

Private Sponsorship of Refugees

Refugee Sponsorship Training Program



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Webinar

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Catholic Crosscultural
Services

INTRODUCTION TO THE PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP OF REFUGEES PROGRAM

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Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

Canada: a Land of Refuge

Agenda for Today

1. What is the history of the private sponsorship of refugees in Canada?
2. How does the private sponsorship of refugees' program fit into the "resettlement process"?
3. Who can sponsor and who can be sponsored?
4. How does the process for the private sponsorship of refugees' work.
5. **Questions.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This presentation is taking place on the traditional lands of many First Nations, including Plains and Woodland Cree, Assiniboine, Saulteaux and Chipewyan.

The area is also known as Treaty Six Territory.

These lands are also the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (cont'd)

Around the 11th Century, when the First Europeans came to the land now called Canada, there were already people living in every corner of the land; from what is now called Newfoundland and Labrador to what is now called British Columbia, from what is now called the United States border to the Arctic Ocean.

BACKGROUND

It must be noted that, in the early days of settler history, when there were wars among the colonizing countries, people like "Les Acadiens" were being expelled from Canada; while shortly thereafter, 3000 "Black Loyalists" fled the oppression of the American Revolution in the United States and came to Canada.

Seeking Refuge in Canada

Among those who came to Canada from other parts of the world were people who were seeking refuge. People whose lives and ways of life were at risk.

REFUGEES IN YOUR FAMILY TREE

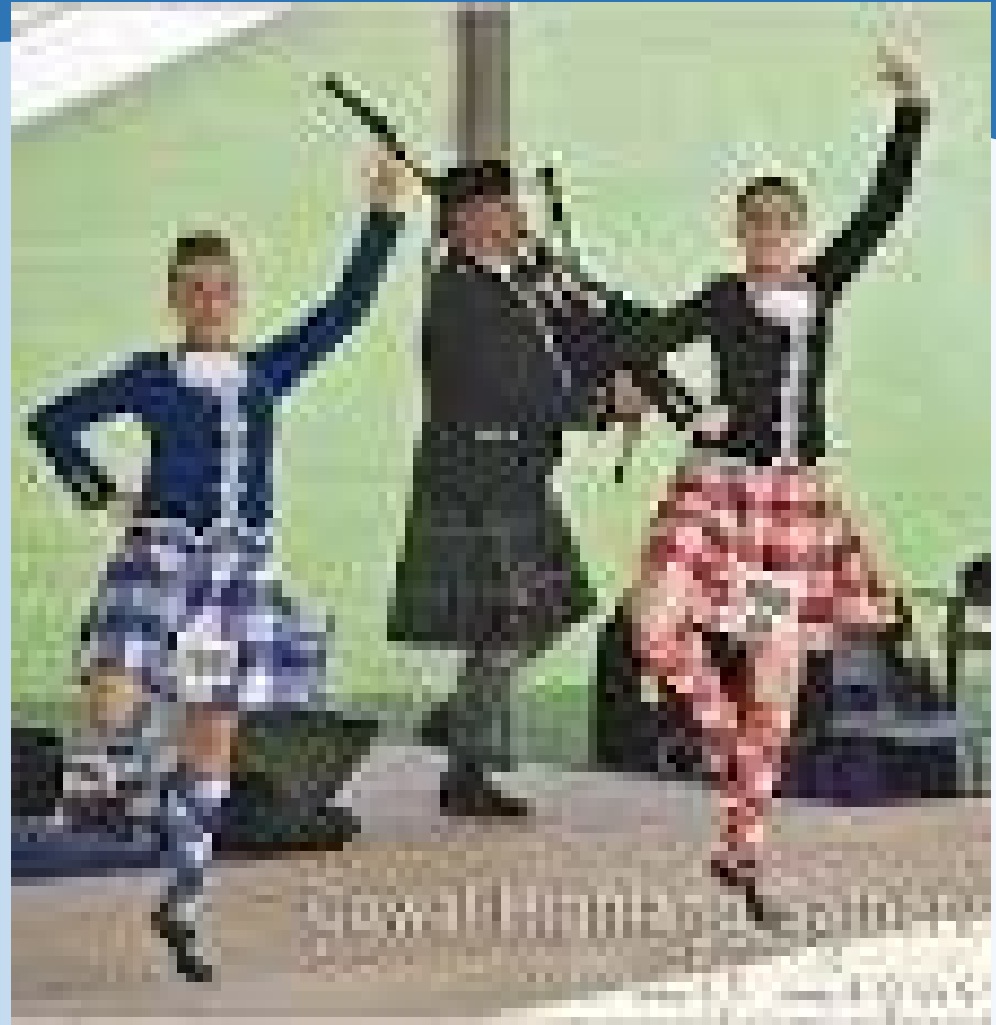
MAYBE YOU CAN FIND YOUR
FORBEARS HERE?

