

# RSTP Bulletin

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

## Tax Season is Here!

Newcomers to Canada, including sponsored refugees, are expected file a tax return with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) even if they have only recently arrived in Canada and do not have any income.

Filing a tax return will enable the CRA to determine whether the newcomers are eligible for the GST/HST credit, the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) and any other tax rebates from provincial or territorial programs.

### Question

**Do newcomers sponsored under the PSR program need to report the financial support provided by their sponsors as “income” on their tax return?**

### Answer

The financial support provided by sponsors to newcomers sponsored under the PSR program is generally considered to be a “gift” by the CRA; does not need to be reported as “income” on the newcomers tax return; and, is not considered to be taxable income if the money is given voluntarily and is not provided in exchange for any service, property or obligation.

For further information on what is considered to be a “gift” by the CRA, please [click here](#).

### Question

**Do newcomers sponsored under the BVOR program need to report the financial support provided by the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) and their sponsors as “income” on their tax return?**

### Answer

The financial support provided by the RAP to newcomers sponsored under the BVOR program is generally considered to be a “gift” by the CRA and is not considered to be taxable income.

However, whilst the financial support a newcomer receives from RAP is not taxable, it must be reported to the CRA by including the [T5007 Statement of Benefits](#) received by the newcomer with their tax return.

The financial support provided by sponsors to newcomers sponsored under the BVOR program is generally considered to be a “gift” by the CRA; does not need to be reported as “income” on the newcomers tax return; and, is not considered to be taxable income if the money is given voluntarily and is not provided in exchange for any service, property or obligation.

For further information on what is considered to be a “gift” by the CRA, please [click here](#).

### Question

**When can organizations that are charities issue tax receipts to donors?**

### Answer

Only [Canadian registered charities or other qualified organizations or bodies](#) can issue tax receipts for donations that qualify for charitable tax credits. The charity, organization or body can issue a receipt to the donor if the donation is a “gift”.

For a donation to be considered a “gift”, it must have been made freely and voluntarily; there must be a transfer of [property](#); the donor must have not have obtained an advantage in return for the donation; and, the donor cannot ask for the donation to be directed towards a specific individual or family (but the donor can ask that their donation be used for a particular program as long as there is no benefit to the donor).

For further detailed information on when charitable organizations can issue tax receipts, please [click here](#).

### Question

**What forms do organizations that are charities need to file with the CRA?**

### Answer

All organizations that are registered as charities under the Income Tax Act must file a [T3010 return](#) each year. The return must be filed no later than six months after the end of the charity’s fiscal period. For example, if the charity’s end of fiscal period is March 31, the return is due by September 30.

Detailed information on how to complete and file a T3010 return, including information on how charities must report the total amount of “gifts” for which they issued tax receipts on the [T3010 Registered Charity Information Return](#) form, can be found on the CRA website [here](#).

# The Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) Program

## Many JAS Refugees are waiting to be sponsored!

**IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #:** 19-0497

**LOCATION:** Calgary, AB

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Syria

**FAMILY SIZE:** 4

A twenty-five-year-old father accompanied by his wife and two children (aged four and two) recently arrived in Calgary.

Since arriving in Canada, the family have experienced many medical and literacy-related challenges. The wife is currently awaiting the results of a biopsy and, as a result of medical complications, has only been able to attend English classes part-time. The father is enrolled in full-time English classes but often misses them due to his wife's medical appointments and having to care for their two young children. The wife's ongoing medical needs have also hindered the family's ability to access settlement and community services which has resulted in the family feeling isolated and helpless.

The assistance of a sponsor would provide the family with a support system that would help the family attend their English classes, navigate the medical system while the wife goes through the necessary treatments pending her diagnosis and resolve their feelings of isolation and helplessness.

**IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #:** 19-0590

**LOCATION:** London, ON

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Colombia

**FAMILY SIZE:** 3

A single mother and her two children (aged eight and four) came to Canada in June 2019. Shortly after arrival, the mother was diagnosed as having a chronic condition of epilepsy.

Despite her medical condition, the mother has easily integrated into her community but requires the support of a sponsor to assist her with attending her medical appointments, language classes and managing her children's education.

**IN-CANADA JAS PROFILE #:** 19-0409

**LOCATION:** Hamilton, ON

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Somalia

**FAMILY SIZE:** 1

A single Woman-at-Risk arrived in Canada in late 2018. Soon after her arrival, the newcomer was hospitalized due to an untreatable muscle disorder that is causing paralysis.

