

# Refugee Resettlement Update



Office for Refugees Archdiocese of Toronto

April 2016

## The Office for Refugees is moving!



The Office for Refugees is moving locations on **Wednesday, April 20th**. This means that the current Scarborough location for the office will be closing down. The office is very excited to announce this move as it is being relocated to **1220 Yonge Street, Suite 203, Toronto, Ontario** (across from the Pastoral Centre). The new office is a one minute walk from the TTC Summerhill subway station. This is great news to many coming from various areas of the Archdiocese of Toronto as it is easily accessible by transit. Additionally, as the office conducts various types of sessions every month, more space will also be designated for sessions at 830 Bathurst Street. It is a short distance

by subway from the main office and is right outside of Bathurst Station beside St. Peter's Church. Each session on Eventbrite will be updated with the exact location and time of the event so please be sure to check these specifics when you register for any of the sessions we offer. As per usual if you have a group consisting of at least 20 people requesting the Project Hope Parish Information Session (see more details on page 3) the office staff will go to your parish. Additionally, if you are interested in hosting an upcoming Resettlement Group Seminar you can contact Alexandra at: [awhittle@archtoronto.org](mailto:awhittle@archtoronto.org)

### Mailing Address of the new office:

Office for Refugees Archdiocese of Toronto  
1155 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4T 1W2

### New contact information as of April 20th

All staff will have new emails and direct phone lines so that you may reach exactly who it is you need! The main number to reach all staff for the Office for Refugees is: **416.934.3400** then you type in their extension number as listed below:

For any general inquiries: [refugeeoffice@archtoronto.org](mailto:refugeeoffice@archtoronto.org) or you may dial **ext. 804**

-Operations Director John Ecker ([jecker@archtoronto.org](mailto:jecker@archtoronto.org)) : **ext. 805**

-Director Dr. Martin Mark ([mmark@archtoronto.org](mailto:mmark@archtoronto.org)) : **ext. 120**

-Resettlement Counsellor Ildy Sziladi ([isziladi@archtoronto.org](mailto:isziladi@archtoronto.org)) : **ext. 812**

-Outreach Worker Luciano Moro ([lmoro@archtoronto.org](mailto:lmoro@archtoronto.org)) : **ext. 803**

-Resettlement Educator Alexandra Whittle ([awhittle@archtoronto.org](mailto:awhittle@archtoronto.org)) : **ext. 810**

Be sure to keep posted for the other staff emails and phone extensions to be released.

## Still Waiting on Numbers

As you may have heard, the Government of Canada made an announcement that Sponsorship Agreement Holders could submit Syrian cases and it would not count towards the numbers allocated for submissions for the year. On March 30th the government announced that Sponsorship Agreement Holders could submit Syrian resettlement requests by March 31st and that those requests would not count towards the 2016 allocations. That day the Office for Refugees submitted all of its Syrian cases. Currently the office is still waiting to receive the number of spots available to submit resettlement applications for 2016. Therefore, no appointments to take applications can be made as of yet. Please keep up to date with the Office for Refugees Facebook page. When we receive notification of the numbers that we are able to submit applications for, an announcement with the update will be made on the page.

## Get to know the Office for Refugees staff



I was born in Iraq and I came to Canada eight years ago. I studied Science, Philosophy, and Theology and right now I am studying psychotherapy part time. I love learning and I love working both with data and people. My passion is to help people and to use technology efficiently to serve people's needs. Although I have been working at the Office for Refugees for just over two months, I learned a lot already. I work as an Outreach Assistant. I help groups go through the process of sponsoring and I welcome newcomers by giving them important information and tips for the journey of settlement. Meeting newcomers is a great experience, because before they come to Canada, we only communicate through emails, but when we meet face to face after arrival, all the hardships of the work are transferred into joy! I look forward to many years of serving newcomers and sponsoring groups. You can reach me by email at [zyusufani@archtoronto.org](mailto:zyusufani@archtoronto.org) or as of April 20<sup>th</sup>, you can call me at 416-934-3400 ext. 815

