



## Resettlement Principles

One of the main goals of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program is to help newcomers become self-reliant and active members within society. This can be achieved by implementing policies that provide for a sustainable solution, and by adopting principles that encourage newcomers to move toward the goal of integration. The following are some of the main principles that ORAT has developed to set guidelines for both newcomers and their CGs/Cosponsors.

### *Autonomy & Independence*



A large part of your job as a sponsor is to encourage and assist the newcomer in taking active steps towards independence and autonomy. It should be the goal of every CG and Cosponsor to work with and to encourage the newcomer to become self-sufficient by the end of the sponsorship period.

### *Caritas*

We would be remiss if we did not mention the most important principle of refugee resettlement, and that is: that our work ought to be guided by love. The work of the sponsor is to be a visible demonstration of our love for our neighbour. It is therefore a fulfilment of the golden rule, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’



The highest form of charity is the love that is shown for those who cannot reciprocate. For the Christian community, it is also an expression of our love for the Lord who said “I was a stranger and you welcomed Me”.

### *Building Trust*



The discussion of financial issues can often be quite challenging. Building the newcomer’s trust with the CG/Cosponsor is vital. It is important that the newcomer know that the CG/Cosponsor is acting in their best interest. Being transparent with your newcomer will go a long way toward building trust.

## Table of Contents

Resettlement Principles.....	Page 1
RAP Guidelines.....	Page 3
Changes to On-Arrival Requirements.....	Page 4
Education Updates.....	Page 4



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As a sponsor, one of your primary tasks is to assist the newcomer in integrating into the fabric of Canadian society. Integration encompasses a number of dimensions, including:

- **Linguistic and Cultural Integration:** Being able to speak the main language of the host community and the knowledge of national and local customs and practices are important dimension of the integration process. Here it is important to note that integration is not assimilation, which leads newcomers to suppress or forget their own cultural identity.
- **Economic Integration:** Employment represents an important dimension of integration, where through work the newcomer finds a place in their new country. 'To me integration is work, if we work we are integrated'
- **Social Integration:** The strength of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program is that refugees are welcomed into a community, in which they find the social connections, friendships, support and sense of belonging.



Sponsoring Groups and Cosponsors may be tempted to be overly generous with their newcomer family. While it is understandable, it is important that the newcomer family learn to live within their means. CGs/Cosponsors are asked to assist the newcomer family create a budget that is sustainable in month 13 and beyond when the CG/Cosponsor is no longer providing financial support to the family.

*Prudent Use of Donated Funds  
(Specific to CGs using Project Hope funds)*



ORAT does not receive any government funding to support the work of this office or to support any of the refugees that it sponsors. It is important that both newcomers and CG members alike recognize that monies used to support their refugee sponsorship are donated funds. As such, we ask that CG's make prudent use of these limited but generously donated funds; regardless of whether the funds are raised by the parish or are provided by ORAT.

## RAP Guidelines

Cosponsors/CGs have to provide sufficient resources to support the privately sponsored refugee(s) for twelve (12) months or until the refugee(s) becomes self-sufficient, whichever comes first. Amounts of funds may vary to meet the basic costs of living in different areas of Canada. The level of support which Cosponsors/CGs are expected to provide to the refugees is at least that of the prevailing Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) rates in the expected community of settlement.

It is important to note that the cosponsor/CG may also need to provide for expenses that are over and above the sponsorship cost table, such as health-related expenses not covered by the Interim Federal Health Program (IFH) or the Provincial Health Care Program (e.g., OHIP). It is also important to note that the total sponsorship costs may be reduced through the donation of “in-kind” goods, which may include lodging, furniture and clothing.

Where practicable, the refugee should have the responsibility to manage his or her own financial affairs. The RAP rate includes the following:

**Start-up costs:** Refugees must be provided with start-up costs. Start-up costs are a one-time payment and/or in-kind support for:

- Household items
- Furniture
- Linens
- Food staples
- Both seasonal and regular clothing
- School registration fees (if applicable)

**Monthly costs:** Refugees must also be provided with support for monthly costs including:

- Food and incidentals;
- Housing costs (including utilities);
- Monthly public transportation passes for all adults; and
- A communication allowance to cover the costs of a telephone and/or internet connection

Click [here](#) for detailed information about the actual amounts of financial assistance that is required in a particular city or province.



**Tools that are available to understand current RAP and RAP Start-up:** Calculating the accurate RAP amount for newcomers can be a challenging and complex task. There are various factors that dictate how amounts should be calculated. For example:

- Family Composition;
- Number of Children;
- Number of Pre-school Aged Children;
- Number of School Aged Children;
- Number of Children Between the Ages of 18-21 (at Date of Arrival);
- Number of Individuals age 65 or Older (at Date of Arrival), and;
- Other

Acknowledging the complexity of this task, ORAT has created the **RAP Calculator and Budget Workbook** to help Constituent Groups (CG), Cosponsors and Newcomers understand the financial cost of sponsorship (based on IRCC’s Resettlement Assistance Program – RAP) and to assist them in developing and managing a monthly budget for the newcomer family.

The Excel based workbook also helps the sponsor and newcomer understand any available adjustments that may lessen the financial cost of sponsorship. These adjustments include in-kind donations; assets that the newcomer has brought to Canada; and the newcomer’s employment income. In addition, the workbook allows the user to track the newcomer’s expenses and income. This will aid the newcomer to manage his or her own budget. The workbook has been automated to simplify the calculation of RAP and to assist in budgeting. The workbook can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

# Changes to the On-Arrival Testing Requirements

Source: RSTP Bulletin - April 23, 2021



Effective April 23, 2021, the second in-Canada COVID-19 test must be taken on Day 8 of the quarantine period (instead of Day 10). If a traveller arrived in Canada before April 23, 2021, they must still

take their second test on Day 10 of their quarantine period.

The kit for the second test will be provided to sponsored refugees by the IRCC funded Service Provider Organization (SPO) at the airport.

The first test will still be administered at the airport on arrival. Travellers, including sponsored refugees, are still required to complete the mandatory 3-night stay at the government authorized hotel while waiting for the results of the first test.

If the result of the first test is negative, sponsored refugees will continue travelling to their final destination, where they will be required to quarantine for the remainder of the 14-day period.

Travellers, including sponsored refugees, are required to stay in quarantine until the 14-day quarantine period has ended and a second negative test result is received.

Resources produced by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) that are provided to travellers on-arrival have been updated to reflect the changes and are available in multiple languages [here](#).

Note: If provincial public health guidelines require travellers to quarantine for 14 days when they arrive in the province/territory, the refugees will be required to quarantine for 3 days at the government-authorized hotel and for an additional 14 days when they arrive at their final destination (i.e., the total minimum quarantine period will be 17 days).

## Education Updates

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ORAT has moved all of its information sessions to an on-line webinar platform. Until further notice, the office will not be holding any in person information sessions.

A webinar is an on-line virtual event. It is an educational or instructive session that includes audio and visual communication between a speaker and attendees.

The initial registration will continue to be done through ORAT's Eventbrite. Registered attendees will receive a confirmation link 48 hours before the webinar begins.

## ORAT Website

Please visit ORAT's website to find details about our mandate, goals, and policies, as well as to obtain immigration forms and info session materials. <http://www.orat.ca>

## Your input is welcome

If you would like to contribute an article to ORAT's newsletter, have any feedback on past articles, or have suggestions for future articles, please email us at: [orateducator@archtoronto.org](mailto:orateducator@archtoronto.org)

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