1776 African American Loyalists

3,000 AFRICAN AMERICAN LOYALISTS WERE THE EARLIEST LOYALISTS TO COME FROM THE USA

LATE 1700s

SCOTTISH
PEOPLE
FROM THE
HIGHLANDS
OF
SCOTLAND



1880 - 1914

ITALIANS

1880 – 1914

JEWS

1891

170,000 UKRAINIANS

1920-1939
1945-1952

Second and Third Waves of UKRAINIAN MIGRATION



1947 - 1952

250,000 DISPLACED PERSONS
FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN
EUROPE

1950s

PALESTINIAN ARABS

1950s – 1970s

**MIDDLE EASTERN AND
NORTH AFRICAN JEWS**

1956

37,000 HUNGARIANS

1960s
CHINESE

1968-69

11,000 CZECH
REFUGEES

1970s

7,000 CHILEANS PLUS
ARGENTINIANS AND
URUGUAYANS

1970 - 1990

JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION

1971

THOUSANDS OF
BENGALIS

1971 - 1972

228 TIBETANS

1972 - 1973

**7000 UGANDAN
ASIANS**

1979

IRANIAN REFUGEES FOLLOWING
THE OVERTHROW OF THE SHAH

Relating to the Status of Refugees

Accepted by the United Nations in Geneva in July 1951.

Canada signed the Convention and its Protocol in 1969.



Who is a Refugee?

United Nations Definition of “refugee”

A **refugee** is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A **refugee** has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group

The Immigration Act 1976

A New Way

In 1978, The Government of Canada implemented the new policies and procedures which came out of the 1976 Immigration Act. The Act provided for the Private Sponsorship of Refugees.

THE BOAT PEOPLE

1979 – 1980,
60,000 SOUTH EAST
ASIANS RESETTLED IN CANADA.
34,000 WERE PRIVATELY
SPONSORED.

Canadians' Proud History of Refugee Sponsorship

- Unique in the world

In 1986 United Nations Nansen Medal was awarded to the People of Canada as a whole

- More than 275,000 refugees sponsored since 1979





AFTER THE BOAT PEOPLE

- SPECIAL PROGRAMS
- Cambodians
- Bosnians from Bosnia (Yugoslavia)
- Kosovars from Kosovo (Yugoslavia)
- Karen from Thailand
- Bhutanese from Nepal
- Iraqis
- Syrians

International Perspective

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
(UNHCR)**

DATA 2016

65.6 million people, were displaced from their homes by conflict and persecution in 2016.

2.8 million seeking asylum

40.3 million internally displaced people

22.5 million people were found to be refugees at the end of 2016.



OPTIONS:

1. Integrate into neighbouring or other country
2. Return home when safe
3. Resettlement

THE NEED

- UNHCR report sees 2017 resettlement needs at 1.19 million
- UNHCR expects to submit 170,000 refugees for resettlement.

CANADA'S PLAN FOR 2018

- Sponsorship Agreement Holders collectively can submit applications for a total of 8,500 people in 2018.
- Under the 2018 immigration levels, the federal government has set a target of 18,000 privately sponsored refugees to arrive in Canada (including Quebec) and 7,500 Government Assisted Refugees

Resettlement Processes

Canadian Resettlement Program:	Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR)	Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)	Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)	Government Assisted Refugees (GAR)
Funded by:	Private sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 months income support from government ➤ 6 months income support from sponsors 	Government	Government
Settlement Support by:	Private sponsors	Private sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Initial settlement support by Government-funded organizations, then by Private Sponsors 	Government-funded organizations
Referred to Immigration, Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC) by:	Private sponsors	UNHCR	UNHCR	UNHCR
Are the refugees known to the sponsor?	Sometimes	No	No	No

What is the Private Sponsorship of Refugees?

