

RSTP Bulletin

The latest news and updates on Canada's Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Programs

Information from IRCC on Changes to the Immigration Loans Program

The following changes to the Immigration Loans Program (ILP) came into effect on September 01, 2021:

- The immigration loan cap per family was raised to \$15,000, from \$10,000; and,
- The service fee that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) applies to support the movement of refugees was increased from \$240 to \$300 per person.

These increases will ensure that the IOM can continue to deliver timely, quality services to refugees resettling to Canada via the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR), the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR), the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) and the Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) programs.

The IOM plays an essential role in helping Canada welcome refugees as the organization assists with pre-departure resettlement processing and provides direct assistance to refugees to travel to Canada, including securing exit permits, coordinating transportation to the airport, booking flights and providing assistance during transit.

It is anticipated that the increase to the immigration loan cap will affect a limited number of refugees, as historically only 3% of loans for resettled refugees exceeded the former cap of \$10,000.

Resettled refugees facing hardships in repaying their loan can ask for a review to adjust their repayment arrangements.

The loan is an agreement between IRCC and resettled refugees, and sponsoring groups are not responsible for covering the costs of the refugee's immigration loan.

Sponsors that require further information about the changes to the ILP are encouraged to contact IRCC's PSR mailbox by clicking [here](#).

Further information about the loan that is issued to sponsored refugees, including what it covers and the repayment terms, can be found [here](#).

Information from UNHCR on Refugee Status Determination Procedures by Country

UNHCR has a [website](#) which details the registration and refugee status determination procedures for several countries, including India, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey.

Refugees being sponsored by Groups of Five and Community Sponsors must have refugee status as they are required to include a copy of their refugee status document with the application package.

There are currently no exemptions to this requirement.

Asylum seeker certificates, registration documents and documents issued by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA) are not accepted as proof of refugee status for Group of Five or Community Sponsor applications.

Further information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



Photo: Toufic Al Zhouiri and Rabiaa Al Soufi pose for a portrait after reupholstering a chair brought over by a customer. Through the help of their sponsors, the couple have created a small business in the community of Anitognish.

UPCOMING RSTP ONLINE WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

Webinars on Settlement Services

Settlement agencies will discuss how they are adapting to re-opening plans, what new programs have emerged during the pandemic, and how sponsors can connect newcomers with programs in their area.

Find the full schedule [here!](#)

New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island

Date: Thursday September 16, 2021
Time: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ADT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Southern Ontario

Date: Friday September 17, 2021
Time: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM EDT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Greater Toronto Area

Date: Tuesday September 21, 2021
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM EDT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Ottawa and Northern Ontario

Date: Wednesday September 22, 2021
Time: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM EDT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Manitoba

Date: Thursday September 23, 2021
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM CDT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Saskatoon

Date: Friday September 24, 2021
Time: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM CST
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Monthly Webinar Series

Preparing a Successful Application

Date: Monday September 13, 2021
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM EDT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Preparing for Arrival and Orientation

Date: Wednesday September 15, 2021
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM EDT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Fulfilling Your Obligations through Assurance

Date: Tuesday September 21, 2021
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM EDT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Completing a Successful Sponsorship Year

Date: Tuesday September 28, 2021
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM EDT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

Introduction to Groups of Five

Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT
Registration: [Zoom](#)

Calculating Financial Support for One-Year Window Arrivals

Date: Friday October 01, 2021
Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM EDT
Registration: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#)

