

R S T P B U L L E T I N

January 13, 2017



Image: UNHCR

Updates To Our Website

Courtesy of OCASI, several RSTP factsheets have been translated into Arabic and are now available on our website:

Health Care Coverage for Privately Sponsored Refugees (Arabic)

The Health Care Coverage for PSR information fact sheet covers information on the latest changes to Medavie Blue Cross system for IFH. Eligibility and longevity for IFH program for newcomers and a list of IFH service providers by province.

For more information please see our website

(Arabic) <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Health-Care-Coverage-for-Privately-Sponsored-Refugees-Arabic-Final.pdf>

(English) <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/All-About-Health-Care-Coverage-Fact-Sheet-1.pdf>

Sponsorship Disputes & Breakdowns (Arabic)

The Sponsorship Disputes and Breakdown information sheet covers questions around what should be done if there is a sponsorship dispute, where to access information on SAH breakdowns as well as consequences of PSR breakdowns.

For more information please see our website

(Arabic) <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Health-Care-Coverage-for-Privately-Sponsored-Refugees-Arabic-Final.pdf>

(English) <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Sponsorship-Breakdown-Info-Sheet-RSTP-Final.pdf>

One Year Window (OYW) (Arabic)

The One Year Window information fact sheet covers information about what the OYW is, who is eligible for the OYW and the sponsors' responsibilities under the OYW program.

For more information please see our website

(Arabic) <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/OYW-Arabic-revised-Final.pdf>

(English) <http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/One-Year-Window-OYW-Fact-Sheet-1.pdf>

Updates

Canada Child Benefit Update

Our fact sheet on Canada Child Benefits (CCB) has recently been updated and includes information on the new Canada Child Benefits plan including a calculator provided by Canada Revenue Agency on estimated eligibility for benefits. The update also includes information about electronic applications as well as links to new application packages for newcomers.

For more information please see our website

<http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CCB-revised-December-2016.pdf>

Changes to Group of Five and Community Sponsorship applications to sponsor Syrian and Iraqi refugees

December 19, 2016: IRCC announced that 1,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees will be exempt from the refugee documentation requirement. After the first thousand persons, the IRCC will return applications that do not have official refugee status documents. As it is not possible to know in advance whether the limit of the 1,000 persons has been reached, it is advisable for Groups of Five and Community Sponsor organizations sponsoring Syrian and Iraqi refugees to include refugee status recognition documents where available.

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

You asked...

Could you clarify whether the \$10,000 maximum limit on travel loans applies to a family that is linked, or whether it is applied to each application separately?

Our response...

In general, the IRCC grants the Principal Applicant (PA) and their dependents a transportation and admissibility loans for up to \$10,000 for the whole family. IRCC will cover any remaining debts. Applicants on linked files (e.g. adult children or de facto dependants who are adults) will receive their own separate travel loans.

*More information about transportation loans can be found in the **OP 17 Loans** available [HERE](#).*

You asked...

How do we submit our application electronically? Do we have to submit signature sections separately under registered mail?

IRCC response...

*You can submit your Sponsorship electronically and find useful information under Latest Policy & Program Updates on the RSTP website [HERE](#). Upon completion of the application Visa Offices will often require a physical Photo in order to attach it to the PR Card. Please note that all forms **MUST** be typed. In the past, handwritten forms slowed down the intake process significantly as the information was not legible. It is also important to note that due to information technology (IT) restrictions, your overall email (text and attachments) cannot be bigger than 10MB. If your email is bigger than 10MB, it will bounce back and you will **NOT** receive an email auto-reply from CPO-W. (Courtesy of Debra Simson, SAH secretariat)*

Electronic submission of the IMM 0008

RSTP has been receiving questions regarding electronic submission of the Generic Application Form for Canada (IMM 0008) asking for advice to ensure that the barcodes are legible and will be accepted by CPO-W.

Courtesy of Ellen Woolaver from the SAH Secretariat, we would like to share a tip that sponsors might find useful:

Sponsors could submit both the original barcode pages (which are bright and clear) as well as the barcode page with the signature (which would have been forwarded to the applicant, printed, signed, scanned and emailed back - so is not so bright and clear).

UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS SESSIONS WEBINARS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEBINAR 'VOICES FROM THE FIELD'

RSTP will have the privilege of hosting Haruno Nakashiba, UNHCR Resettlement Coordinator based in Hub Amman (Jordan), to join us for a webinar on January 25, 2017. Nakashiba will kindly provide us with an overview of refugees' situation there and will answer questions related to refugee protection. Individual cases and internal policies will not be discussed during the webinar.

Date: January 25, 2017

Time: 9:00 am—11:00am EST

To register, please click [HERE](#).

Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) Winter Working Group Meetings

The Canadian Council for Refugee (CCR) is inviting all interested participants to be part of their efforts in promoting rights of refugees. Participants are invited to take part in in-depth discussions on processing issues affecting newcomers to Canada. Free.

Friday, February 24, 2017: Salvation Army, 160 Jarvis St., Toronto

9:30am - 5pm: **Inland Protection Working Group meeting**

Saturday, February 25, 2017: Salvation Army, 160 Jarvis St., Toronto

9:30am – 4:30pm: **Overseas Protection & Sponsorship Working Group meeting**

9:30am – 4:30pm: **Immigration and Settlement Working Group meeting**

For more information please see the CCR Website [HERE](#)

CCR has also published a report from the Fall 2016 Consultation that took place in Montreal on November 24-26, 2016. The report can be found [HERE](#)

WORKSHOP ON MONTH 13 TORONTO

The RSTP is conducting a workshop and facilitating a discussion group on Month 13, Planning for Private Sponsoring Groups in Toronto

Description: This is a free information session for Private Sponsors to learn about:

- When to start preparing newcomers for Month 13
- The role of sponsors during the "transition period", including important tasks to consider
- The post-sponsorship relationship.

Private sponsors will also be given the opportunity to share their own experiences, challenges, and ideas about Month 13 planning.

When: Tuesday, January 17; 5:45 to 8:00 PM EST

Venue: Danforth/Coxwell Library

1675 Danforth Avenue, Toronto Please make sure to [register here](#), as space is limited

Attention SAHs and CGs in British Columbia:

Immigrant Employment Council of BC has launched a web-based platform geared towards recently resettled refugees (privately sponsored and government assisted). The platform is called **BC Refugees JobConnect**. It allows newcomers to create a profile and upload their resume as well as identify a desired profession.

The platform is intended to bring together employers and job seekers, while addressing specific issues that resettled and sponsored refugees might be facing in the initial stages of their job search.

For more information about **BC Refugees JobConnect** and to watch a video tutorial, please click [HERE](#)