The resettlement of a refugee to Canada, in which **12 months** of financial costs and settlement support are provided by private groups or organizations.

Exception: For the **BVOR program**, sponsors must provide financial support for **6 months plus start-up costs** (and the government provides funding for the other 6 months).



Sponsoring Groups



**Sponsorship Agreement Holder
(SAH)**

**An incorporated organization that has
signed an agreement to sponsor refugees
with the Government of Canada**



Group of Five

**Five Canadian citizens or
permanent residents**

Community Sponsor

**Any organization, association or
corporation**



Who can form a Group of Five?

- ✓ 5 Canadian citizens and/or Permanent Residents
- ✓ 18 years of age or older
- ✓ Live in same residential community
- ✓ Financial capacity – individual and combined
- ✓ Settlement capacity
- ✓ Make commitment to provide support for 12 months



Who are Community Sponsors?

These organizations, associations or corporations:

- Do not have to be incorporated under Federal or Provincial law (but could be).
- Must be registered as a business or charity.
- Must have the financial and settlement capacity to fulfill the 12-month sponsorship commitment.
- Must be located in the community where the refugee is expected to settle.



- Can work with co-sponsors (individuals or another organization).
- Have non-profit motivations behind the sponsorship

What are the differences between these groups and SAHs?

Groups of Five & Community Sponsors

Assessed as sponsors with each application

Cost-sharing of BVOR program applies to only Syrian refugees (other refugees can be sponsored but without cost-sharing)

Number of refugees that can be sponsored depends on group's financial and settlement capacity

Refugee applicants **must** already have proof of refugee status.

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) (and their Constituent Groups & Co-sponsors)

Already have an agreement to sponsor

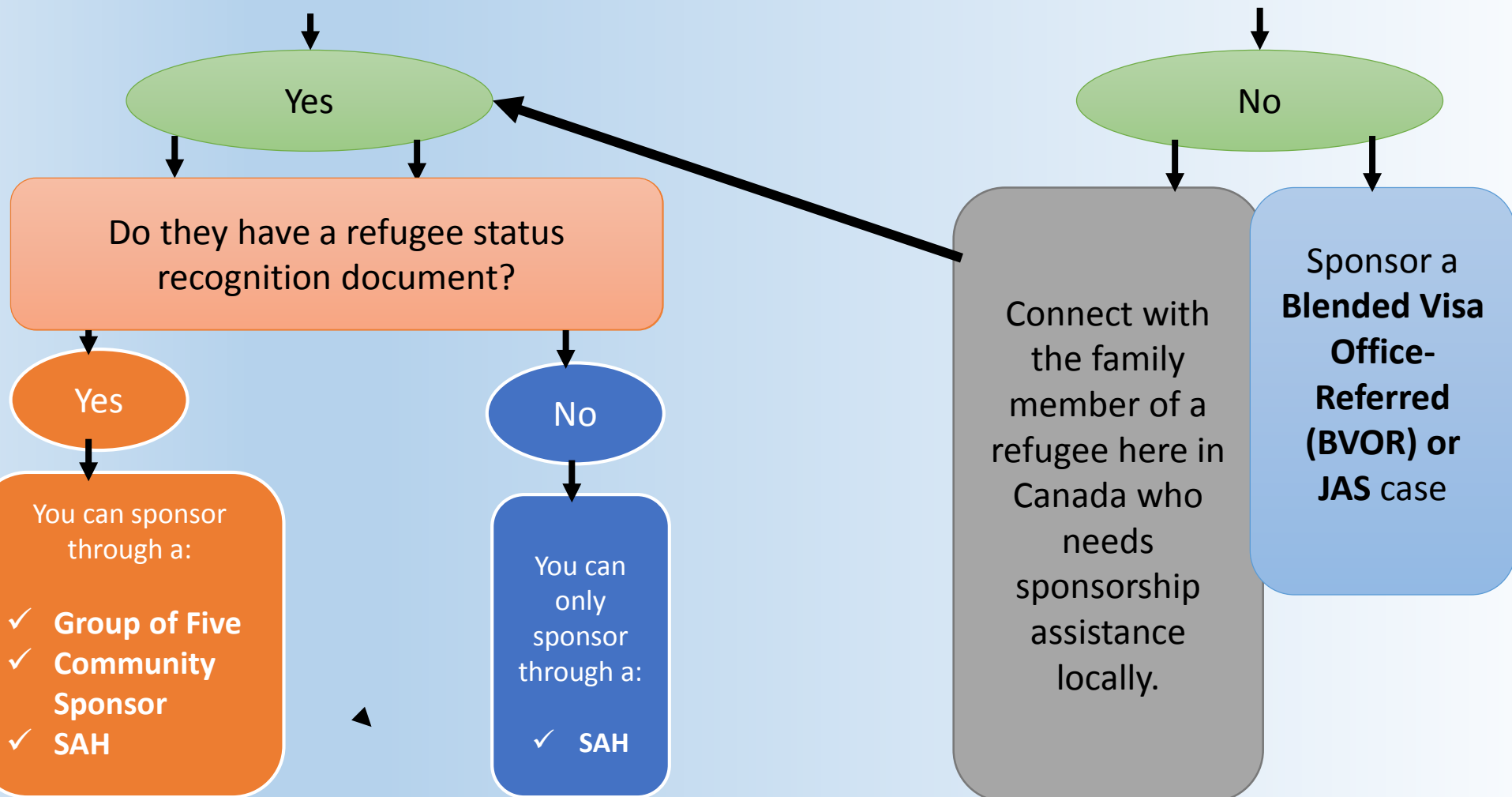
Cost-sharing of Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) program applies to all refugees

