

Handbook for Sponsoring Groups

Foreword

This handbook on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees is meant for groups who are already sponsoring refugees, and those who plan to do so. It provides detailed information on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program and the sponsorship process, and is informed by existing laws, policies and practices.

The handbook will help those with many years of experience in sponsoring refugees, and those with limited or no experience. Sponsorship Agreement Holders will find the contents useful when organizing training for Constituent Groups or Community Sponsors, or when assisting Groups of Five. Community Sponsors and members of Groups of Five will find that the information will help improve the quality of the sponsorship applications they submit.

The handbook is divided into ten chapters, a glossary and an appendix of useful acronyms. Some chapters are relevant to all sponsoring groups (SAHs, Community Sponsors and Groups of Five). Other chapters have separate sections devoted to each type of sponsorship group.

Acknowledgements

RSTP would like to thank the RSTP Advisory Committee and other Sponsorship Agreement Holders who have provided valuable input and guidance in the making of this new and revised version of the handbook.

Disclaimer

The handbook is intended to offer information to sponsors and others regarding the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program and the refugee sponsorship process. It does not offer legal advice or counseling. Readers are advised to consult relevant Canadian laws as well as seek legal advice from duly authorized bodies. While the content of this handbook reflects the policies current at the time of publication, Canada's immigration policies and procedures are regularly revisited. For more recent news and updates on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, please visit our website at www.rstp.ca.