

BULLETIN

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



WHAT FAMILY REUNIFICATION OPTIONS EXIST FOR REFUGEES SPONSORED TO CANADA?

Anyone that meets **IRCC's definition of a family** is eligible to be reunited with the Principal Applicant (PA) in Canada via the One-Year Window of Opportunity Provision (OYW).

To be eligible for the OYW, the PA must list their family members on the application forms as accompanying or non-accompanying dependants or declare them to IRCC before they travel to Canada.

For more information on the definition of a family used by IRCC, and the difference between accompanying and non-accompanying family members, please [click here](#).

The PA has one year after their date of arrival in Canada to submit the OYW application for any family members that were non-accompanying. OYW applications for non-accompanying family members can still be submitted even if the family members are in their home country.

For more information on what forms and supporting documents are required for a OYW application, please [click here](#).

Sponsors are responsible for providing financial and settlement support to all the PA's accompanying and non-accompanying family members (including newborn children born after the application is submitted to IRCC and new spouses/common-law partners that are added to the application), even though they may not arrive in Canada at the same time and may even arrive after the PA's sponsorship period has come to an end.

For information on the level of financial support that sponsors must provide to non-accompanying family members arriving under the OYW, please [click here](#) and [here](#).

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PA DOES NOT DECLARE THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS ON THE FORMS OR BEFORE THEY DEPART FOR CANADA?

If the family members are not listed on the application forms and are not declared before the PA departs for Canada, they may not be eligible to be reunited with the PA (see **Section 117(9) (d) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations**).

Family members declared at the airport on arrival in Canada (also known as the port of entry) are not eligible for the OYW.

Undeclared family members may be eligible to be reunited with the PA in Canada via a pilot program which was **recently extended to September 10, 2026**. For more information on the pilot program for undeclared family members, please [click here](#).

INTRODUCING UPDATED TRANSPORTATION RATES

New transportation rates came into effect on September 01, 2023. The RSTP **Minimum Financial Support Calculator** has been updated to reflect these changes.

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT NOW](#)



NEW IRCC FACTSHEETS FOR AFGHAN NEWCOMERS

IRCC has produced fact sheets as part of a pilot initiative for pre-arrival community information for Afghan newcomers destined to ten small and medium-sized communities across Canada.

The fact sheets are intended to help Afghan refugees become familiar with their new communities and were developed in consultation with partners in those communities.

NOTE: THE FACT SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE IN DARI, PASHTO, ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE FACT SHEETS](#)



UPCOMING RSTP WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS

THOSE CRUCIAL IN-BETWEEN TIMES: ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION

Are you eager to make a meaningful impact through refugee sponsorship?

Don't miss our upcoming webinar, where we will explore the often-overlooked phase between submitting your sponsorship application and the arrival of refugees. This crucial period can significantly influence the success of your sponsorship journey, and we are here to help you navigate it confidently.

Date: September 24th, 2023
Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM CST
In-Person: Saskatoon Open Door Society, 129 3rd Avenue North #100 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K2H4, Canada
Virtually: Via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)



NAVIGATING THE FUTURE: DIGITAL INTAKE PORTAL INFORMATION SESSIONS

Be prepared for a seamless transition and join our "Digital Intake Portal Information Sessions" to stay ahead of the curve. Starting in October 2023, the Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) Permanent Residence Application Portal will become the primary intake method for private sponsorship (PSR) applications. Being informed is your best tool, so equip yourself with the knowledge to navigate the digital intake process confidently.

Date: September 26th, 2023
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST
Virtually: Via Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