Limitations on number of refugees that can be sponsored.

Refugee applicants **do not** need to already have refugee status & proof of this status

Which group should you choose?

Do you have specific refugees that you would like to sponsor?



Who Qualifies for Resettlement to Canada

Eligibility

- Meet definition
- No other solution
- Able to establish

Admissibility

- Security check
- Criminal check
- Medical check

Not aware of a Refugee to sponsor? Access to BVOR

For Groups of Five and Community Sponsors

1. Fill out a Request for Refugee Profile (RRP) form, found here:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/kits/forms/IMM5438E.PDF>
2. Submit RRP to the RSTP by scan (bvor@rstp.ca) or fax: 416-290-1710.
3. RSTP will invite you to an orientation webinar
4. You will start receiving emails with a list of refugee profiles.

After selecting a refugee profile:

- Complete application forms for sponsors, and send them to ROC-O
 - Refugee will arrive in approximately 1-4 months

Who can be sponsored?

Who is eligible to be sponsored?

Someone who:

- ✓ Has a sponsoring group in Canada
- ✓ Is outside of their home country
- ✓ Is not in Canada
- ✓ Is unable or unwilling to return to their country
- ✓ Cannot locally integrate where they are currently living (cannot stay there, do not have rights similar to the rights of citizens, etc.)
- ✓ Fits the definition of:
 - Convention Refugee Abroad Class:** *Well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion*
 - OR**
 - Country of Asylum Class:** *Seriously and personally affected by civil war or armed conflict, or suffered massive violations of human rights*
- ✓ Has a Refugee Status Recognition Document / Proof of Refugee Status **(Temporary exemption for Syrians and Iraqis)**

Who is Admissible?

Before being accepted to come to Canada, the following checks will be conducted:

- ✓ **Medical check**
- ✓ **Security check**
- ✓ **Criminality check**






Requirement: Proof of Refugee Status

The Principal Refugee Applicant **already has refugee status**, and proof of refugee status issued to them by either the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) or a foreign government.

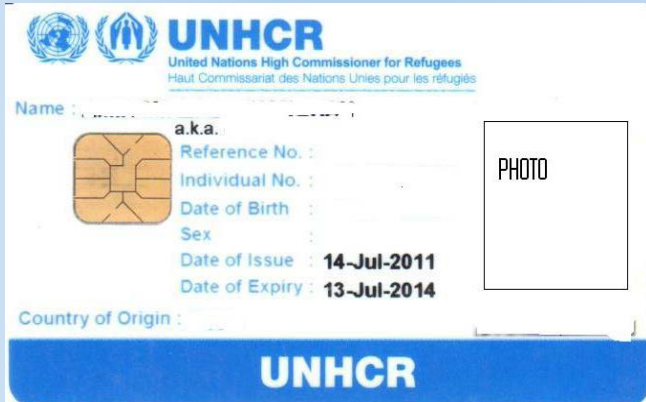
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What is a “refugee status recognition” document?

