

RSTP Bulletin

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



NEW! on the RSTP website

New IRCC resources added to our website:

Key “In Canada” Operational Contacts and Activities in the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

This document found in [English](#) and [French](#) contains key in Canada IRCC contacts in PSR Program and highlights primary roles and activities of Resettlement Operations Centre in Ottawa (ROC-O), the Resettlement Services PSR Team and the Resettlement Services Assurance Team (RSAT).

The PSR Post-arrival Assurance Activities

This document identifies and describes the post-arrival assurance activities undertaken by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) within the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program. This document is found in [English](#) and [French](#).

INQUIRIES

You Asked

Can the money in a trust fund be withdrawn for an emergency and then put back?

Our Answer

The **funds held in trust** are for the **purposes of sponsorship**. It is very important that the funds are not touched for the duration of the application process, and only accessed once the refugee(s) arrive in Canada. IRCC may request updated account statements for funds held in trust at any time during the application process to ensure that the sponsors have not used the funds.

For all sponsorship forms and guides visit: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/processing/the-refugee-sponsorship-application-forms/>

You Asked

What information needs to be included in the letter from sponsors who are involved in multiple applications, explaining how they are able to support the current application given their prior commitments?

Our Answer

At a minimum, the sponsors should identify all active applications they are currently involved in and all information that will assist the Officer when assessing settlement capacity. This includes:

- How the sponsor plans to divide their time between the applications;
- What logistics are involved (Do they drive? How long it will take the sponsor to travel to the refugees?);
- Any volunteers or family members that can assist them;
- What is their schedule like (Do they work? How many hours of free time do they have per day/week?);
- What responsibilities they have for each application; and,
- What the other members of the group will be doing.

IRCC recognizes that not all of the refugees will arrive at the same time. However, sponsors are advised to include information on what the sponsor will do, or what their plan is, if refugees do arrive at the same time. It is in the interest of the sponsor to include as much information as possible to satisfy the Officer that the plan is plausible and likely to be implemented.



The 2019 National SAH Conference will be held in **Victoria, British Columbia** on **May 27th, 28th, and 29th**.

More details coming soon!

Mark your calendar!

Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)

Many In-Canada JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

Including

In-Canada JAS Refugee PROFILE #: 19-0197
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Calgary, AB
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq
FAMILY SIZE: One

This young woman arrived in Canada last year and struggles to integrate into Canadian society due to traumatic events she experienced in her country of origin.

Needs: She has many mental health and behavioural issues including PTSD and anger management issues. These have slowed her ability to socialize and attend English classes. She has had counselling and medication for her mental health concerns, yet progress remains slow. She feels isolated from the broader community. She cares for her elderly mother and younger siblings who are dealing with their own trauma. This creates additional pressure and affects her ability to resettle.

A sponsor could: provide necessary social and emotional support to the young woman and reduce her feelings of isolation and loneliness; help her practice her English; help with her inclusion in the broader Calgary community and therefore with a sense of belonging; help her find resources in the community; and, provide additional guidance through formal systems such as schooling, employment, health care and public transit. This would help her gain independence, confidence and the agency to build a new life in Canada.

For more information about the JAS Program or JAS Refugee Profiles, visit the RSTP website [JAS Page](#)

Refugees sponsored under the **Joint Assistance Sponsorship (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;**
- **The effects of systemic discrimination; or,**
- **Being a large family unit (such as a single parent with several children).**

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

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

JAS refugee profiles can only be picked up by SAHs and their Constituent Groups.

workshop With IRCC

Halifax

Nova Scotia Canada

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

12:45 PM – 4:00 PM ADT

Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)

6960 Mumford Road

#Suite 2120, Classroom #18

Halifax, NS B3L 4P1

RSTP and IRCC are hosting an **Information Session** in **Halifax** 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.

The Information Session will include:

- A review of the application forms;
- The requirements for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors that came into effect on May 01, 2018;
- How IRCC processes PSR applications submitted by Groups of Five and Community Sponsors;
- IRCC's post-arrival financial and settlement support standards for PSR applications;
- IRCC's monitoring and assurance framework for PSR applications; and,
- How Groups of Five and Community Sponsors can sponsor refugees identified for resettlement by IRCC and UNHCR through the BVOR program.

Space is limited and all attendees are required to register for the workshop **using the following link:** <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ircc-info-session-for-groups-of-five-and-community-sponsors-tickets-57039144617>

upcoming IN french events OTTAWA

NB : Ces séances portent sur la démarche de parrainage de réfugiés à l'extérieur du Québec seulement.

Introduction au Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés

Date : Mercredi 20 mars 2019

Heure : 18 h à 20 h HNE

Lieu : Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO), 945, rue Wellington Ouest, Ottawa (Ontario) K1Y 2X5

Description: Cette séance d'information en français, offerte en collaboration avec le Refugee Sponsorship Support Program, donnera un aperçu du Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés, suivi d'une clinique d'aide juridique. Les sujets suivants seront abordés :

- Quelles personnes peuvent être parrainées pour la réinstallation au Canada?
- Quelles sont les étapes de la démarche de parrainage?
- Quelles sont les responsabilités des groupes de parrainage?

Inscription à l'événement : Accédez à <https://parrainage-de-refugies-clinique-aide-juridique.eventbrite.ca> ou communiquez avec Lidia Jarmasz au 1.877.290.1701, poste 2408, ou à ljarmasz@rstp.ca.

