support.

Support needed: The family requires a wide range of support including, education, medical, psychological, financial and above all, life skills coaching which will undoubtedly enhance the family's ability to settle in Canada without added difficulties.

Refugee PROFILE #: 1483-08-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Winnipeg, MB

IRCC Local Office: Winnipeg, MB

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: 5

Family composition: A 39 year old Iraqi man who is a survivor of Daesh. He has no formal education and lives with his five young children ages six to 14 years old. He does not know the whereabouts of the rest of his family, his wife and two children.

Special needs: The principal applicant faces barriers in entering the workforce due to his lack of formal education and language skills. As a victim of violence and trauma, he has been referred to local organizations to receive counselling and family support in Winnipeg.

Support needed: The principal applicant would benefit from receiving assistance in participating in the Canadian society. Also, requires assistance and time in taking care of his young children and extended financial assistance. A sponsor could help him to overcome challenges such as transportation, medical appointments, communication, cultural adaptation, and help him understand how to search for work so that he can work towards independence.

For more information on these JAS Refugee Profiles and to learn about the JAS program, contact our Refugee Resettlement Project Worker at paznavhezadeh@rstp.ca or visit: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/special-initiatives/joint-assistance-sponsorships/>

IRCC ROADSHOW

For individuals interested in submitting applications under the PSR program as a Group of Five or a Community Sponsor, and sponsoring refugees through the Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) program.

All attendees are required to register for the workshops using the following links:

Winnipeg: (September 10, 2018)

<https://rstpirccwinnipeg.eventbrite.ca>

→ **Time:** 5:00 PM – 8:15 PM CDT

→ **Place:** Red River College - The Roblin Centre, 160 Princess Street, CGA MB Room, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1K9

Edmonton (September 12, 2018):

<https://rstpirccedmonton.eventbrite.ca>

→ **Time:** 5:15 PM – 8:30 PM MDT

→ **Place:** Edmonton Intercultural Centre, 9538 – 107 Avenue (McCauley School), Edmonton, AB T5H 0T7

Calgary (September 14, 2018):

<https://rstpircccalgary.eventbrite.ca>

→ **Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM MDT

→ **Place:** Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre, 1316 33 Street Northeast, Calgary, AB T2A 6B6

Vancouver (September 17, 2018):

<https://rstpirccvancouver.eventbrite.ca>

→ **Time:** 5:00 PM – 8:15 PM PDT

→ **Place:** MOSAIC, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver, BC V5R 2P9

Saskatoon (September 19, 2018):

<https://rstpirccsaskatoon.eventbrite.ca>

→ **Time:** 5:00 PM – 8:15 PM CST

→ **Place:** Rusty Macdonald Branch Library Auditorium, 225 Primrose Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7K 5E4



Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

WORKSHOPS

The private sponsorship of refugees; who can sponsor and who can be sponsored

Date: Tuesday September 11, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm EST

Where: Catholic Crosscultural Services, 55 Town
Centre Court, Suite 401, Toronto, ON M1P 4x4

For More information and registration:

[Click Here](#)

The private sponsorship of refugees as a Group of Five

Date: Wednesday September 19, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm EST

Where: Catholic Crosscultural Services, 55 Town
Centre Court, Suite 401, Toronto, ON M1P 4x4

For More information and registration:

[Click Here](#)

Sponsoring Refugees as a Groups of Five or as Community Sponsors

Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm MDT

Where: Calgary Catholic Immigration Society
(CCIS), 1111-11 Ave SW, Rm # 315, Calgary, AB,
T2R-0G5

For More information and registration:

[Click Here](#)

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/>



WEBINARS

Preparing for the Visa Office Interviews

Date: Friday, September 21, 2018

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EDT

Description: This webinar will provide:

- Guidance on how to prepare your sponsored refugees for this interview,
- The rights of refugees during the interview;
- What to expect during the interview;
- Basic principles to stick to; and
- Possible reasons for rejection.

To Register click: [Here](#)

What's Happening

RSTP's partners, the **Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (Refugee SSP)**, will be hosting its next

Legal Clinic in Toronto on

September 25, 2018 at 6 pm

Register by email at:

refugeessptoronto@gmail.com

By **September 18, 2018** with some information about the type of assistance you are seeking.



Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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et Citoyenneté Canada