

# RSTP BULLETIN

May 5, 2017

## IRCC UPDATE

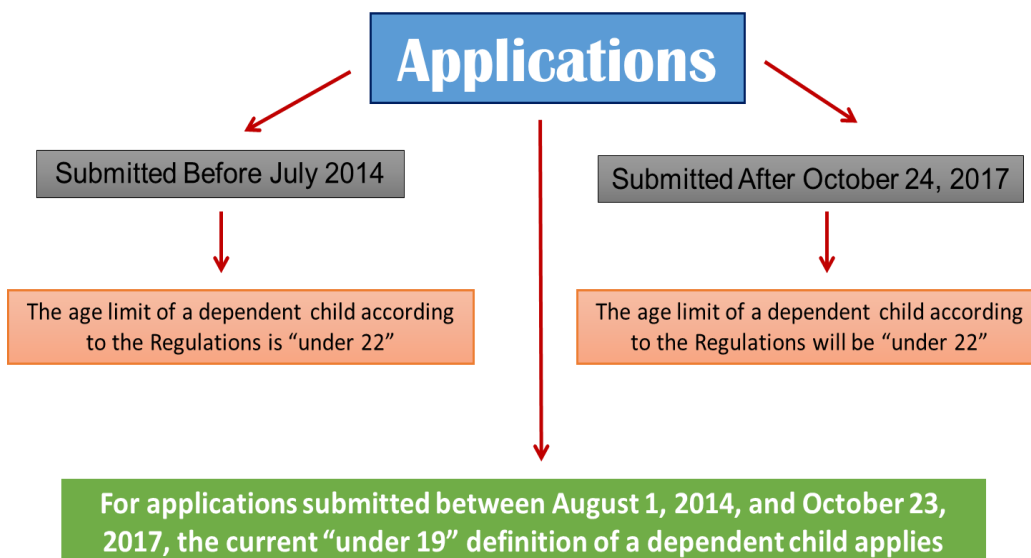
### Regulations Amending the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (Age of Dependent Children)

- The current definition of “dependent child” in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (the Regulations) is limited to persons less than 19 years of age and is therefore too restrictive.
- Starting **October 24, 2017**, the **new age limit of “under 22”** will come into effect, raising it from the current “under 19” requirement
- This change **will apply to new applications** for all immigration programs under IRCC
- Children who are 22 years of age or older and who rely on their parents due to a physical or mental health condition will continue to be considered dependent children
- Primary objective of this regulatory amendment is to enhance family unity and reunification by enabling Canadians and permanent residents to bring their young adult children between 19 and 21 years of age to Canada

*“Raising the age of dependants lets more families stay together. This will bring economic and social gains to our country as it enhances our attractiveness as a destination of choice for immigrants and refugees.”*

- The Honourable Ahmed Hussen,  
Minister of IRCC

### What does this mean?



- Age of dependency is locked at the time of submission. Hence, sponsors do not have to resubmit their applications because of the change to the age of dependent

**\* Applications in Process Will be Unaffected by the Change \***

## Important Dates

### National SAH 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>

# Available BVOR Cases:

The profiles are as follows:

**32 Eritrean Profiles:**

⇒ Both large and small family size and majority with low medical/resettlement needs

**29 Congolese Profiles:**

⇒ Large families, majority with higher medical/ resettlement needs

**7 Ethiopian Profiles**

⇒ Majority single male with low medical/resettlement needs

**3 Syrian Profiles:**

⇒1 profile has a recommended destination for Ottawa

⇒1 profile has a recommended destination for Bracebridge, ON (close to Peterborough)

⇒1 profile for Charlottetown

⇒All 3 profiles have low medical/resettlement needs

**Other profiles are mix of Iranian, Columbian & Iraqis**

If you are interested in these profiles:

⇒ use your username and password to login in to RSTP matching database:  
**[cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp](http://cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp)**

# Available VOR Case: **\*\*Urgent\*\***

**VOR 0332-05-17**

A Syrian Family of 4 including 2 children. This family is processed under the VOR program, with no support from the Government of Canada. The family members can speak English well. The PA has a bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and his spouse has started a Bachelor's Degree in Translation. The family wishes to settle in Canada in order to live safely and raise their children in a secure environment. They have a friend in Oakville, Ontario and would like to resettle near there (Toronto, Ontario areas).

**The case is urgent as their medicals are expiring soon. They must travel as soon as possible.**

If you are interested in these cases or have questions, contact:

**Parastoo Aznavehzadeh**

# INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

## Which Syrian Refugees have to repay their travel loan?

- ⇒ All resettled Syrian refugees interviewed between November 4, 2015 and February 29, 2016 (including all PSRs, BVORs, and GARs) are exempt from having to repay their travel loan

**Syrian PSRs (not BVORs, nor GARs) who were interviewed March 1, 2016 forward will have travel loans.**

**Syrian BVORs and GARs were exempt from having to repay travel loans from November 4, 2015 up until December 31, 2016**

- ⇒ After December 31, 2016, loans will no longer be waived for Syrian BVORs and GARs. However, Syrian GAR/BVOR cases arriving up until that date will have their loans waived.

