

Subject: Follow-up: SAH Conference May 2019



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

La version française suit le texte anglais.

Canada

Dear SAH Association Member,

Thank you for a productive SAH Conference on May 27 to 29, and for your willingness to reach out and speak directly with IRCC members who attended.

We would like to once again express our sincere gratitude for all of the work that you do in identifying and resettling vulnerable refugees from around the world. You are key partners in enabling newcomers to have the best start possible on their journey to becoming future Canadians. Your dedication to resettlement is inspirational.

We know this is a challenging time for many of you, not only because of the incredible growth in the program over the last 5 years, but also because of the additional work related to the department's assurance exercises. We appreciate your ongoing willingness to engage in open and respectful conversations to help us move toward our collective goal of a successful Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program.

We have heard your feedback on the challenges you face through multiple different channels this year, including the NGO-government committee, the Assurance Working Group, direct calls and emails, surveys and, most recently, the conference.

There are many areas for improvement in the program that we look forward to working with you on as we continue this work. Attached is a summary of the table topic discussions that took place at the conference. As you know, these discussion topics were based on input from the SAH Association on issues of importance to you. These discussions have highlighted not only challenges, but opportunities to do things better.

One message that we have heard repeatedly, and you will see reflected in the summary, is the need for a better flow of information between IRCC and the SAH community on a variety of issues but perhaps most pressingly on the assurance work.

In that spirit, we are committing to share information and resources with you over the summer directly related to the assurance work. In addition to direct emails from us and information available through Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP), we look forward to further webinars in the coming months to provide you with updates on tools and documents as well as an opportunity to ask us your questions.

If you would prefer to speak with us directly over the phone please send a request to IRCC.PSRCasereview-RevuedecasPSR.IRCC@cic.gc.ca so that we can arrange a suitable time.

Over the course of the coming months, we will also work with the SAH Council and RSTP to develop a communications strategy that will ensure you have the information you need to do your work as a SAH.

Thank you again for the work that you do in the service of refugees. We look forward to working closely with you toward a strong and sustainable Private Sponsorship of Refugees program, and to further supporting you as SAHs and sponsors in that mission.

Sincerely,

Melissa Fama
Director, Resettlement Policy

Jean-Marc Gionet
Senior Director, Resettlement Operations