

RSTP Bulletin

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAH National Conference

Theme: *Looking in, out and beyond...*

Date: May 28-31, 2017

Venue: Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton, AB

Registration deadline has passed; please contact RSTP for more information

CCR Spring Consultation

Theme: *Nurturing Diversity and Inclusion: Reflecting on the past to inspire the future*

Date: June 1-3, 2017

Venue: MacEwan University, City Centre Campus, Edmonton, AB

For more Information about the consultation and online registration please visit: <http://ccrweb.ca/en/meetings>

YOU ASKED...

With regards to using allocation spaces for SAHs to add dependents: **Do I need cap space to add a dependant to an existing application?**

OUR RESPONSE...

From **Frequently Asked Questions on SAH Global Cap Allocation and Usage -2017:**

A9: Yes, cap space is required for all family members included in the Sponsorship Undertaking and the refugee's Application for Permanent Residence, whether that dependant is accompanying or not. An exception to this rule is in the case of newborn children who are born after the original sponsorship application has been approved by IRCC; cap space is not required in this case."

Available JAS Cases...

JAS # 0073-03-17 Syrian Refugees in Turkey

We have a large Syrian family with 6 young children (total of 8) who are refugees in Turkey (Referred by Ankara Visa Office). The PA and his family cannot return to their home country due to ongoing insecurity and they fear for their safety. The PA has prior work experience in Architectural Décor. They may benefit from counselling upon arrival in Canada. They have no contact in Canada and would benefit from the support of a sponsor during resettlement in Canada.



Image: UNHCR

JAS 1209/16 In Canada

We have in Canada JAS case. PA is a Single 19 years old male from Syria, currently attending Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada classes regularly and doing quite well. He is excelling verbally, but continues to need extra support in written and literacy capacities. He has progressed quite well since he arrived in Canada, in spring 2016. However, he would likely benefit from a sponsor for proper integration into the labour market, language development assistance, and in searching for sustainable employment.

* If you are aware of potential sponsors in Victoria, BC and its surrounding areas, contact our BVOR worker to get the extended profile forwarded to you.

If you are interested in these cases or have questions, contact:
Parastoo Aznavehzadeh (BVOR Worker)

* **Reminder:** Effective April 1, 2017, the functions of the Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg (CPO-W), the Centralized Processing Office in Vancouver (CPO-V) and the Matching Centre has merged into the newly created Resettlement operations Centre in Ottawa (ROC-O).

One-Year Window of Opportunity Provision (OYW)

Eligibility:

- Under OYW, family members obtain the status of the principal applicant in Canada, so he or she doesn't have to meet the eligibility requirements of the Convention refugee from abroad class (CR) or Country of asylum class (RA) classes in their own right

⇒ They are to be counted as either a GAR or PSR depending on the stream in which the original principal applicant was processed prior to arrival in Canada

In order to be eligible to be sponsored under the OYW, the non-accompanying family member must be a family member of the principal applicant as defined in R1(3):

- spouses
- common-law partners
- dependent children
- dependent children of dependent children of the PA

*** De facto dependents are not eligible under the OYW program as they do not meet the definition of family member outlined above ***



Image: CCR

To be processed under the OYW, family members must:

- have been identified on the principal applicant's application for permanent residence (IMM 0008) before the principal applicant departed for Canada
- have been a family member as defined in R1(3) at the time the principal applicant originally submitted their application (IMM 0008)
- continue to be a family member at the time OYW application is filed and at the time the final decision is made
- have to submit the Request for OYW and the IMM 0008 (Generic form and Schedule A) to ROC-O within one year of the date of arrival of the principal applicant in Canada

In privately sponsored cases:

- The sponsor must be notified of the non-accompanying family member's application to ensure that the sponsor is still able and willing to make adequate settlement arrangements
- If the sponsor is not able to provide support and a new sponsor cannot be found, a procedural fairness letter is sent giving the PSR applicant an opportunity to find a new sponsor
 - In such events, the OYW application will likely be refused on the basis that adequate financial arrangements have not been made
 - However, the visa office may assess the identified family member as a refugee in their own right and resettle them under the GAR program or as a self-supporting refugee
 - If applicant does not qualify as a refugee, the visa office may consider recommending a humanitarian and compassionate grounds application or counsel the applicant to pursue a family class sponsorship
- The ability to establish was already assessed for the whole family at the time the principal applicant applied for a permanent resident visa
- In urgent protection and vulnerable cases, the principal applicant is exempt from meeting the requirement of ability to establish
- An assessment of non-accompanying family members should still be completed for the purpose of determining if any family member has special settlement needs so that adequate settlement arrangements can be made in Canada
- The principal applicant and the non-accompanying family members must meet the medical, security and criminality requirements

OYW Continues...

