

RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program

We have received many inquiries regarding the responsibility of the sponsors when resettled refugees move to a different country during the sponsorship period. We would like to elaborate IRCC's guidelines on secondary migration for sponsors dealing with these issues.

Impact on sponsors

When Refugees Leave the Country Permanently

The sponsoring groups may be relieved from sponsorship responsibility, if the resettled refugee or refugee family moves out of Canada permanently during the sponsorship period. It's in the best interest of the sponsors to inform IRCC when this occurs. In this case, IRCC can declare a "no-fault" breakdown, where the sponsoring group is not responsible for the breakdown. When a no-fault breakdown is declared by IRCC, there are no consequences for the sponsoring group.

When Refugees Leave the Country Temporarily

If the refugee leaves Canada temporarily, the sponsors may still be responsible for the family members who are left behind (if any) and/or if the refugee returns within the sponsorship period. IRCC considers the length of the anticipated absence, the number of members in the household that will be both travelling and remaining, etc., to determine whether or not the rate of financial assistance should be affected.

It is important to remember that until IRCC issues a formal notice of sponsorship breakdown, which effectively cancels the sponsorship undertaking and the sponsoring group's responsibility to provide financial and settlement support to the newcomer(s) the sponsoring group **is still** responsible for providing financial and settlement support to the newcomer(s).

Impact on Resettled Newcomer(s)

Which country the resettled refugees go to determines the impact. If they return to their country origin, this can lead to an investigation by IRCC, resulting in their Permanent Resident Status being revoked. In determining whether or not to revoke the permanent resident's status, the investigating officer will look into why the refugee returned, for what length of time, whether they voluntarily re-availed themselves of the protection of the country and/or re-established themselves in that country.

If the refugees travel to another country, the permanent resident status may not be affected depending on the length of their stay.

IRCC UPDATE

Invitation to nominate youth to apply to the IRCC Youth Advisory Group

The IRCC will be launching a YAG in 2019, where 15-20 youth between the ages of 16 and 24 from across Canada, and will serve as an engagement forum between youth and policy-makers on a wide range of immigration topics, such as:

- Settlement and integration,
- Citizenship,
- Refugee affairs, and
- International topics (e.g., international students and working, studying, and traveling abroad).



Please access the link [here](#) and enter your organization name to unlock access to the page to nominate two youth from your community and/or existing networks to apply to the YAG.

IRCC will only consider two youth nominees per organization. Should you refer additional youth to the application form, only the first two applications will be considered.

For more on the YAG, please contact IRCC at IRCC.YouthAdvisoryGroup-Groupeconsultatifjeunesse.IRCC@ic.gc.ca



Refugees sponsored under the **Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)** program have special or enhanced needs that will likely result in a longer or more difficult period of integration in Canada, due to:

- Trauma from violence or torture;
- Medical disabilities;
- Effects of systemic discrimination; or,
- Large family units (such as a single parent with several children).

Under the JAS program, the government and private sponsors support refugees for up to 24 months, depending on the need of the resettled refugee. In a few cases, the private sponsor may support refugees for up to 36 months. These refugees get income support from the Government of Canada. They are matched with a private sponsorship group to help them adjust to life in Canada through settlement help and emotional support.

Some refugees are identified overseas for the JAS program due to special needs. Others are converted into JAS cases after they arrive in Canada if it becomes clear that they need more support.

JAS refugee profiles can only be picked up by SAHs and their constituent groups.

Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)

Many **In-Canada JAS Refugee Profiles** waiting to be sponsored!

Including

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1718-10-18

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Calgary, AB

Linked application: 1719-10-18 (Son)

IRCC Local Office: IRCC Calgary

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq

FAMILY SIZE: 6

Family composition: A 38-year old Iraqi national, married with six children. Her adult son has been included in the linked case.

She is illiterate, has limited education and is a homemaker. Her spouse has experience working in mining, construction and manufacturing. The children are currently attending school and the parents are attending LINC classes regularly. Her and her family are survivors of violence and/or trauma, which has made their settlement process much slower and more difficult.

Special needs: Although the family has received support from CCIS staff and volunteers, in addition to being connected with a host family, they continue to suffer from both physical and mental trauma. While the family has made progress integrating into Canadian society, her and her spouse have experienced significant financial and emotional pressures that have affected their ability to settle in Canada.

