

RSTP Bulletin

Resettled Refugees in Alberta

September 22, 2017

A LOOK BACK

- Total Syrian Refugees Resettled from November 4, 2015 to June 30th, 2017 is **5,505**



Alberta	2015	2016	January to June 2017
Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs)	1190	3005	820
Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs)	1325	2930	1480
Blended Visa Office Referred Refugees (BVORs)	70	355	55
Total Resettled Refugees	2585	6290	2355

Source: [IRCC](#)

Support and Resources Available for PSRs in Alberta

HEALTH

- [Alberta Health Services – Refugee Information](#)
- How to Find a Family Doctor: [Alberta Health Link \(811\)](#) – 24/7 Health Information and Assistance
- [Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan](#)
- [Calgary Refugee Health](#) (run by University of Calgary medical students for refugee patients in Calgary and Southern Alberta)
- [Accessing Mental Health Services for Newcomers in Alberta](#) (Sept 2017 Webinar and report – AAISA)

SETTLEMENT

- [Inform Alberta – an online directory of community services in Alberta](#)
- [Refugee Alberta Database of Settlement Services and Programs](#) (scroll down)

EDUCATION

- [Government of Alberta – Language Training](#)
- [Government of Alberta – International Qualifications Assessment](#)
- [World Education Services](#) (for grading scales, profiles of education systems, international credentials and more)

EMPLOYMENT

- [Alberta Human Services - Employment Services](#)
- [Government of Alberta – Work in Alberta](#)
- Edmonton Region Immigrant Employment Council ([ERIEC](#)):
- Calgary Region Immigrant Employment Council ([CRIEC](#)):
- [City of Edmonton - Newcomers to Canada](#) – Recruitment and Initiatives

E-Training - Introduction to Private Sponsorship of Refugees 2017 Fall Session

If any of your Co-Sponsors or CG members would like to participate in the next Introduction to Private Sponsorship of Refugee E-Training Course, please have them email etraining@rstp.ca to receive information about the registration process.

GENDER RELATED PERSECUTION

How Can I Support these Claims?



We received a question regarding guidelines and support for refugees making gender related claims, who are going to be interviewed at a Canadian Visa office abroad. We have provided an answer and would like to elaborate for those dealing with similar issues.

DEFINITION

Gender related claims include acts of sexual violence such as rape, family or domestic violence including dowry-related violence, coerced family planning, female genital mutilation, trafficking, and discrimination against the LGBTQ community. These include any acts that inflict severe pain and suffering, both mental and physical, and have been used as forms of persecution, whether by State or private actors.

SUPPORTING A CLAIM

The refugee claimant must establish that he or she has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Unfortunately, in gender-related claims, the types of evidence used in other refugee claims may not be available. Alternative forms of information might assist, for example reports, documents and research done by credible human rights organisations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and UNHCR on the country conditions and human rights violations there.

SUPPORTING A REFUGEE MAKING THE CLAIM

As a sponsor trying to support a refugee claim related to gender based violence, consider the refugee's trauma and the courage it takes for them to tell their story. Survivors of torture or trauma, require a supportive environment where they can be reassured of the confidentiality of their claim. Some claimants may be reluctant to identify the true extent of the persecution suffered or feared because of the shame they feel over what has happened to them. They may fear persons in authority, or they may fear rejection from their family and/or community and also rejection of the claim.

As a sponsor, you can support the claimant by reassuring them that the process is fair, safe and confidential. You can highlight some of the measures taken by IRCC when interviewing refugees who have faced gender based violence:

- Gender based violence claimants should be interviewed separately, without the presence of male family members.
- They can choose interviewers and interpreters of the same sex as themselves, something automatically provided for women claimants.
- Trained psycho-social counselors should be available to assist the claimant before and after the interview, as well as in Canada if needed.

REQUESTING A FEMALE OFFICER AND INTERPRETER IF REQUIRED

- When submitting a New Application to ROC-O, include a cover letter with the application requesting a female officer and interpreter (if required) for the Visa Office interview.
- If you didn't make the above request when submitting the application, you can still send an email to the Visa Office, cc'ing NHQ at the PSR inbox (PSR-PPPR@cic.gc.ca).

For More: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/tools/refugees/resettlement/index.asp>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PREPARING FOR AN INTERVIEW VISIT:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugees/preparing-for-an-interview/>

Available BVOR & JAS Profiles

In-Canada JAS 0660-09-17 Iraqi Survivors of Da'esh

The PA is a sole provider for her five dependent children ages 14 to 4. Before coming to Canada, the family fled their home town due to insecurity and were separated. The PA lost contact with her husband and his whereabouts are unknown. PA will need additional support related to parenting, as three of her children have medical conditions and will benefit from counselling. Increased community supports, along with specialized assistance for the family, will help them to function more independently. Any added language support will help the family become independent, self-sufficient, secure employment and integrate them into Canadian society in a faster, smoother fashion. Additional counselling, psychological and medical support will assist the family in becoming secure, confident, medically fit and positively responsive to all daily needs. A sponsor can help with positive integration into society.