NB : Ces séances portent sur la démarche de parrainage de réfugiés à l'extérieur du Québec seulement.

Le Programme mixte des réfugiés désignés par un bureau des visas (RDBV) **IN**

OTTAWA

Date : Jeudi 21 mars 2019

Heure : 18 h à 20 h HNE

Lieu : Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO), 945, rue Wellington Ouest, Ottawa (Ontario) K1Y 2X5

Description : Cette séance en français donnera un aperçu du Programme mixte des réfugiés désignés par un bureau des visas, un programme de partage des frais entre le gouvernement du Canada et les groupes de parrainage. Les sujets suivants seront abordés:

- Qui peut être parrainé dans le cadre de ce programme?
- La démarche du jumelage avec un réfugié.
- Le partage des rôles et responsabilités entre le gouvernement fédéral et les groupes de parrainage.

Inscription à l'événement : Accédez à <https://refugies-designes-par-un-bureau-des-visas-rdbv.eventbrite.ca> ou communiquez avec Lidia Jarmasz au 1.877.290.1701, poste 2408, ou à ljarmasz@rstp.ca.

NB : Si vous connaissez un réfugié à l'étranger que vous voudriez parrainer, participez à notre séance d'introduction au Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés le mercredi 20 mars 2019.

Séance d'information sur le parrainage privé des réfugiés

Sudbury

Date : Jeudi 28 mars 2019

Heure : 17 h à 19 h

Lieu : Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury, au 19, chemin Froad, Sudbury (Ontario) P3C 4Y9

Description : Cette séance d'information en français, offerte en collaboration avec la Ville du Grand Sudbury, le Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury et le Collège Boréal, donnera un aperçu du Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés. Les sujets suivants seront abordés:

- Qui peut parrainer des réfugiés?
- Quelles personnes peuvent être parrainées pour la réinstallation au Canada?
- Quelles sont les responsabilités des groupes de parrainage?
- Quelles sont les étapes de la démarche de parrainage?

Inscription à l'événement : Accédez à <https://parrainage-prive-des-refugies.eventbrite.ca> ou communiquez avec Lidia Jarmasz au 1.877.290.1701, poste 2408, ou à ljarmasz@rstp.ca.

IN

VANCOUVER

Introduction au parrainage privé des réfugiés – Vancouver

Date: Sam., 30 mars 2019

Heure : 14:00 – 16:00 HAP

Endroit : MOSAIC, 575 Boundary Road, Vancouver, BC V5R 2P9

Description :

Connaissez-vous un réfugié à l'extérieur du Canada que vous voudriez parrainer? Aimeriez-vous en savoir davantage sur les ressources d'appui au parrainage? Le Programme de formation sur le parrainage privé des réfugiés offrira une séance d'introduction, **en français**, sur le Programme de parrainage privé des réfugiés.

Les sujets suivants seront abordés:

- Quelles personnes peuvent être parrainées pour la réinstallation au Canada?
- Qui peut parrainer?
- Quelles sont les étapes de la démarche de parrainage?
- Quelles sont les responsabilités des groupes de parrainage et quels sont les droits des réfugiés parrainés?

Cette séance aura lieu à MOSAIC, 5575 Boundary Road, Vancouver, BC V5R 2P9

Pour toute question à propos de cet événement, veuillez communiquer avec:

Laurie Cooper : Courriel :

lcooper@rstp.ca

[Tel.: 1-604-283-9319](tel:1-604-283-9319)

Sans-frais : 1.877.290.1701 poste 2418

Organisé en collaboration avec la Communauté Congolaise de la Colombie Britannique

Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

RSTP Workshop

Seeing Through Their Lenses: Overcoming Sponsorship Disputes by Understanding Cross-Cultural Communication

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019

Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM EDT (registration starts at 10:30 am)

Where: GR Meeting room, Grand River Stanley Park Community Library, 175 Indian Rd, Kitchener, ON N2B 2S7

Please register by clicking [here](#) or contact Ontario RSTP Trainer Inas Hamid at 905.273.4140 ext. 6239 or ihamid@rstp.ca.

Seeing Through Their Lenses: Overcoming Sponsorship Disputes by Understanding Cross-Cultural Communication

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019

Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM EDT (registration starts at 10:30 am)

Where: GR Meeting room, Grand River Stanley Park Community Library, 175 Indian Rd, Kitchener, ON N2B 2S7

Please register by clicking [here](#) or contact Ontario RSTP Trainer Inas Hamid at 905.273.4140 ext. 6239 or ihamid@rstp.ca.

Groups of Five & Community Sponsors: Review of Requirements and Forms

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019

Time: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm MDT

Where: Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111-11 Ave SW, Room 315, Calgary AB

Please register by clicking on link: [Groups of Five & Community Sponsorship Session](#) or contact Anoush Newman at 403. 515-5868 or mnewman@rstp.ca.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/>

RSTP Webinars

The PSR Program: Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date: Friday, March 22, 2019

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

Topics covered:

- Recap of sponsors' settlement and financial responsibilities under the PSR program;
- The importance of connecting newcomers with a settlement agency;
- Managing expectations;
- Power imbalance; and
- Ethical considerations.

For registration: [click here](#)

The PSR Program: Preparing for Month 13

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019

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

Topics covered:

- When should sponsors start preparing for Month 13;
- What to consider when preparing newcomers for Month 13;
- Services available for sponsored newcomers in Month 13;
- Evaluating the sponsorship; and
- The post-sponsorship relationship.

For registration: [click here](#)

