



# RSTP BULLETIN

APRIL 20, 2016

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## INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES

In this section of the RSTP Bulletin, we answer some of the most frequently asked questions that have been brought to us by SAHs and other private sponsorship groups. If you have a inquiry you would like to see in the next bulletin, please contact Melissa at [mscott@rstp.ca](mailto:mscott@rstp.ca).

**You Asked: *The SAH Council mentioned that IRCC's relaxed procedures for Syrian and Iraqi applications are "unlikely to continue." Is there a date or a grace period for the relaxed procedures to end? Are there specific procedures remaining and other changing? (e.g. scanned signatures, inadequate or missing information, photos that do not meet specifications)***

IRCC has informed RSTP that discussions are currently underway on these matters. For the time being, **SAHs can continue to email their Syrian applications to CPO-W**; scanned signatures and digital photos will be accepted.

**You Asked: *Can we have clarification on whether or not Groups of Five and Community Sponsors can sponsor non-Syrian BVOR's and benefit from the six months of RAP funding?***

Yes, Groups of Five (G5s) and Community Sponsors (CSs) can sponsor non-Syrian BVORs and benefit from the 6 months of RAP funding.

**You Asked: *Are Syrian applications no longer being prioritized at CPO-W?***

According to IRCC, Syrian applications are still being prioritized at CPO-W.

**You Asked: *Are Syrians now going to be getting orientation before they arrive again? I know that Syrians that came between September 2015 and February 29th did not receive pre-departure orientation.***

Yes. Pre-departure orientation will resume for Syrian refugees.

**You Asked: *Do Syrians still benefit from prima facie refugee recognition?***

Yes. *Prima facie* recognition of Syrians will continue until September 2017.

The temporary public policy to facilitate the sponsorship of Syrian and Iraqi refugees by Groups of Five and Community Sponsors will continue until September 19th, 2016.

This means that **there is still a waiver on proof of refugee status for Syrians and Iraqis until this time.**

IRCC has informed RSTP that prior to this date, the public policy will be reviewed and may be renewed. See here for more information on the policy.

## TOP 10 CANADIAN CITIES WITH FAMILY LINKS INITIATIVE (FLI) CASES

Do you or your CGs live in one of the cities found on the table below? These are currently the top ten cities with the highest number of FLI cases. Although you are currently waiting on allocations for 2016, you may consider starting the matching process with one of the FLI cases below. For further information or to be matched, please contact [fli@rstp.ca](mailto:fli@rstp.ca).

No:	Cities:	Number of FLI Cases:
1	Regina , Saskatchewan	175
2	London, Ontario	161
3	Toronto, Ontario	141
4	Mississauga, Ontario	125
5	Ottawa, Ontario	86
6	Edmonton, Alberta	64
7	Calgary, Alberta	61
8	Kitchener, Ontario	48
9	Hamilton, Ontario	41
10	Red Deer, Alberta	40

### IFHP CLARIFICATION: CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY

Following changes to the IFHP program on April 1, 2016, IRCC has updated its website (updated April 11, 2016). Click [here](#) for a direct link to IRCC's notice.

RSTP has received a number of questions about whether sponsored refugees who arrived before April 1, 2016 and who were approved for IFHP need to apply for a new Certificate of Eligibility in order to access benefits they did not have before. IRCC has provided clarification on this (including on the website listed above).

**Regarding eligibility for IFHP benefits after April 1, 2016, RSTP would like to highlight the following:**

- If a privately sponsored refugee had coverage before April 1, **the coverage has been updated automatically** in the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Medavie Blue Cross systems.
- Health-care providers have been advised of the change in coverage and will be able to provide services to IFHP holders, *even if the expiry has passed*. Anyone who has IFHP will present their current IFHP eligibility document to health care providers when seeking their services.
- **Those who have IFHP coverage do not need to apply for a new Certificate of Eligibility.**



This document has been prepared for Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) by RSTP.

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