As a result of her medical condition, the newcomer is unable to go anywhere by herself and is unable to take part in English classes as the hospital in which she resides does not offer any English language training.

A sponsor could provide the newcomer with assistance to reduce her feelings of isolation and loneliness. As the newcomer does not have any friends or family in Canada, a sponsor could offer social, psychological, and emotional support and help introduce the newcomer to the community which would allow her to expand her social connections as well as help her build positive relationships with new individuals.

Additionally, the opportunity to informally practice English will greatly assist the newcomer with her settlement and integration in Canada.

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 (CGs)**



For more information about a particular JAS profile or the JAS Program, please [click here](#)

# UPCOMING RSTP WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Workshops with IRCC for SAHs and their CGs:

**Toronto, ON** - Tuesday March 3, 2020, 2 PM – 4 PM EST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-afternoon-with-ircc-for-sahs-and-their-cgs-greater-toronto-area-tickets-93512046047>

**Hamilton, ON** - Wednesday March 4, 2020, 2 PM – 4 PM EST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-afternoon-with-ircc-for-sahs-and-their-cgs-hamilton-tickets-93327357639>

**Kitchener, ON** - Thursday March 5, 2020, 2 PM – 4 PM EST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-afternoon-with-ircc-for-sahs-and-their-cgs-kitchenerwaterloo-tickets-93329542173>

**London, ON** - Friday March 6, 2020, 2 PM – 4 PM EST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-afternoon-with-ircc-for-sahs-and-their-cgs-london-tickets-93513538511>

**Moncton, NB** - Tuesday March 10, 2020, 10 AM – 4 PM AST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/capacity-building-workshop-for-sahs-with-ircc-moncton-tickets-93514148335>

**Halifax, NS** - Wednesday March 11, 2020, 10 AM – 4 PM AST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/capacity-building-workshop-for-sahs-with-ircc-halifax-tickets-93517598655>

## Workshops with IRCC for Groups of Five and Community Sponsors:

**Toronto, ON** - Tuesday March 3, 2020, 7 PM – 9 PM EST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-with-ircc-for-groups-of-five-and-community-sponsors-toronto-tickets-93513085155>

**Hamilton, ON** - Wednesday March 4, 2020, 6 PM – 8 PM EST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-with-ircc-for-groups-of-five-and-community-sponsors-hamilton-tickets-93328083811>

**Kitchener, ON** - Thursday March 5, 2020, 6 PM – 8 PM EST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-with-ircc-for-groups-of-five-and-community-sponsors-kitchener-tickets-93331483981>

**London, ON** - Friday March 6, 2020, 6 PM – 8 PM EST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-with-ircc-for-groups-of-five-and-community-sponsors-london-tickets-93513899591>

**Moncton, NB** - Tuesday March 10, 2020, 6 PM – 8 PM AST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-with-ircc-for-groups-of-five-and-community-sponsors-moncton-tickets-93514517439>

**Halifax, NS** - Wednesday March 11, 2020, 6 PM – 8 PM AST:  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-with-ircc-for-groups-of-five-and-community-sponsors-halifax-tickets-93517961741>

## Don't Miss Our French Webinars in March 2020!

### Qui peut être parrainé en tant que réfugié? Qui peut parrainer des réfugiés?

**Date:** Monday March 09, 2020  
**Time:** 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (EST)  
**Registration:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/981708157623245579>

### Tout sur les responsabilités des groupes qui parrainent des réfugiés

**Date:** Monday March 16, 2020  
**Time:** 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (EST)  
**Registration:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7341231735633148939>

### Les étapes d'une demande de parrainage de réfugiés et les personnes-ressources clés

**Date:** Monday March 23, 2020  
**Time:** 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (EST)  
**Registration:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5067667089276089867>

### La demande de parrainage de réfugiés : pleins feux sur l'Engagement de parrainage et plan d'établissement

**Date:** Monday March 30, 2020  
**Time:** 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (EST)  
**Registration:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3314883926391964683>

## Find Your Nearest RSTP Trainer!

Have questions? Need information or training?

RSTP has Trainers across the country in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, New Brunswick and Halifax.

The contact details of the RSTP Trainers can be found on our website at: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/contact-us/>

## Missed a Webinar?

Recordings of all of our webinars can be found on the RSTP website at: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/resources/video/past-webinars/>



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