

# RSTP Bulletin

## RAP RATES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!

The Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) rate is the amount of financial assistance provided by the Government of Canada to resettled refugees to establish themselves in Canada. This financial assistance is provided to those who come under Government Assisted Refugees (GAR), Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) and Blended Visa Office-Referrred (BVOR) programs. **For more information on the RAP Rate visit:** <http://www.rstp.ca/en/sponsorship-responsibilities/resettlement-assistance-program-rap-rates/>

**RAP financial support includes start up allowances and monthly income support.**

### Start-up allowances

- **A one-time payment intended to cover the initial cost of settling in Canada.** Please note that for BVOR and PSR clients, start-up costs are covered by the sponsoring group.

### Monthly income support

- Monthly income support is intended to cover basic needs such as **food, incidentals, shelter, transportation and a communication allowance.**
- Other special allowances may be added based on need.

### Why is it important for you to know the RAP rate in your province?

According to the new SAH Agreement and IRCC Financial Guide to Sponsorship, the benchmark level of financial support under private sponsorship is equivalent to RAP rates. This means that you as a sponsor should provide income support at least equivalent to the amount of the RAP rate in the community of settlement, in order to fulfil your financial responsibility as a sponsor.

## Highlights from 2017 IRCC Office Specific Information on PSR processing

### How Sponsors Can Help IRCC Offices in Processing PSR applications

<b>Family Composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All changes to family composition <b>MUST</b> be declared to the IRCC Office prior to travelling to Canada</li> <li>▪ Those who are not declared will be ineligible for the OYW program and sponsorship under the Family Class.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sponsors must ensure that they have up to date contact information for the refugees they are sponsoring, and that the IRCC Office processing the application is advised when applicants have moved or changed their phone number or email.</li> <li>▪ Sponsors can assist processing by passing on communication to applicants (e.g. interview convocation and request letters) given the difficulty with communications in some locations.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage applicants to be forthcoming and truthful with all information provided to the IRCC Office, as not doing so could lead to the refusal of their application.</li> </ul>
<b>Interview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sponsors should ensure applicants come prepared to the interview with requested documentation listed on the convocation letter</li> </ul>
<b>Personal History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applicants must be forthcoming with all relevant information about any membership in groups, including political, and/or any experience with the military, particularly in armed conflict</li> <li>▪ Failure to provide truthful information about personal history may lead to refusal</li> </ul>
<b>Establishing Identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of documentation can cause delays in establishing relationships.</li> <li>▪ In cases of identity fraud, applications are refused after taking procedural fairness steps to advise the applicant of the concerns.</li> </ul>
<b>Registration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If the applicant has resettled to another country, the applicant or sponsor should follow the withdrawal process described in IP3/Part 3/Section 50 (<a href="#">IP3, part 3 - withdrawal</a>).</li> </ul>
<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sponsors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Country of Origin Information available on UNHCR's <a href="#">RefWorld</a>. IRCC Officers use this to assess the credibility of claims</li> </ul>

# Available BVOR Profiles

We have **54 available** BVOR cases in the RSTP BVOR matching database.

## These profiles include:

- Syrian, Eritrean, Congolese, Ethiopian, Iraqi and Somalian cases
- Very few larger families
- Women at risk
- More than half of the cases do not have preferred destination
- Most of the cases have medium to no medical/resettlement needs

If you are interested, log in to the RSTP Matching Database with your username and password: [cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp](https://cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp)

## Some of the Available BVOR Cases are as follows:

### BVOR PROFILE #: 0801-12-17

The PA is a 61-year-old Syrian divorced woman with six years of formal education and experience as domestic help. She has raised her orphaned granddaughter since infancy. The PA has a friend in Toronto, ON, but does not have their contact information. The PA and her granddaughter would appreciate the assistance of the sponsor.

### BVOR PROFILE #: 0769-12-17

#### Additional information: Family in Calgary, AB

The applicant is a Pakistani national residing outside his country of origin. He fled Pakistan because of threats and violence due to his religious affiliation. Some members of his family have fled the country and resettled in Canada.

### BVOR PROFILE #: 0785-12-18

#### Additional Information: No Preferred destination

The PA is a single 19-year-old Sudanese man with 8 years of formal education and experience as a teacher's assistant. He now works at a refugee school helping children with language. The PA and his family left their home country due to war and instability. He would appreciate the assistance of the sponsor.

### BVOR PROFILE #: 0829-12-17

#### Additional Information: No Preferred destination

A Syrian family of 7 in which the PA is a 36-year-old married man with 5 children. He has 12 years of formal education and experience as a farmer and construction worker. He cannot return to his home country as he fears for his safety and persecution based on ongoing ethnic conflicts. They would appreciate a sponsor.

### BVOR PROFILE #: 0813-12-17

#### Additional Information: No Preferred destination

Syrian family of 2 in which the PA is a 42-year-old married woman with six years of formal education. Her spouse has experience as a cook. The PA cannot return to her home country as she fears for her safety and persecution based on ongoing ethnic conflicts. The family would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor.

### BVOR PROFILE #: 0816-12-17

#### Additional Information: Preferred destination: Hamilton/GTA, near mother

Somali family of six, of whom 4 are children. The PA speaks little English. The spouse and children speak English relatively well. The PA's mother was resettled in Hamilton, ON, and the family would benefit from settling near her. They cannot return to their home country as they fear for their safety.