The family currently resides in Winnipeg, MB and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor.

In-Canada JAS PROFILE #: 0657-09-17

The PA is a Syrian 28- year-old woman with two children. She was married, but now is divorced. She became psychologically distressed due to her experiences and some separation from her children. The PA requires long term support, as she has suffered mental, physical and emotional difficulties. In addition, she has limited education and struggles to read and write in her own language. She will require extra time to learn English as a second language.

Upon her resettlement in Canada, PA tried to obtain employment, but due to her limited language abilities, she had difficulty maintaining a suitable position. To cope with the new culture and her past experiences, the PA currently attends sessions with a psychologist. With increased community supports, along with specialized supports for her needs, the PA will be able to learn to successfully integrate independently.

The family is currently residing in Vancouver, BC and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor.

In-Canada JAS 0646-09-17

The PA is a single man who was born and raised in a refugee camp. He became deaf and mute when he was a young child. As a result, he is illiterate. He has not learned proper sign language and, for the moment, uses informal sign language to communicate. The PA travelled to Canada with his brother, who at the time was his sole care provider. The brothers are no longer living together. Currently, the PA relies on a caseworker to assist with daily activities. Any additional counselling, psychological and medical support will assist the PA in becoming secure, confident, medically fit and positively responsive to all daily needs. As he lacks basic life skills, any additional life skills coaching such as teaching him how and where to go shopping, social norms, safety at home, time keeping and budgeting will help him successfully integrate into a society in a country that is very different both culturally, socially and financially than his country of origin.

The PA is currently residing in Toronto, ON and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor.

BVOR 0627-08-17 Syrian Family size 3, PA's parents in Ottawa, ON

Syrian family with one child. The PA and her family cannot return to their home country due to ongoing insecurity and instability. The PA and spouse speak only a little English and would benefit from the support of a sponsor upon resettlement to Canada. The PA's parents are in Ottawa and he would like to be close to them.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0628-08-17- Single Syrian man

The applicant is a single man from Syria. He has experience as a factory worker and has been separated from his family members. He has been unable to return to his home due to the ongoing conflict in that country.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0610-08-17

The PA cannot return to his country for fear of his safety stemming from his sexual orientation. The PA would benefit from appropriate services in Canada.

BVOR PROFILE #: 0584-08-17

The PA is a 43-year-old Congolese woman accompanied by her 19-year-old son. She is also linked to her two other son's applications XREF: 0585-08-17, 0586-08-17. The PA can speak French and has experience as a hair dresser. The son can speak English. The family has faced persecution due to their political and social beliefs. The PA and her family are seeking a better life and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during their resettlement in Canada. She has a son in Calgary and would like to resettle near him.

→ **Use your username and password to login in to the RSTP Matching Database to access the BVOR Profiles:**

 cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp

For more information on the BVOR Program and to get information on the available JAS profiles, please click this link: http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Blended-VOR-FAQ_2017-1-1.pdf or contact our Refugee Resettlement Project Worker at: bvor@rstp.ca

UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS

Introduction to PSR

Date: Friday October 6, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT

This webinar will cover:

- Launch of PSR program
- Program evolution over the years
- PSR as part of Resettlement
- Eligibility criteria for sponsors and refugee applicants
- Sponsorship process

To register for this webinar, please visit the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2609608770205730563>

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

**#With
#Refugees**

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

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UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS

Nova Scotia

Refugee Sponsorship Support Program Lawyer Training

Date: Monday October 2, 2017

Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM ADT

Where: Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, 2000 Barrington Street Halifax, NS B3J 3K1

Please register by clicking on this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/refugee-sponsorship-support-program-lawyer-training-tickets-37917889428>

Ontario

Sponsors' Responsibilities and Refugees' Rights in Private Refugee Sponsorship Context

Date: Saturday October 7, 2017

Time: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm EDT

Where: Deer Park Public Library 40 St. Clair Ave E. Toronto, ON M4T 1M9

Please register by clicking on this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sponsors-responsibilities-and-refugees-rights-in-private-sponsorship-of-refugees-context-tickets-38013350956>

For questions, please contact our RSTP Trainer, Inas Hamid, at 416-290-1700 Ext. 408 or ihamid@rstp.ca.