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## Do resettled Syrian refugees who travel in 2017, but were interviewed in 2016, have to repay their travel loan?

- ⇒ All resettled Syrian refugees (GARs, BVORs and PSRs) whose interview was completed or initiated between November 4, 2015, and February 29, 2016, but who have not yet travelled to Canada, are exempt from having to repay their travel loans

**All other cases travelling in 2017 will have a loan, *unless* a contribution has been requested, and approved for them.**

### For example:

- ⇒ A Syrian PSR/BVOR/GAR interviewed before March 1, 2016 will not have to repay a travel loan, even if they travel to Canada in 2017

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## What to do if you come across a case that falls within the timelines specified above, and yet have been issued a loan warrant and subsequently received a Notice of Payment?

### Contact the Loans Program at the following:

Toll Free Telephone: 1-800-667-7301 (Hours: Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm (EST))

Please have your loan documents available when you call.

Email: [collection@cic.gc.ca](mailto:collection@cic.gc.ca)

Fax: 819-934-3884

Mailing address: 365 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa Ontario, K1A 1L1

This document has been prepared for Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) by The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP)

Tel: 416.290.1700, 1.877.290.1701 | Fax: 416.290.1710 | E-mail: [info@rstp.ca](mailto:info@rstp.ca) | [www.rstp.ca](http://www.rstp.ca)

Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program

# UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS IN ONTARIO:

## Information Session on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (Arabic)

**Date:** May 5, 2017

**Time:** 6:30PM -8:30PM

**Where:** YMCA, 240 Catherine St, Ottawa, ON K2P 2G8

**Description:** The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP), in partnership with the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (SSP) and Refugee 613 will deliver an information session on the private sponsorship of refugees, followed by a Q&A.

**Register By Email** at [info@refugee613.ca](mailto:info@refugee613.ca) or by phone at 613 400 6099

## Information Session on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (Arabic)

**Date:** May 6, 2017

**Time:** 6:30PM -8:30PM

**Where:** Boys And Girls Club Of Ottawa, 430 McArthur Ave, Ottawa, ON K1K 1G5

**Description:** The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP), in partnership with the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (SSP) and Refugee 613 will deliver an information session on the private sponsorship of refugees, followed by a Q&A.

**Register By:** Email at [info@refugee613.ca](mailto:info@refugee613.ca) or by phone at 613 400 6099

## How to Sponsor Syrian Refugees (Arabic)

**Date:** Wednesday May 10, 2017

**Time:** 12:30 pm – 14:30 pm EDT

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

**Description:** The 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

## Information Session on Changes to PSR Program & Updates from IRCC for Lambton Refugee Sponsors Network (LRSN)

**Date:** Wednesday May 10, 2017

**Time:** 5:00 pm to 8pm EDT

**Where:** Wesley Urban Ministries Inc., 52 Catharine Street North. Hamilton, ON



Picture from 2015 SAH Conference

If you have any questions you'd like answered from the representatives of IRCC, UNHCR, IOM, CRA or anyone else at the **2017 Nation SAH Conference**, please submit them to [conference@rstp.ca](mailto:conference@rstp.ca) by **Monday May 8th**. Any questions sent to RSTP can be forwarded to the respective presenters.

The following are a few of the sessions that will be held during this year's National SAH conference in Alberta:

- IRCC and Overseas Mission Updates
- In-Canada Processing and ROC-O updates on caseloads, processing times, and sponsorship application processing by IRCC
- Presentations by UNHCR and IOM
- SAH Agreement, Allocations, Post-Arrival Issues, Best Practices, BVOR program, Taxes, and Ethical considerations in sponsorship

# UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOP IN BRITISH COLOMBIA:

## Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program – Post-Arrival Settlement and Integration Matters

**Date:** Thursday May 18, 2017

**Time:** 5.00pm – 8.00pm PDT

**Where:** Christ Church Cathedral (CNJ room upstairs); 930 Burdett Ave, Victoria BC

**Description:** The session will cover a number of post-arrival sponsorship matters, including: The Role of Sponsors in the Sponsorship Process; Ethical Considerations in Sponsorship; Preparing for the End of Sponsorship: when to start and what to consider, and Programs and Support available to Sponsored Newcomers throughout the Sponsorship Period and starting with Month 13.

**Please register by following the link:** <https://rstptrainingmay18.eventbrite.ca> or by contacting the RSTP at [epak@rstp.ca](mailto:epak@rstp.ca) or 604-254-9626 x 517