

# RSTP Bulletin

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

## Celebrating 40 Years Of Private Sponsorship of Refugees!

**This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> year of refugee sponsorship by private groups!**



Employment and Immigration Canada

Emploi et Immigration Canada

Since the end of World War II, most newcomers to Canada has been refugees fleeing persecution or escaping from conflicts in their countries.

The welcoming of 60, 000 Indochinese refugees in 1979 and 1980, was not only unique but is extremely important because of the involvement of private groups, organizations and individuals in partnering with the government in resettling these refugees who needed a safe place to rebuild their lives.

The Indochinese refugee resettlement experience as well as the refugee sponsorship initiatives that followed, shows that Canadians care deeply about human suffering and they are willing to invest their time, resources, and to do something about it.

The generous and compassionate response of Canadians from coast to coast in opening their homes for the first time to those in desperate circumstances in 1979 is sustained to this day carrying out various phases of refugee resettlement.

## Indochinese Refugees: The Canadian Response, 1979 and 1980

Never before had Canada been involved in a refugee movement which arose so dramatically or persisted in such large numbers for so long. Never had the distances been so vast, the cultural differences so pronounced. Never had groups of Canadians, motivated by conscience and a determination to relieve mass suffering, become so personally involved; and never before had they joined with their federal and provincial governments in a formal partnership to provide a new homeland for refugees.

### Did you? KNOW!

The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) was the first to sign the Sponsorship Master Agreement with Employment and Immigration Canada in March 1979, - becoming the first Sponsorship Agreement Holders!

**Other Organizations Followed!**

#### Source:

[A Chronology of the Indochinese Refugee Movement 1975-80](#) and [Indochinese Refugees: The Canadian Response 1979](#)

## You Asked

We have sponsored a single mother with her two children ages 13 and 21. They are living in Toronto, Ontario and in the same household that we have provided. How do we calculate the monthly income support for the family we have sponsored?

## Our Answer

Sponsoring groups should calculate the monthly income support for the sponsored refugees or family based on the [Resettlement Assistance Program \(RAP\) Rates](#) for their province. The [FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support for the PSR Program](#), also provides guidance on how the financial support can be calculated based on family composition and situation.

### Monthly Income Support:

- Basic needs (food and incidentals)
- A communication allowance to cover the costs of a telephone and/or internet connection = **\$30/file**
- Monthly public transportation passes for all persons 18 years of age or older (in communities where there is no public transit, a flat transportation rate of \$75 is issued and in areas with no public transit system, the monthly transportation allowance may be waived as long as alternative transportation is provided.); and
- A shelter allowance + \$200 National Housing Supplement

For the case outlined above, sponsors should calculate the monthly financial support for the family as two separate files:

1. Single parent with dependent child (for the mother and the 13 year old child); and,
2. A single adult (for the 21 year old child).

The 21 year old child is considered to be a single adult for the purposes of calculating financial support under RAP as they are over the age of majority in the community of settlement (the age of majority is 18 in Ontario).

The monthly income support you should provide for the family of a single mother and two children ages 12 and 21, is **\$1, 083.30**.

### Breakdown of the calculation:

Financial Support	Single parent with one child (Mother and the 13 year old child)	Single Adult (21 year old)	Required Monthly Income Support
<b>Basic Needs Allowance</b>	\$354	\$337	\$691
<b>Communication Allowance</b>	\$30	\$30	\$60
<b>Transportation</b> (based on the <a href="#">Monthly Bus Pass</a> rate for Toronto)	\$151.15	\$151.15	\$302.30
<b>Shelter Allowance + National Housing Supplement (\$200)</b>	\$662 + \$200	\$384+200	\$1,416
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,397.15</b>	<b>\$1,102.15</b>	<b>\$2,499.30</b>

Since you have provided the shelter in-kind, as per the [In-kind Deductions](#) chart in the [sponsor's instruction guide](#) for SAHs, you can deduct the 100% of the shelter amount.

Total	Monthly In-Kind Deduction (shelter)	Monthly Income Support
\$2,499.30	\$1,416	<b>\$1, 083.30</b>

Shelter can be provided fully in-kind where children who are above the age of majority reside with their parents and if shelter is provided without cost. However, if a child above the age of majority wants to live independently from their parents and chooses to move out of the shared living situation during the sponsorship period, the sponsoring group may choose to support two separate households or ask IRCC to declare a no-fault breakdown.

If you would like further information, please refer to Q.1, Q.4 and Q.5 in the FAQs on Post-Arrival Financial Support (available at: [http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/EN-FAQs\\_BVOR-parity-FINAL\\_AUG-20.docx.pdf](http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/EN-FAQs_BVOR-parity-FINAL_AUG-20.docx.pdf))

## Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)

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;**
- **The effects of systemic discrimination; or,**
- **Being a large family unit (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 needs of the resettled refugee. In a few cases, the private sponsor may support refugees for up to 36 months. These refugees receive income support from the Government of Canada. They are matched with a private sponsorship group to help them adjust to life in Canada with settlement help and emotional support.

