

# BULLETIN

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

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### Do newcomers sponsored under the PSR program need to report the financial support provided by their sponsors as "income" on their tax returns?

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.

### 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 returns?

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

However, while the financial support from the 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; it does not need to be reported as "income" on the newcomer's 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.

Please [click here](#) for further information on what is considered a "gift" by the CRA.

For information on free virtual tax clinics that sponsored newcomers can use to assist them with filing their tax returns, please [click here](#).

## GET FREE TAX HELP: A GUIDE TO TAX CLINICS FOR CANADIAN NEWCOMERS

- **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP):** This program is offered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and provides free tax preparation help to eligible individuals and families with low income and a simple tax situation. The CVITP has volunteer tax clinics in communities across Canada, including in many settlement agencies and community organizations that serve newcomers.
- **Tax-Aid:** Tax-Aid is a nonprofit organization that provides free tax preparation and advice to low-income individuals and families in Vancouver, BC. Tax-Aid operates tax clinics from February to April each year, and their services are available to all residents of BC who meet their eligibility requirements.
- **Tax Assistance Clinic (TAC):** TAC is a free tax clinic operated by the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law. TAC provides tax assistance to low-income individuals and families who cannot afford professional tax services. TAC runs from February to April each year and is staffed by law students supervised by tax professionals.
- **ACORN Canada:** ACORN Canada is a national organization that advocates for social and economic justice for low- and moderate-income people. ACORN Canada offers free tax clinics in various cities across Canada, including Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver. These clinics are staffed by volunteers who the CRA trains.
- **H&R Block:** H&R Block offers free tax preparation services to eligible individuals through their partnership with the CVITP. H&R Block has locations across Canada, including many communities with high newcomer populations.

Please note that eligibility requirements and availability may vary for each clinic. It's best to check with the specific clinic for more information.

## IRCC NOTICE: CANADA'S NEW APPLICATION PROCESSING CENTRE IN MANILA BOOSTS GLOBAL IMMIGRATION CAPACITY

Given its impact on Canadians, a comprehensive and inclusive strategy is essential for Canada to guide its actions in the Indo-Pacific region. Therefore, Canada is investing in fostering ties between Canadians and the area as part of its Indo-Pacific Strategy.

To support this strategy and boost immigration application processing, a new application processing centre has been opened in Manila, Philippines. The centre, located within Canada's Embassy, will be supported by 37 new employees and accommodate the high volume of visa applications from around the world.

This expansion overseas will support Canada's planned increases in immigration levels and improve client service. The goal is to bring more people to Canada for various reasons, such as visiting, studying, working, or immigrating permanently. Rechie Valdez made the announcement, Member of Parliament for Mississauga—Streetsville, on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

## UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS/WORKSHOPS

### POST ARRIVAL SUPPORT FOR NEWCOMER FOCUSING ON MENTAL HEALTH FOR GROUP OF FIVE & COMMUNITY SPONSORS

This session will focus on where to find services in case of mental health issues. We have a couple of panellists who will give us some information. We encourage everyone to join this webinar, whether you're expecting a newcomer or the newcomers are already in Canada.

Date: March 14th, 2023  
Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM CST  
Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### SPONSORS RESPONSIBILITIES: BEFORE & AFTER ARRIVAL COMMUNITY SPONSORS & GROUP OF FIVE SPONSORS

This workshop aims to educate sponsors on their financial and settlement responsibilities when sponsoring refugees. The workshop covers legal requirements, settlement planning, available resources, and the role of settlement agencies in facilitating the settlement process. Sponsors will participate in interactive activities and group discussions to learn from each other. By the end of the workshop, sponsors will better understand their responsibilities and resources to support the successful integration of newcomers into their community.