**BVOR PROFILE #:** 0781-12-17

**Additional Information:** No preferred destination.

Congolese family of 7 in which the PA is a 46-year-old male with a spouse and 5 children to care for. He has 3 years of education, and experience in farming and as a labourer. His wife has 4 years of education, and also has experience farming and as a labourer. The PA and his family were forced to leave their country due to violent conflict, and would benefit from the aid of a sponsor.

**BVOR PROFILE #:** 0828-12-17

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Relatives in Kamloops (BC)

A young Syrian family of 4, comprised of the PA, his spouse and 2 young children. The PA worked odd jobs in construction to support his family when in Syria. They are now in Turkey, having fled violence and conflict in their home country.

**BVOR PROFILE #:** 0778-12-17

**Additional information:**  
**No Preferred destination.**

The PA is a 43-year-old Sudanese male with a spouse and 5 children. Everyone in the family speaks English. The PA has university level education and experience as a mechanical engineer. His spouse has a university level education, and experience working as a teacher. The family were persecuted in their home country due to political opinion and would benefit from the aid of a sponsor.



## Available JAS Profiles

**Please Note:** JAS cases can only be sponsored by SAHs

### In-Canada JAS

**We Have 17 In-Canada JAS Cases Looking For Sponsors!**

#### Including:

**In-Canada JAS PROFILE #:** 0765-11-17 (Syrian family of 4)

**XREF:** 0766-11-17- (Syrian family of 3)

**Location:** Toronto, ON

The PA and his family recently arrived in Canada, with the PA's brother's family (0766-11-17).

**Language:** The PA and his wife attend language classes, but still face daily challenges due to language and lack of familiarity with their community and Canadian society. They feel isolated.

**Medical issues:** The wife has a medical condition, for which she has been referred to a physician, and the husband may require psychological support/counseling.

#### **Support needed:**

- using the public transit system
- understanding services that are available to them
- basic financial literacy to manage finances and understand the banking system in Canada
- an introduction to activities that will expand their social network

**In addition to this profile, we have 22 In-Canada Yazidi JAS cases, mainly in London, ON.**

#### Including:

**In-Canada Yazidi /victims of Daesh**

**JAS PROFILE #:** 0759-11-17 (Iraqi single family member)

**X-ref:** 0760-11-17 – (Iraqi family of 5)

**Location:** Winnipeg, MB

The family has survived trauma and violence. The head of family suffered a stroke and has been unable to work. The spouse looks after him and their 5 children. One child has severe mobility issues (0759-11-17) and regular medical appointments. The spouse is unable to find employment. Transportation and communication in English are challenges. Sponsor support could help the family adapt to their community and Canadian society.

**For more information on in-Canada JAS profiles or on the BVOR Program contact our Refugee Resettlement Project Worker at [bvor@rstp.ca](mailto:bvor@rstp.ca) or click this link: [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Blended-VOR-FAQ\\_2017-1-1.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Blended-VOR-FAQ_2017-1-1.pdf)**



# Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

## Workshops

### Alberta

#### **Sponsoring Refugees as a Group of Five**

**Date:** Thursday, January 18th, 2018

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM MST

**Location:** Catholic Social Services, 8212 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5B 0S3

**Register by:** contacting Tolonbek at:  
[tolonbek.karpekov@cssalberta.ca](mailto:tolonbek.karpekov@cssalberta.ca).

### Ontario

#### **Overview of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program**

**Date:** Friday January 19, 2018

**Time:** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (EST)

**Location:** Guelph Immigrant Services 104 Dawson Rd, Guelph, ON

**Register by:** contacting [sbangura@rstp.ca](mailto:sbangura@rstp.ca) (Said Bangura)

**Please visit:** <http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/> for more information on upcoming trainings, workshops & webinars!

## Webinars

### **Private Sponsorship of Refugees: Groups of Five and Community Sponsors**

**Date:** Monday January 15, 2018

**Time:** 6 pm–7 pm EST

**Description:** This webinar includes:

- ✚ Overview of G5 and CS sponsorship
- ✚ Application forms for G5 and CS
- ✚ Application forms for refugees
- ✚ The sponsorship process

**Register by clicking the following link:**

<https://register.gotoweinar.com/register/247212382900279043>

### **Supporting Settlement and Integration**

**Date:** Thursday January 18, 2018

**Time:** 3 pm–4pm EST

**Description:** This webinar will cover:

- ✚ Sponsor responsibilities
- ✚ Connecting with settlement services for newcomers
- ✚ Ethical considerations in sponsorship
- ✚ Managing expectations

**Register by clicking the following link:**

<https://register.gotoweinar.com/register/618929776460672259>

### **Preparing for Month 13**

**Date:** Tuesday January 23, 2017

**Time:** 6 pm-7 pm EST

**Description:** This webinar will cover:

- ✚ When sponsors should start preparing for the end of sponsorship
- ✚ Checklist for sponsors
- ✚ What to consider when preparing newcomers for the post-sponsorship period
- ✚ Services available for sponsored newcomers after the sponsorship period
- ✚ Evaluating the sponsorship experience

**Register by clicking the following link:**

<https://register.gotoweinar.com/register/4583406966895414019>



The RSTP team wishes you all a very happy 2018!

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