## Do newcomers need to attend the Newcomer Orientation and Newcomer Meetings?

Yes. The Newcomer Orientation that is mandatory upon arrival to Canada is different than the Newcomer Meetings that are held monthly on a Friday Evening. The Newcomer Orientation should be arranged with the Outreach Assistant Zaid Yusufani via email and is typically a two hour orientation meeting for those who have just arrived to Canada. The monthly Newcomer Meetings are for newcomers who have arrived through the Office for Refugees within the past year. Every month there is a different main topic of discussion to be held to not only follow up on the integration of the newcomers, but to provide a place where they may meet with others who are new to Canada as well. It is a great networking opportunity and it is important for the office to be able to maintain contact with the newcomers within their one year of sponsorship. In order to find the upcoming locations and dates of the Newcomer Meetings you can copy and paste the link below to get a full listing of the dates and further register. Please note that you must register on Eventbrite in order to attend in order for resources to be prepared accordingly. If you have any problems or questions about registering you can contact Alexandra at: [awhittle@archtoronto.org](mailto:awhittle@archtoronto.org)

## Upcoming Sessions

### Project Hope Parish Info Session

Date: Fri, Apr 15th  
Location: St. Silouan

### Info Session 1: Orientation (Civic Resettlement Program)

Date: Thurs, May 19th  
Location: 830 Bathurst Street

### Info Session 3: IRCC Processing Time

Date: Thurs, May 26th  
Location: St. Patrick's Brampton

### Resettlement Group Seminar:

Date: Thu, April 28th  
Location: 1155 Yonge Street, Pastoral Centre

### Newcomer Meeting

Date: Fri, April 29th  
Location: 1155 Yonge Street, Pastoral Centre

### Info Session 2: Settlement Training Workshop

Date: Sat, April 30th  
Location: 830 Bathurst Street

## How to get started with Project Hope

Is your parish interested in becoming involved to resettle a refugee family or individual to Canada? If you do not know where to begin, the first step is to attend the Project Hope Parish Information Session. You may find available sessions to register for by following these instructions:

1. Go to [www.google.ca](http://www.google.ca)
2. Type in the search bar: Eventbrite Office for Refugees as the title
3. Click on the link that appears with "Office for Refugees" in the title
4. Look for "Project Hope Parish Information Session"
5. The available sessions to register for will be listed
6. Click on a specific date and click the green register button to reserve your seat

If you have a group of 20 people or more or are interested in hosting a Parish information Session open to all parishes and communities to attend, you may contact Alexandra Whittle to discuss and make arrangements. Please note that this is not the session to attend if you are trying to learn how to sponsor a family member or friend. If you would like to learn about sponsoring a family member or friend you need to register for and attend "Info Session 1: Orientation (Civic Resettlement Program)".

## Welcome to Canada!



"With much gratitude to God, Good Shepherd Parish welcomed our beautiful Dia Desso family on February 25th. All members of the family set out happily each morning for their school day eager to learn English and advance their education. The Catholic school system has welcomed them with open arms, children and parents. This is indeed a good news story and we feel that we are all family. The sharing of so many gifts has brought great happiness and peace to all of us who have waited for two years now for this moment to finally arrive. Alleluia!"

-Catherine Von Zuben  
Good Shepherd Parish  
-Thornhill

### Regis College Job Opening

Full Time Cleaner or Janitor - Job Summary: Under general supervision, this position works according to a current job description with detailed cleaning procedures and customer service protocols established by Regis College.

Some qualifications include:

- Completion of Grade 10 or equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Three – four three years related work experience is preferable.
- Exceptional customer service skills, team oriented and works very well with people.

If you are interested please forward your resume to Julie Cachia, Office of the President at [julie.cachia@utoronto.ca](mailto:julie.cachia@utoronto.ca) by April 15 2016. Regis College is the Jesuit Faculty of Theology at the University of Toronto and one of seven founding members of the Toronto School of Theology. You can visit their website at [www.regiscollege.ca](http://www.regiscollege.ca) for more information.

### Project Hope Facebook Group

Are you in a Resettlement Group that has formed since Project Hope was established in September 2015? A Facebook Group was formed specifically for the Resettlement Group members that are involved with Project Hope. If you would like to join the group please contact Luciano.

### Want to become a volunteer ?

Refugee resettlement work is not possible without our many dedicated volunteers who assist with administration, reception, event coordination, interpretation, translation, outreach work and information sessions. Volunteers at the Office for Refugees develop useful skills while contributing to our world in meaningful ways. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Alexandra at: [awhittle@archtoronto.org](mailto:awhittle@archtoronto.org)

**WE**  **VOLUNTEERS**



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

### Office for Refugees Website

Please visit Office for Refugees' website to find details about our mandates, goals, and policies, as well as tools regarding Info Sessions 1 and 3.

[bit.ly/refugeesTO](http://bit.ly/refugeesTO)

### Join Us On Facebook

Become a member of the **Office for Refugees** Page and Canada Group on Facebook to get the latest news and updates on resettlement issues. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