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM EST  
Location: Catholic Centre for Immigrants, Room 113 & 114 | 219 Argyle Avenue | Ottawa, K2P 2H4

[MARCH 14TH](#) [MARCH 23RD](#)

### POST-ARRIVAL BUDGET CALCULATION WORKSHOP: COMMUNITY SPONSORS & GROUP OF FIVE SPONSORS

The timeline between the submission of the PSR application and the arrival of the refugees, changes can happen and affect the financial calculations. There could be a newborn baby, a new spouse etc. In these cases, how do you calculate the budget? How do you ensure the newcomer refugees receive the recommended RAP Rates? This workshop will touch on those topics and will also touch on what sponsors need to keep track of when it comes to assurance activities.

Time: 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM CST  
Virtually: via Zoom

[MARCH 15TH](#) [MARCH 24TH](#)

### INTRODUCTION TO THE PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES PROGRAM (ENGLISH/IN-PERSON)

This workshop provides an overview of the private sponsorship process for refugees in Canada. It covers eligibility requirements, types of sponsorships, responsibilities of sponsors, and the application process.

The workshop includes case studies and group discussions to share best practices. By the end of the workshop, participants will understand the program and be better equipped to sponsor a refugee family.

Date: March 16th, 2023  
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM EST  
Location: Catholic Centre for Immigrants, Room 113 & 114 | 219 Argyle Avenue | Ottawa, K2P 2H4

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### SPONSORS' POST-ARRIVAL RESPONSIBILITIES VIRTUAL WORKSHOP FOR G5 AND CS

The Sponsors' Post-Arrival Responsibilities Workshop provides sponsors with information and training on their obligations and responsibilities to support their sponsored refugees.

The workshop covers settlement topics such as housing, healthcare, education, employment, legal, financial, and social integration responsibilities. The workshop aims to help sponsors provide practical support to refugees and assist them in successfully integrating into Canadian society.

Date: March 16th  
Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM CST

OR

Date: March 27th  
Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM CST  
Virtually: via Zoom

[MARCH 16TH](#) [MARCH 27TH](#)

### AN EVENING FOR PRIVATE SPONSORS: LEARNING ABOUT THE LOCAL HOUSING CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

From their respective sectors, each guest panellist will provide a 'big picture' context of the housing situation in Regina. They will also share how private sponsors could work within that context to find affordable housing for sponsored refugees successfully.

Date: March 22nd, 2023  
Time: 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM EST  
Location: Regina Open Door Society, 2314 - 11th Avenue

[CLICK HERE TO CONTACT TRAINER](#)

[MARCH 18TH](#) [MARCH 31ST](#)

### EXPLORING POST-ARRIVAL RESPONSIBILITIES – FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT (ENGLISH/VIRTUAL)

Learn about the various post-arrival responsibilities of sponsors towards the sponsored refugees, explicitly focusing on employment-related issues. The webinar will cover topics such as helping refugees navigate the job market, identifying and accessing employment support programs, and understanding the cultural differences that may impact employment opportunities.

Date: March 29th, 2023  
Time: 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM EST  
Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### CONNECTING WITH SETTLEMENT AGENCIES (ENGLISH/VIRTUAL)

With our trainer, you will understand what supporting documents must be included in each package and how to complete application forms for both the applicants and the sponsors.

Date: March 30th, 2023  
Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST  
Virtually: via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### BVOR SPEAKER SERIES

The BVOR Speakers Series is proud to host Hassan Al Kontar, a Syrian refugee who captured the world's attention after being stranded in Kuala Lumpur International Airport for over 7 months. In his talk, Hassan will share his journey as a refugee, the challenges he faced, and how he overcame them. He will also discuss his advocacy work and his belief in the power of storytelling to promote empathy and understanding. This is a unique opportunity to hear from a resilient and inspiring individual who has overcome extraordinary circumstances. Join us for an insightful and thought-provoking evening with Hassan Al Kontar

Date: March 30th, 2023  
Time: 7:00 PM EST  
Location: Immigrant Services Society of BC

[REGISTER HERE](#)