Support needed: The family would benefit from the assistance of a sponsor while navigating the education system, healthcare and public transit systems. A sponsor would provide



Members of Vancouver Rainbow Refugee wait for their sponsored couple to arrive in Vancouver airport. (Photo by Guy Dubé)

an important support network and reduce the perception of isolation. Additional assistance would offer the family the opportunity to focus on learning English, as well as continue to address both physical and mental health needs. Since the family is not ready or equipped to take the next steps such as employment, the additional support and guidance from a sponsor would allow the family to seek the appropriate and ongoing medical attention required, to ensure that they will not suffer further trauma and new challenges.

REFUGEE PROFILE #: 1406-07-18
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: London, ON
VISA OFFICE: Nairobi
IRCC Local Office: IRCC London
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Eritrea
FAMILY SIZE: 4

Family composition: A 35-year-old single mother with 3 children between the ages of 9 months and 10 years old.

The Principal Applicant has experience as a cook and cleaner. She is illiterate and does not speak English. However, she is taking language classes. She has been connected with a settlement worker in the community to assist her in her day-to-day activities, while integrating into Canadian society. Her and her children have a family doctor, and receive regular medical support and follow ups. She has learned and is able to navigate public transportation independently.

Special needs: As she is still suffering from previous trauma as a survivor of violence, she would benefit from on-going emotional support, to help build self-esteem and confidence.

Support needed: A sponsor group would greatly support this family in their desire to learn English, which includes speaking, reading, writing and sign language for the principal applicant. This family has no relatives or friends in Canada. Someone that they can trust, who is able to help them integrate into Canadian life and teach them about the culture, for instance how to carry out daily tasks, will greatly benefit this family. Any additional counselling and psychological support will assist the family in becoming secure, confident, medically fit and positively responsive to all daily needs.

For more information about the JAS program or to get more on these JAS Refugee Profiles, contact our Refugee Resettlement Project Worker at paznavzhadeh@rstp.ca or visit: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/special-initiatives/joint-assistance-sponsorships/>

Upcoming BVOR Promotion Events Hosted By MCC

Toronto: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1115031318646850/>

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OCTOBER 20 TORONTO
mcco.ca/audrey-assad



Upcoming RSTP Workshops & Webinars

Workshops

Groups of Five & Community Sponsors

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2018

Time: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm MDT

Where: Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111-11 Ave SW (Room 315), Calgary AB

Description: In this RSTP information session, attendees would learn how to complete forms for Group of Five and Community Sponsors applications. Our information session will include:

- How to complete the Sponsorship Undertaking & Settlement Plan, Financial Profile, and Sponsor Assessment;
- How to calculate the Sponsorship Costs based on family size; and
- Updates from IRCC about new financial requirements.

For registration, please click: [Refugee Sponsorship Forms](#) or contact Anoush Newman at 403. 515-5868 or mnewman@rstp.ca.

Settlement workshop for family-linked sponsors

Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM ADT

Where: Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia, classroom #18, 6960 Mumford Road, Suite 2120, Halifax, NS B3L 4P1

Description: The RSTP and the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) are jointly offering a workshop for **sponsors who have sponsored family members** through the Private Refugee Sponsorship Program. This session is for family-linked sponsors to review and discuss the following:

- Roles and expectations of Sponsors, Newcomers and Settlement organizations;
- Support with challenges, such as PR cards, GST, and housing applications; and
- How to help your family access services.

For registration, please contact: Laura Hambleton (RSTP Atlantic Trainer) by email: Lhambleton@rstp.ca or by phone: 902-406-8736.

Webinars

Overview of PSR Changes Affecting Guidelines and Forms post-May 1, 2018

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2018

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm EDT

Please register by clicking:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8988147310998891522>

Supporting Settlement and Integration

Date: Friday, October 26, 2018

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

Please register by clicking:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1522107116322607105>

Preparing for the Visa Office Interviews

Date: Monday, October 29, 2018

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EDT

Please register by clicking:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8629584474490752259>.

Preparing for Month 13

Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

Please register by clicking:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5886848320709680641>

Building or Burning Bridges? Communicating across Cultures webinar

Date: Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EDT

Please register by clicking:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5562495689383592450>

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/>



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

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