



BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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Building Community Capacity

Among the many things we've observed over the last year and a half is that Canadians are capable of incredible expressions of empathy and support for each other even during times of uncertainty. We've witnessed acts of solidarity and kindness, ranging from community fridges that are regularly replenished by neighbours to the formation of the many informally organized community-aid networks that seek to match community members' requests for assistance with local volunteers and donated resources.

As many of you are aware, the BVOR program has been on pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. By no means however are we at a standstill. While we continue to host training webinars and plan for our annual promotional strategy, we hope to harness and extend this same spirit of generosity and kindness from our local to our global community with your assistance.

According to a recent study conducted by the Environics institute in partnership with Refu-

The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by the 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.

gee613 (reviewed in our last BVOR News), there is supporting evidence that Canadians who know someone directly involved with refugee sponsorship are far more likely to become involved with refugee sponsorship themselves. This same sample group translates to roughly four million Canadians who say they are open to becoming directly involved with refugee sponsorship.

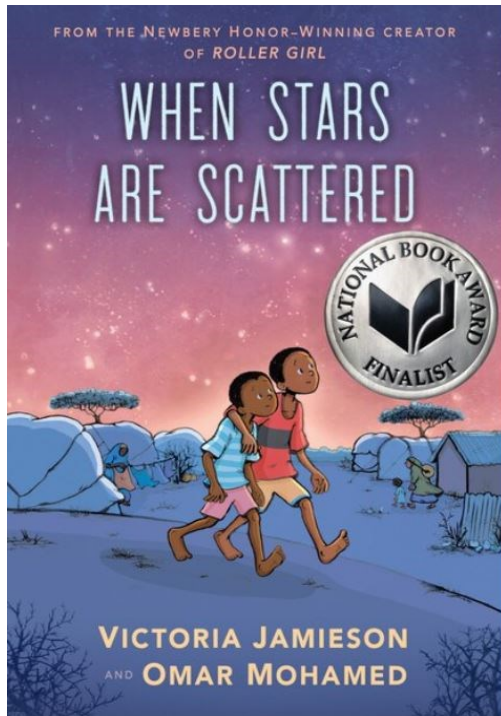
While we prepare for the BVOR program re-launch, this is also an opportune time to stimulate community support by reaching out to friends and family members. Speaking about your experience (s) with refugee sponsorship could inspire someone else to action.

To help you facilitate these conversations, we've put together a shortlist of information resources in our Resource Guide. Please also have a look at upcoming RSTP training webinars listed [here](#) and as always our BVOR worker is available to answer your questions.

[Download our Resource Guide](#)

Kids' Book Recommendation

“When Stars are Scattered” is a graphic novel written by **Omar Mohamed** and **Victoria Jamieson**. A National Book Award finalist and personal recommendation by BVOR sponsor, Karina Reid.



A remarkable story, as told by a former Somali refugee. This is a great read and educational tool for families with young children who are either thinking of or are already directly involved with refugee sponsorship.

BLENDING VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

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

Refugee
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Training
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CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

We are taken on a journey with Omar as he is forced to flee Somalia at the age of four with his brother, Hassan. Omar has to make many difficult decisions while living at the Dadaab refugee camp, such as having to choose between caring for his non-verbal brother in pursuit of an education in hopes that he can better their future. The authors gently confront difficult topics such as hunger and famine, separation from family and feelings of uncertainty with a balance of hope and humour. We encourage parents, educators and care-takers to review this book first to consider whether it is appropriate for their children specifically. Of the many messages that the author hopes readers take away from this book, one is to “never lose hope or faith.”

RSTP services to sponsors continue virtually

In light of new information available, our main office at CCS has decided to delay our reopening plan until further notice. We continue to prioritize the health and safety of our staff and clients. We will continue to provide a full range of virtual services to Canada’s refugee sponsorship community. Check our website, www.rstp.ca, for dates and times of upcoming online workshops and courses.

RSTP trainers across Canada are available for virtual consultation from 9 am to 5 pm (local time) each day, by appointment. Among the services they provide by telephone, email and virtual platforms are:

- Support with refugee sponsorship applications
- Guidance for sponsors with post-arrival issues

See our website’s [contact list](#) for the name, phone number and email address of the RSTP trainer in your region.