



## ORAT Receives its 2019 Allocation

At the end of February, the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (“IRCC”) announced to each Sponsorship Agreement Holder (“SAH”) across Canada their 2019 allocation. The allocations represent the number of refugees that each SAH can submit refugee sponsorship applications for during that year.

We, at ORAT, have been busy preparing for the beginning of the 2019 submission period, which IRCC’s February communication to each SAH marked the beginning of. In the fall of 2018, we began the process of reaching out to members of the General Public, as well as to parishioners from various Eastern Rite and Orthodox communities by inviting them to attend the Introduction to Resettlement

information session. Attendance at this session, marks the first step in sponsoring a refugee through ORAT.

Sadly, the limited allocation that we received, will not allow us the prospect of holding another Introduction to Resettlement information session for the General Public for the 2019 submission period. Should this situation change, we will update our website and Facebook page with information on how to register for the information session entitled “Introduction to Resettlement”.

It is the responsibility of the cosponsor/refugee to monitor our website, Facebook page, and Eventbrite page to know when they can register for this session. ORAT does not contact potential

cosponsors/refugees to alert them, nor do we have a waitlist.

For those cosponsors that we have not been able to assist this year, we would encourage you to consider alternative options that may be available, such as Group of 5, Community Sponsorship, or other non-refugee immigration avenues. You may also wish to contact other SAHs in your area to see if they are accepting applications for sponsorship. A listing of SAHs is available on IRCC’s website, click [here](#) to access the link.

Please find below the link to our various social media sites:

[Facebook](#)

[Webpage](#)

[Eventbrite](#)

### Multicultural Day

The students at St. Michael’s Choir Secondary School will be hosting a Multicultural Meet & Greet on June 1st at 2:00 P.M. where the newcomers will be sharing their culture through stories, song, and food in a potluck style. The goal of the event is to build relationships with newcomer families in the city in order to gain understanding and perspective. Newcomer families are encouraged to bring a cultural item to share (e.g. stories, clothing, song and food), though it is not necessary. All participants are invited to attend the 5:00 P.M. Mass at St. Michael’s Cathedral directly afterwards to hear the students sing.

If you are in contact with a Newcomer family that has been sponsored by ORAT, please make them aware of this event and extend an invitation to them on our behalf. We ask that they RSVP for this event by sending an email to [sarah.gallah@tedsb.org](mailto:sarah.gallah@tedsb.org).



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## Newcomer Corner: The Dia Desso Family

Good Shepherd Parish welcomed the Dia Desso family three years ago. Father, mother and four beautiful girls had fled from Côte d'Ivoire where thousands had been killed as a result of civil war. They fled to Ghana seeking safety and protection. In one of ORAT's mission trips, the team met with the family and approximately 1.5 years later, the family boarded a plane to Toronto. It was a joyous day for the newcomer family and for the parish community.

Immediately the parents began attending ESL classes, while the girls began their studies at nearby Catholic Schools. February weather and English proved to be very difficult but they were blessed with good health and plenty of support.

Today, three years later, they are totally independent of assistance. The father loves his work driving a fork lift; the mother remains at home with their baby; the eldest daughter is studying at Seneca College; two of the girls attend St. Josephs Morrow Park and the other will join them next September. The two older girls love their part time job at Toys 'R Us. The family is proud to be living here in Canada and often express their gratitude to ORAT and their sponsors for the opportunities they have been given.

Speaking as the main sponsors, my sister and I have come to dearly love our family. A week never passes without seeing or speaking with them. This picture was taken on July 1, 2018 as we celebrated Canada Day with them.



Newcomer Corner: The Dia Desso Family

## Upcoming Sessions

As part of its mission, ORAT provides information sessions to educate the General Public, Cosponsors, Constituent Groups (CG), and Newcomers about refugee resettlement. A number of different information sessions have been developed that are designed to inform attendees about a specific topic in refugee resettlement.

Given the complexity of resettlement process, ORAT's sessions vary in topics and materials based on the stage of the application. Information is delivered in a simplified, yet professional manner and is tailored to suit people from various backgrounds.

It is essential for all Cosponsors and CG members to attend ORAT's information sessions so that they will be well prepared to resettle their refugee family. Registration can be completed on Eventbrite through the following link:

<http://orat.eventbrite.com>

Eventbrite®

## Get to Know ORAT Staff



Hi! My name is Camille Lacaba and I am absolutely thrilled to be the newest addition to ORAT's dynamic team.

It's been an exciting couple of months for me, having recently moved to Canada from the Philippines four months ago.

