



BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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Sponsor offers newcomers greenhouse jobs



Adrian Roelands became a refugee sponsor in the rural community of Forest, Ontario, for purely humanitarian reasons. “We have young children ourselves, and this was tugging at our heartstrings, to try to do something to help,” he says. And so he got involved with the sponsorship committee at his local church. He quickly found that his family’s company, Roelands Plant Farms, had something special to offer the newcomers. “One of the key things for helping them integrate into the community is employment,” he says. “Luckily, that was something we were able to bring to the table.” Roelands Plant Farms grows seedlings for other greenhouses throughout Ontario and as far away as Florida and Nova Scotia.

Since members of the sponsored Alkhalifa family started arriving in Forest, Adrian has employed several of the family. “To have employees with that sort of heart and that sort of willingness to work and put everything into it is so valuable,” says Roelands. “We’re very fortunate to have them as part of the team.” The two currently working at the greenhouse practice their English at work and study the language at the local school. “It’s very good for me,” says Abdul Alkhalifa, who arrived in late 2018.

The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as the most vulnerable in need of resettlement. It is called blended because it is a cost sharing arrangement. Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provides up to six months of income support for the newcomers, while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support, start-up costs and up to one year of social and emotional support.

Abdul has also learned a bit of Spanish from talking to Guatemalan workers at the greenhouse. “That was really something, to see how very well he’s integrating not just with our English-speaking team, but with our Spanish-speaking team,” says Roelands. “We’ve had nothing but good experiences. We wish there were more families just like theirs in the community.” Watch Adrian’s interview in RSTP’s new video [Growing Jobs: Sponsor Offers Newcomers Greenhouse Work](#).

Check out [our webpage](#) on workplace sponsorship if you’d like to know more about the many ways that workplaces can sponsor.

"Why sponsor refugees?"

We asked this question of four groups of refugee sponsors in Southwestern Ontario small towns: Tecumseh, near Windsor; Strathroy; Forest; and Ingersoll. The answers were as surprising and varied as they are unique. Take a look at what these refugee sponsors had to say in this [short video](#). **Please share widely!**

Why do you sponsor refugees? Let us know!
bvor@rstp.ca

Featured BVOR profile

Congolese family of eight looking for sponsors in Canada :

A 44 year-old Congolese man accompanied by his wife and six children, currently living in Rwanda. He has five years of education and his wife has completed three. He has worked in farming and in construction, while she has worked in sales. Both parents are survivors of violence and/or torture, and may benefit from counselling.

You can make a difference in this family's life by sponsoring them to come to Canada. Form a group and contact the Refugee Sponsorship Training program. Ask us about the BVOR program.

If you or your group is interested in sponsoring this family or other BVOR refugees but require financial support, [BVOR funding is available](#) to help with most of the financial support required of BVOR sponsors. It covers the cost of each BVOR sponsorship except for start-up costs. All applications should be received by August 31, 2019.

Qualifying SAHs will be able to apply for \$5,000 per BVOR case to help with the administrative costs associated with supporting BVOR sponsorships.

More than 20 BVOR profiles are available on RSTP's matching database

Refugee populations in the BVOR program include:

- Syrian, Iranian
- Congolese, Somali, Sudanese
- Burundian, and Ugandan

Particular vulnerabilities or reasons for resettlement include:

- Women and girls at risk
- Survivors of violence and/or torture
- Lack of foreseeable alternative solutions

To learn more about the countries BVOR refugees come from, visit:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugees/country-condition-information/>

To learn more about the BVOR program and the process for sponsorship, please refer to [RSTP's Four Steps to BVOR Sponsorship video](#).

To view the [BVOR profiles](#), visit [our website](#).

To sponsor log in with your username and password. If you do not have a user name or password, please contact us at

bvor@rstp.ca.

BLENDING VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

For more information, visit www.rstp.ca or email bvor@rstp.ca

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

Interested in sponsoring a BVOR refugee?



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