Age Exemption:

- The age of any dependent child is locked in on the date IRCC receives an application for permanent residence from the principal applicant
- A person who has turned 19 years of age since the original application from the principal applicant was made, **and who meets all other requirements**, will still qualify as a dependent child under the one year window of opportunity provision

Definition of dependent child: Children who are less than 19 years old and not have a spouse or common-law partner, or who are 19 or older and have depended substantially on the parent since before the age of 19 because they are unable to be self-supporting due to a physical or mental condition

Processing

- Processing times vary depending on a visa office responsible for processing the case
- In some instances, complications in processing OYW applications may arise as a result of the applicant's difficulties in obtaining an exit permit
 - ⇒ IRCC is not obliged to negotiate for individual exit permits
 - ⇒ in those instances where exit permit at any time in the future is extremely unlikely, the visa officer may choose to finalize the case (issue the permanent resident visa) and hold the visa on file until expiry
- In cases where the principal applicant was selected under a **JAS**, the principal applicant will submit an application for the processing of the non-accompanying family members at the local IRCC responsible for providing their RAP income support benefits
- The local IRCC will evaluate the level of support required with the inclusion of the following non-accompanying family members under OYW.

Once the non-accompanying family members have received their permanent resident visas, the visa office will:

- contact the International Organization for Migration (IOM) office and/or a travel agent, whoever is most appropriate in that country, to make the travel arrangements; or
- contact the local IRCC who will advise the principal applicant to contact the IOM New York or a travel agent to make the travel arrangements
- send a Notification of Arrival (NAT) once the travel arrangements have been made

UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS:

Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date: Saturday April 22, 2017

Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm ADT

Venue: Captain William Spry Community Centre, 16 Sussex Street, Halifax NS (in the Community Multi-Purpose room)

Description: Topics that will be covered include: Settlement challenges and best practices, Ethical practices for sponsoring groups and Managing expectations.

Register by visiting the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-refugee-sponsorship-supporting-settlement-and-integration-tickets-33339260626>

Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date: Monday April 24, 2017

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm ADT

Venue: Visions United Church, 1270 Gorge Road, Stilesville, NB E1G 3E5

Description: Topics that will be covered include: Settlement challenges and best practices, Ethical practices for sponsoring groups and Managing expectations.

Register by visiting the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-refugee-sponsorship-supporting-settlement-and-integration-tickets-33471976583>

How are Refugees Succeeding in Our Communities...

Looking back...

Ahmad was born in Aleppo, Syria. From a young age, he loved acting and theatre. Ahmad acted in his first production, "When Roses Dance", in 2005 when he was 14. In September 2012, Ahmad was forced to leave Syria as a result of the armed conflict.

Ahmad travelled to Cairo, Egypt, and enrolled in an acting course at the Higher Institute for Theatrical Arts. In December 2015, Ahmad was scheduled to graduate from his course in the coming months. However, his Syrian passport expired and by the time he completes his studies, he would be forced to return to Syria by the Egyptian authorities.

On return to Syria, Ahmad would have been forced into mandatory military service as he was of serving age. Ahmad did not want to return to Syria due to the armed conflict, and did not want to engage in the conflict as it took so much away from him and his family. Ahmad believed that his only option to avoid return to Syria after graduation was to "ride the sea", i.e. travel via boat to Europe.

Whilst in Egypt, Ahmad connected with Najda Now, a humanitarian organization in Kitchener, Ontario engaged in refugee sponsorship, and MT Space, a multicultural theatre company in Waterloo, Ontario, via the internet. Najda Now and MT Space started a two-phase crowdfunding campaign in order to raise the necessary funds to sponsor Ahmad under the PSR Program in what became known as the "Artists Sponsor Artists" initiative.

RSTP's Contribution:

RSTP has delivered several training sessions and workshops to Najda Now, and to sponsoring groups and volunteers working with Najda Now in the Kitchener/Waterloo area.

On March 21, 2016, RSTP conducted 3 workshops at Najda Now covering: how to sponsor refugees under the PSR Program as a Group of Five or Community Sponsor; how to complete application forms for refugee sponsorship, and how to become a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH).

Ahmad arrived in Canada on July 25, 2016 <http://mtspace.ca/news/ahmads-arrival-kw>

Ahmad spoke basic English on arrival, and wanted to improve his language skills so that he would be able to do theatre in English.

Now...

Ahmad continues his passion in Canada. He has showcased "Adrenaline" from February 16, 2017 to February 18, 2017 at the Registry Theatre in Kitchener, Ontario. "Adrenaline" was written, directed, and performed by Ahmad, and is an original piece about the psychological impact of war and loss of loved ones on man.



Image: MT SPACE

"A bundle of belongings isn't the only thing a refugee brings to his new country. Einstein was a refugee."

UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS:

Managing Expectations

Date: Monday April 24, 2017

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm EDT

Venue: St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 2473 Thorn Lodge Drive, Mississauga, L5K 1K8

Description: This session will look at what expectations sponsors and newcomers have of each other, and how can expectations be managed to avoid potential conflict, and facilitate successful sponsorship.

How to Sponsor Syrian Refugees

Date: Wednesday May 10, 2017

Time: 12:30 pm – 14:30 pm EDT

Venue: Beasley Community Centre, 145 Wilson St, Hamilton, ON L8R 1E4

Description: Topics that will be covered include: Who can be sponsored?, Who can sponsor?, How to sponsor? Sponsorship process, Financial and Settlement Responsibilities, Family reunification under One Year Window, and Proof of refugee status recognition.