- A document that indicates that a person has been **determined to be a refugee** by the UNHCR or by a foreign government.
- Proof of “refugee status”
- Refugee status recognition documents should not be confused with “UNHCR registration documents” or “applied/awaiting refugee determination.”

Without proof of “refugee status,” asylum seekers can only be sponsored by SAHs.



**YES
proof of refugee
status!**

The bearer of this card is a refugee under the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. As a refugee, she/he should, in particular, be protected from arbitrary detention or forcible return to her/his country or to any other country where she/he would face threats to her/his life or freedom. During her/his stay in India, the bearer is subject to and has the obligation to respect national laws.

इस कार्ड का धारक संयुक्त राष्ट्र शरणार्थी उच्चायुक्त के जनादेश के तहत एक शरणार्थी है। एक शरणार्थी के रूप में, वह विशेष रूप से, मनमाने ढंग से हिरासत या अपने देश में या किसी अन्य देश में, जहां उसकी/उसके जीवन या स्वतंत्रता के लिए खतरे का सामना करना होगा, जबरन वापसी से रक्षा की जानी चाहिए। भारत में अपने प्रवास के दौरान, धारक को राष्ट्रीय कानून का सम्मान करने का दायित्व है।

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New Delhi - 110057

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
DEPARTMENT: HOME AFFAIRS
REFUGEES ACT, 1998 (ACT 130 OF 1998)

FORMAL RECOGNITION OF REFUGEE STATUS IN THE RSA

PARTICULARS OF RECOGNISED REFUGEE IN THE RSA

NAME AND SURNAME: [REDACTED]
GENDER: [REDACTED]
DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]
COUNTRY OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]
NATIONALITY: [REDACTED]
MARITAL STATUS: [REDACTED]

It is hereby certified that the person whose particulars appear above has, in terms of section 24 (3) (a) of the Refugees Act 1998 (Act 130 of 1998), been recognised as a refugee in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) from [31/05/2011] to [31/05/2013] on condition that this formal recognition shall become null and void should the refugee depart permanently from the Republic. The Refugee shall within 14 days of receipt hereof apply for a Refugee Identity Document in the RSA. The holder of this certificate is entitled to Socio-economic rights as provided for in Chapter 2 of the Constitution including work and study in RSA.

2011-10-11
Johannesburg
ISSUING OFFICE

DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 31/05/2011
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
PLACE: Johannesburg DATE: [REDACTED]

CAPTURED BY: [REDACTED]
PRINTED BY: [REDACTED]
FINGER IMPRESSION: [REDACTED]

REFUGEE RECEIVED BY OFFICIAL: [REDACTED]
NAME: [REDACTED]

DATE: [REDACTED]
PLACE: Johannesburg
ORIGINALLY ISSUED IN: [REDACTED]
NUMBER OF EXTENSIONS: 0
PERMIT HOLDER SIGNATURE: [REDACTED]

ONLY VALID IF BOTH BAR CODES ARE THE SAME

State card, certificate, letter stating that the person has been recognized as a refugee in the country of asylum

**What are Sponsors'
responsibilities?**

Financial Responsibilities

Sponsors must financially support the refugees for **one year**, or until they become self-supporting, whichever comes first.





Settlement Responsibilities

These include...

Reception

Welcome them at the airport!

Orientation

- Who are you?
- Money flow & budgeting
- Groceries
- Transportation

Housing

- Arrange for **temporary accommodation**
- Help to find **permanent accommodation**

Health Care

- Apply for provincial health card
- Apply for Interim Federal Health program
- Find doctor, dentist, other health services

Education

- Enrol adults in English/French classes
- Enrol children in school

Important

Documents/Services

- Apply for child tax benefit
- Apply for Social Insurance Number
- Open Bank account
- Arrange for interpretation

Employment

- Connect with job search services

Emotional & Moral Support

Connect newcomers with a Settlement agency

For more information...



**Refugee Sponsorship Training
Program (RSTP)**

www.rstp.ca

info@rstp.ca

1-877-290-1701

or

hsmithmcintyre@rstp.ca

1-306-343-8303

Ext. 107