Some refugees are identified overseas for the JAS program due to their 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**



Photo: UNHCR

### Many In-Canada JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

#### Including

**REFUGEE PROFILE: 19-0345**

Toronto, ON

**Linked File:** 19-0346

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Iraq

**FAMILY SIZE:** 2

**Background:** This 20 year old woman is raising her young sister, who is in school.

**Special needs:** She is caring for her elderly grandmother and a brother who has impaired cognitive disabilities. She is waiting to attend English language classes.

**Support needed:** A sponsor could help her and her sister develop life skills, navigate their local community, and learn more about Canada and its systems (e.g. school, employment, etc.) They could provide social and informal-emotional support; help her practice English; develop the skills to manage the family's lives (such as scheduling appointments); learn how to use a computer/manage emails; and, help the family get involved in their new community.

**REFUGEE PROFILE: 19-0333**

Calgary AB

**Linked File: JAS 19-0334 (mother)**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq**

**FAMILY SIZE: 1**

**Background:** This 46 year old man came to Canada with his elderly mother. He is her primary caregiver. He has 12 years of education, and experience working as an electronic repairman.

**Special needs:** He has a prosthetic leg and uses a walker, but struggles with mobility. He has been unable to enroll in LINC classes due to frequent medical appointments for himself and his mother. His level of English is a barrier to employment and self-sufficiency.

**Support needed:** A sponsor could help with access to community resources, especially programs for people with disabilities and that offer support with caring for his mother. They could help him with understanding the health care system, important given his high medical needs. A sponsor could: provide social and emotional support; help expand his social network and decrease the isolation that he currently faces; help him practice English; and, guide him in navigating the job market as he becomes independent and seeks employment.

**REFUGEE PROFILE #: 19-0335**

Winnipeg, MB

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria**

**FAMILY SIZE: 9**

**Background:** A 41 year old Syrian father, accompanied by his spouse and seven children. He has 6 years of education and has worked as a plumber and pipe fitter. He is fluent in Arabic and has attended some English language training. His spouse is a homemaker.

**Special needs:** The family has received settlement support, they still require extra support to assist in their resettlement in Winnipeg. Six of the couple's children are registered for school, while one is fully dependent on his parents. The father has had to put his English language training on hold as the family is experiencing challenges due to the high medical needs of a son. This has kept the family from engaging with settlement services and accessing various community resources.

**Support needed:** A sponsor could help them manage their daily challenges; develop their English language skills; integrate in their local community; provide informal English practice and help manage the child's ongoing medical appointments.

## **Evelyn Jones will be covering the 4 Atlantic Provinces!**



Evelyn Jones' experience in refugee protection started many years ago in El Salvador and Colombia working with refugees and internally displaced people. Since then, she has worked in the settlement sector in Halifax and for the past 10 years, she worked as the Coordinator of the private sponsorship program at ISANS' SAH.

Evelyn will be located at Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS), and can be reached by phone at **902-406-8736** and via email at [ejones@rstp.ca](mailto:ejones@rstp.ca)

## **Upcoming RSTP Workshop in Calgary, AB**

### **Groups of Five & Community Sponsors Review of Requirements and Forms**

On Saturday June 01, 2019 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
at Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, 1111-11 Ave  
SW, Room: 315. Calgary, Alberta

Learn about the Group of Five and Community Sponsorship application process, including information on:

- How to sponsor, who can be sponsored
- Review of required forms
- How to calculate Sponsorship Costs based on family size
- Post Arrival and Sponsor's Settlement Responsibilities

**Please register** by clicking [here](#) or contact Anoush Newman 403. 515-5868; [mnewman@rstp.ca](mailto:mnewman@rstp.ca)



# Upcoming RSTP Workshops

## Updates on PSR Program and Sponsors-SPOs Collaboration

**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2019

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM EDT

**Where:** Fogolar Furlan Club, 1800 North Service Road, Windsor, ON

**Description:** In collaboration with the RCEC Diocese London Refugee Ministries, the RSTP will hold an information session where attendees would learn:

- Update on Flow of Refugees;
- Immigration Level 2018-2020;
- Changes to Private Sponsorship; and
- Sponsors - SPOs Collaboration.

**For registration,** please RSVP to: [kfuertth@dol.ca](mailto:kfuertth@dol.ca).

## Workshop for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors with IRCC

**Date:** Monday, May 27, 2019

**Time:** 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM PDT

**Where:** Four Points by Sheraton Victoria Gateway, 829 McCallum Road, Victoria, BC V9B 6W6

**Description:** The RSTP and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) are hosting this information session for individuals interested in submitting applications under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program as a Group of Five or a Community Sponsor. The session will cover:

- How to complete the application forms;
- The requirements for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors as outlined in the Instruction Guides, please note that some of the requirements for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors will change over the summer and this session will address them; and,
- How IRCC processes PSR applications submitted by Groups of Five and Community Sponsors.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to provide feedback to IRCC on the forms, the requirements and the application process.

Space is limited and all attendees are required to register using the following link:

<https://victoriamay2019ircrstp.eventbrite.ca>.



From the Saskatchewan Conference: Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program that took place on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Over 100 people attended this two day conference!



Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada