



RSTP BULLETIN

MARCH 9, 2016

Image: AFP

RESOURCES, REMINDERS AND IRCC UPDATES

Updated IP 3 - In Canada Processing of Convention Refugees Abroad and Members of the Humanitarian Protected Persons Abroad Classes:

The IP 3 is an important resource for those sponsoring refugees, functioning as a tool that can practically help you in your work as a SAH. It contains the Government of Canada's latest operational standards and policies.

In the IP 3, you will find guidelines on a variety of sponsorship topics such as verifying sponsor eligibility, assessment of the sponsorship undertaking and application, co-sponsors, sponsorship dispute and breakdown, secondary migration, etc.

The updated IP 3 is now available here:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/manuals/ip/ip03-part3-eng.pdf>

As a reminder, the IP 3 is an operational bulletin (OBs) used by IRCC and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) employees, serving as a manual in the exercise of their functions.

Syria Case Management Unit Closing

The Syria Case Management Unit is closing down. The last day of operation will be **Friday, March 11th, 2016**.

After this date, any case related matters regarding Syrian refugees (and all other privately sponsored refugees) should be directed to the local IRCC.

Local IRCC Offices - Website:

IRCC has launched a new web page for determining where local offices are located. Please see the website here:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/help.asp>

RAP Rates for BVORs:

Each SAH should inquire at the local IRCC to get current RAP rates. IRCC National Headquarters will remind local offices that they should provide this information to SAHs on request. If you encounter a problem you can write to the PSR mailbox

As a reminder, refugees that are sponsored as BVORs are not eligible for the National Housing Supplement, Start-Up Costs or RAP service (other than at the Port of Entry).

INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES

For the Generic Application (IMM 0008), is CPO-W still accepting applications without the barcode?

IRCC has informed RSTP that applications are being accepted with or without the barcode. However, CPO-W processing times will be longer if the application barcode is not included.

Are applications still being accepted by email for Syrians and Iraqis?

Applications (both PSR and BVOR) are being accepted by email for Syrians and Iraqis, as long as there is a readable barcode.

Will the current standards for the transportation loan (the cost of travel being waived by the Government of Canada) be maintained for Syrians beyond February 29, 2016?

IRCC has announced that privately sponsored refugees who are interviewed March 1, 2016 or later (including Syrian refugees) will not have their transportation loaned waived.

Government-Assisted Syrian Refugees and Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) Syrian Refugees who arrive in Canada by the end of 2016 will have their travel costs covered.

Interim Federal Health Program Update

On February 19, 2016, IRCC announced that full Interim Federal Health coverage will be restored, reversing the changes that were made in 2012. Coverage starting April 1, 2016 will be the **same for all privately sponsored refugees**, replacing the six types of coverage that previously existed.

NEWS FROM RSTP

BVOR Program Update - March 4, 2016:

We have been advised that more BVOR cases will be referred to RSTP starting in mid-March, and this will likely include Syrian BVOR cases as well. However, we don't yet know the details in terms of exact dates, numbers or populations. As we receive more information, we will be sure to share it with you.

-Groups of Five (G5) and Community Sponsors (CS) can still participate in the Blended VOR Program. If this changes, we will let you know immediately.

-If a G5 or CS sponsors a Syrian BVOR case, the sponsored refugees will receive 6 months of income support from IRCC. The sponsoring group is responsible for start-up costs, 6 months of income support and 12 months of settlement support.

-If a group sponsors a non-Syrian BVOR case through a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), the sponsored refugees will receive 6 months of income support from IRCC. The sponsoring group is responsible for start-up costs, 6 months of income support and 12 months of settlement support.

- If a G5 or CS sponsors a non-Syrian BVOR case, it reverts to VOR (visa office-referred), meaning there is no cost-sharing aspect with IRCC. As a Group of Five or Community Sponsor, you would be responsible for a full 12 months of financial and settlement support.

Family Links Initiative (FLI):

There is a new program called the Family Links Initiative that you and your CGs may be interested in participating in. Many members of the Syrian community in Canada want to bring their family members to Canada, but not all have the financial means to become a sponsor through the PSR Program. At the same time, many Canadian sponsoring groups want to sponsor a refugee, but do not know a specific refugee or family to sponsor. The FLI works to match the two parties so that they can work together towards privately sponsoring Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Those who are being sponsored under this new initiative will be coming through the regular PSR route and they will not be receiving any RAP income support. Lists of FLI refugee profiles sorted by city and province have been circulated in the recent weeks (most recently on March 7) to make it easier for you to view profiles of refugee families who hope to settle in your respective communities. In the profiles, you'll find information on the family size, education levels, work experience and support offered by families in Canada. Please note that the FLI is hosting a webinar on March 17 to provide guidance on the matching process through this program. **Please follow the link on page 3 to register for this webinar.** For more information, please see: www.fli.rstp.ca or contact fli@rstp.ca.

E-Training - Introduction to Private Sponsorship:

If any of your co-sponsors or CG members would like to be involved in the next Introduction to Private Refugee Sponsorship e-training session, please have them email etraining@rstp.ca to receive an email once registration for the Summer 2016 session opens up.

New RSTP Initiative - Toronto Refugee Sponsor Support Initiative (Toronto RSS)

With funding from the City of Toronto, the RSTP has started a new initiative that strives to support refugee sponsors and facilitate successful sponsorships. This new initiative will provide:

- Pre-arrival and post-arrival workshops for sponsoring groups on various topics, including:
- Managing expectations: what are sponsors' and refugees' expectations of each other? How can expectations be managed to avoid potential conflict?
- Ethical considerations of sponsorship
- Power imbalance between sponsors and newcomers
- Settlement and integration considerations
- Discussion groups and information sharing for sponsors
- Problem solving support to assist with challenging situations
- Mediation for sponsors and newcomers with trained Arabic-speaking mediators if required.

Nadine Nasir has been seconded to work on this new RSTP initiative until 2017.

For more information, or to request the services of the Toronto RSS, sponsoring groups based in Toronto can contact Nadine at torontorss@rstp.ca.

SAVE THE DATE

The 2016 National SAH Conference will take place May 30-June 1, 2016 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan at the Hilton Garden Inn Saskatoon Downtown.

Registration information will be sent out soon.

Requested deadline for submitting Annual Report/Expression of Interest

Email to PSR-PPPR@cic.gc.ca by no later than March 17th, 2016

NEWS FROM RSTP: ONTARIO TEAM

CCS now has three staff who are mandated to assist sponsors based in Ontario that are interested in sponsoring refugees under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. The team consists of three members: Parastoo Aznavehzadeh; Said Nixon Bangura; and Suneet Kharay.

The RSTP Ontario team is able to provide:

- workshops;
- webinars;
- training sessions;
- assistance with application forms;
- support to sponsors.

The RSTP Ontario team can be contacted via telephone ([416-290-1700](tel:416-290-1700) ext.410) and email (ontariosponsors@rstp.ca).

UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS

SETTLEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ONTARIO SPONSORS UNDER THE PSR PROGRAM

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

TIME: 1:00 - 2:30 PM EDT

REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://ATTENDEE.GOTOWEBINAR.COM/REGISTER/7290938942682438404](https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7290938942682438404)

BECOMING A COMMUNITY SPONSOR OF REFUGEES

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

TIME: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM EDT

REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://ATTENDEE.GOTOWEBINAR.COM/REGISTER/181918969704249604](https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/181918969704249604)

FAMILY LINKS INITIATIVE (FLI)

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016

TIME: 2:00 - 3:00 PM EST

REGISTRATION: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/3050084111381630465>

OVERVIEW OF PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP (DELIVERED IN FRENCH)

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 PM EST

REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://ATTENDEE.GOTOWEBINAR.COM/REGISTER/778631626948827649](https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/778631626948827649) OR
[HTTPS://GLOBAL.GOTOWEBINAR.COM/EOJOIN/778631626948827649/2735110313994842881](https://globalgotowebinar.com/eojoin/778631626948827649/2735110313994842881)

OVERVIEW OF GROUP OF FIVE SPONSORSHIP

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016

TIME: 2:00 - 3:30 PM EST

REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://ATTENDEE.GOTOWEBINAR.COM/REGISTER/246544964941007874](https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/246544964941007874)



Syrian family arrives in Canada (Image: Mike Drew/Calgary Sun/Postmedia Network)



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets a family (Image: REUTERS/M.Blinch)



Welcome to Canada (Image: Steve Russell/Toronto Star via Getty Images)

EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

REFUGEE RIGHTS DAY 2016

APRIL 4, 2016

NATIONWIDE EVENTS

FOR INFORMATION ON REFUGEE RIGHTS DAY ACTIVITIES, PLEASE SEE CCR:
[HTTP://CCRWEB.CA/EN/REFUGEE-RIGHTS-DAY-2016](http://CCRWEB.CA/EN/REFUGEE-RIGHTS-DAY-2016)

NATIONAL SAH CONFERENCE

MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 2016

SASKATOON, SK

FURTHER DETAILS AND REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT OUT SE

CCR SPRING CONSULTATION 2016

JUNE 2-4, 2016

SASKATOON, SK

FOR INFORMATION ON THE CONSULTATION, PLEASE SEE CCR:
[HTTP://CCRWEB.CA/EN/MEETINGS](http://CCRWEB.CA/EN/MEETINGS)