EMBARK ON A JOURNEY OF COMPASSION: BASICS OF PRIVATE REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

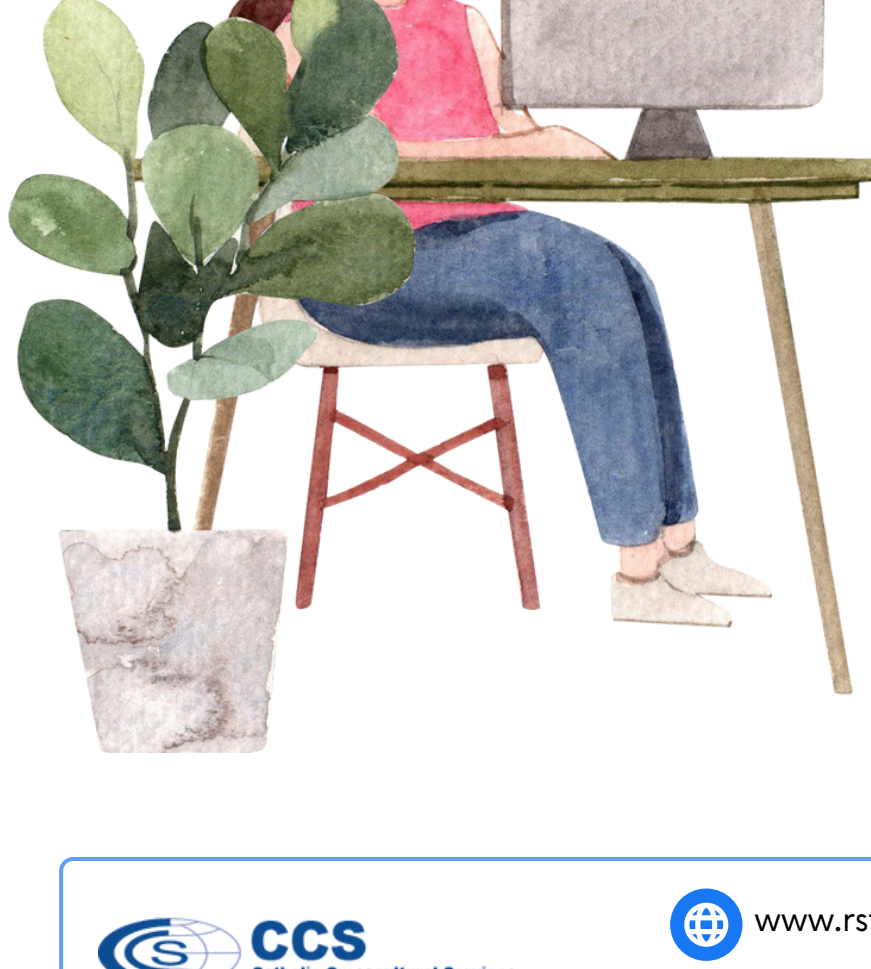
Gain the knowledge and tools to embark on a journey of compassion and support. This workshop will unravel the essential aspects of private refugee sponsorship, answering questions about who can sponsor and who can be sponsored.

During this informative workshop, you will:

- Understand Sponsorship Eligibility: Understand who can participate in private refugee sponsorship and the criteria for sponsors and sponsored refugees.
- Explore the Sponsorship Process: Learn about the step-by-step process of sponsoring refugees, from initial application to settlement and integration.
- Discover Impactful Sponsorship Opportunities: Uncover the many ways you can make a positive impact in the lives of refugees, including providing a haven, support, and resources.
- Engage in Q&A Sessions: Have your questions answered by experts in refugee sponsorship, ensuring you have a solid understanding of the program.

Date: September 28th, 2023
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST
In-Person: Catholic Centre for Immigrants, Room 113 & 114, 219 Argyle Avenue Ottawa, Ontario, K2P2H4, Canada

[REGISTER HERE](#)



SEPTEMBER MONTHLY WEBINARS

26th FULFILLING YOUR OBLIGATIONS THROUGH ASSURANCE

28th COMPLETING A SUCCESSFUL SPONSORSHIP YEAR

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS](#)

EMPOWERING NEWCOMERS: INSIGHT FROM HELEN SMITH-MCINTYRE WORKSHOP SERIES

Attention **newcomers who have CLB 4+**

Join us for an extraordinary workshop series featuring the incredible Helen Smith-McIntyre as our trainer! In this comprehensive series, Helen will guide you through every step of the refugee sponsorship journey.

Sponsoring as a Group of Five: Discover the ins and outs of sponsoring as a Group of Five, including the unique responsibilities, collaboration, and support required to ensure a successful sponsorship.

Filling out the Forms: Learn the intricacies of completing sponsorship forms accurately and efficiently. From application forms to settlement plans, gain the confidence to navigate the paperwork with ease.

What to do Between the Application and Arrival: Explore the crucial actions and preparations needed during the waiting period between submitting your application and the refugees' arrival. Maximize your time and ensure a smooth transition.

How to Prepare for Pre-arrival: Get ready to welcome the sponsored refugees by understanding the pre-arrival process. From logistics to cultural orientation, you'll learn how to create a supportive environment for their arrival.

After the Refugees Arrive to Month Thirteen: Discover the essential post-arrival responsibilities and strategies for effective integration during the first year of sponsorship. Empower the newcomers and foster their successful settlement.

Date: October 3rd to December 12th, 2023
Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM CST
Hybrid Sessions

[REGISTER HERE](#)