In 2012, I graduated from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Sciences. Prior to joining ORAT, I served as an Emigrant Services Officer at the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO). The CFO is the principal government agency in the Philippines that is tasked with safeguarding and promoting the interests, rights, and well-being of migrants abroad. My work focused primarily on the protection of Filipino marriage migrants; identifying and assisting individuals who may be suspected victims of human trafficking in the guise of marriage. Over the past ten years, more than 237,000 Filipinos left the country as marriage migrants, many of whom fell prey to predatory practices and sexual exploitation.

While working for government, I was also the Philippine focal

point for Metropolis Asia; an international partnership of government and non-government agencies that advocates proactive responses to global migration's most pressing issues.

It has always been my desire to learn more about the refugee crisis and become involved in finding solutions for their safe and responsible migration. For this reason, I greatly value this opportunity to work under the Office for Refugees and contribute to ORAT's commitment to save lives, protect human dignity, and rebuild the dreams of survivors of armed conflict and violence.

If you'd like to drop a quick hello, you can reach me by email at [clacaba@archtoronto.org](mailto:clacaba@archtoronto.org) or by phone at 416.934.3400 x808

Maria Camille T. Lacaba  
*Resettlement Assistant, ORAT*

## Volunteering Opportunities for Data Entry Operators are available at ORAT (Reference: #V-DE01)

The Office for Refugees is seeking talented volunteers to update and maintain information in our databases and computer systems (MS Excel).

Data entry operator responsibilities include collecting and entering data into our database, maintaining an accurate record of each refugee case. Ideal candidates have essential data entry skills, including the ability to type fast, with an eye for detail, and familiarity with spreadsheets and PDF forms.

If you are interested, please send your resume to the Resettlement Educator at:

[Halgebraeel@archtoronto.org](mailto:Halgebraeel@archtoronto.org)



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### Data Entry Operator - Volunteering Opportunity

Reference: #V-DE01

The Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT), is seeking talented volunteers to update and maintain information in our database and computer systems (MS Excel). Responsibilities include collecting and entering data, ensuring for an accurate record of client information. Ideal candidates have essential data entry skills, including the ability to type fast with an eye for detail and familiarity with spreadsheets and PDF forms.

**General Requirements:**

- Must be at least 18 years old;
- Ability to work independently and reliably is essential;
- Excellent attention to detail;
- Proficiency in using MS Office Programs (Excel, Word, Outlook);
- Proficiency in creating and handling PDF documents;
- Some knowledge of database management is an asset;
- Able to communicate in French and/or Arabic is an asset.

**Time Commitment Required**  
Potential volunteers are asked to communicate their availability. We are flexible in accommodating varying schedules but require roughly 7 hours per week. Office hours are Monday to Friday (9:00am – 5:00pm).

**Number of positions available: 3**  
If you are interested, please send your resume to the Resettlement Educator at [halgebraeel@archtoronto.org](mailto:halgebraeel@archtoronto.org)

# Questions and Answers

## 1. What happens if refugee(s) being sponsored have personal assets? How should these be taken into account in determining the level of income support?

Personal assets are things that persons might own before arriving in Canada, or have in their possession when they arrive to Canada. Refugees receiving financial support are expected to provide information about their funds and assets as this may impact the level of financial support that is to be provided. It is important to note that financial support cannot be withheld or stopped if the newcomer is unwilling to disclose their personal assets. If there is a reason to believe that the newcomer has not disclosed his personal assets, ORAT and the IRCC are able to assist.

Cosponsors and Constituent Groups (CGs) may factor personal assets into the required levels of financial support they provide. The standards for use of personal assets should follow the same standards as the Resettlement

Assistance Program (RAP). While Cosponsors may choose to provide a higher level of income support, we ask that CGs who are making use of Project Hope funds direct all personal assets that over and above the personal assets exemption (see below) toward the newcomer's expenses, thereby lowering the Project Hope fund that are required. This will help ensure that we are able to help as many refugees as possible with the limited donations that have been so generously donated by so many.

The table below reflects the minimum personal assets that refugees can retain under the

RAP support guidelines without affecting the amount of income support they may receive. Any assets over and above the specified amount may be factored in when determining the level of income support needed.

We encourage Cosponsors & CG's to make use of the "[Declaration of Funds and Assets on Arrival of Privately Sponsored Refugees](#)" form in order to determine the value of the newcomer's personal assets and the income support that is needed.

| Family composition        | Personal Asset Exemption (CAD) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Single person             | \$5,000                        |
| Couple                    | \$7,500                        |
| Single plus one dependant | \$7,500                        |
| Each additional dependant | \$2,500                        |

## 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. <https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/>

## Join us on Facebook

Become a member of the ORAT Facebook Page to get the latest news and updates on resettlement issues. Please visit our [Facebook page](#)

## 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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