



ORAT’s Sponsor Resource Toolbox

As part of our continued effort to support sponsors in their work to settle and integrate newcomers to Canada, we have put together a toolbox of information about various aspects of settlement, as well as links to some of the most commonly provided services for newcomers. This information has been compiled into a kit entitled

the “Sponsor Resource Toolbox”, and is intended to be a quick reference tool for Constituent Groups (CGs) and Cosponsors to locate services for their newcomers. It is our hope that along with the CG Handbook, the Sponsor Resource Toolbox will assist CGs and Cosponsors in the work of settling newcomers within the Archdiocese of Toronto.



The Sponsor Resource Toolbox is a searchable pdf document, and is designed to be as accessible as possible. By simply clicking on the relevant subject matter in the Table of Contents, the user is automatically brought to the corresponding section in the toolbox.

To access this document, click on the link below and select the “Resources” tab on ORAT’s website, then choose “Sponsor Resource Toolbox”

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

We hope that you find this toolbox to be a helpful resource in your work to support your newcomer. If you have any feedback and/or suggestions to improve this document, please contact us at (416) 934-3400 x804 or by email at oratoutreach@archtoronto.org

Update on Travel Resumption to Canada for Sponsored Refugees

Source: *Extract from RSTP’s July 3, 2020 Bulletin*

IRCC has advised that they are able to resume booking travel to Canada for sponsored refugees located in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Before travel from other countries can resume, IRCC:

has advised that all the following criteria must be met for each country

1. The Canadian Migration Office that is responsible for the host country has resumed regular operations;
2. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is able to provide assistance and pre-departure services in the host country;
3. The host government can issue documents, such as exit permits, and the refugees can move freely within the host country so they can travel to the airport; and,
4. There are flights available from the host country to Canada.

Before booking travel to Canada, IRCC will contact the sponsors and the refugees via email to confirm that:

- The sponsors are able to welcome and support the refugees they have sponsored;
- The sponsors have made suitable arrangements to ensure the refugees are able to comply with the 14-day quarantine (self-isolation) requirements for asymptomatic persons entering Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
- The refugees are willing to travel to Canada during the pandemic.

Sponsors should wait to be contacted by IRCC, as travel to Canada from other countries will resume at different times throughout the year (once all the four conditions outlined above are met by each host

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Immigration Canada Resumes Refugee Travel to Canada

Source: Extract from RSTP's July 17, 2020 Bulletin

As travel to Canada starts to resume for sponsored refugees, it is important for sponsors to understand the Government of Canada's entry requirements that are currently in effect to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The requirements are mandatory and must be followed by anyone entering or arriving Canada by land, rail, sea or air. This includes refugees that are sponsored to Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR), the Blended Visa Officer Referred (BVOR), the Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS) and the Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) programs.

Sponsors have a responsibility to make arrangements that will enable the refugees to comply with the entry requirements when they arrive at their final destination in the community of settlement.

Persons arriving in Canada without signs or symptoms of COVID-19 must quarantine for a minimum of 14 days immediately on arrival in a place where:

- They will have access to food and medication; and,
- They will have no contact with vulnerable people.

They must also:

- Wear a non-medical mask or face covering while travelling to the place they will quarantine;
- Go directly to their place of quarantine without stopping anywhere (such as grocery stores, gas stations or other public areas);
- Arrange for someone to pick up food, medication and any other basic essentials that are required;
- Monitor their health for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19;
- Not have any visitors during the 14-day quarantine period; and,
- Stay in a private place, such as a yard or balcony, if they go outside for fresh air

If persons without symptoms on arrival in Canada develop any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 during the mandatory 14-day quarantine period, they must:

- Isolate themselves from others;
- Call a health care professional or a public health authority, explain their symptoms to them and follow their instructions; and,

- Start the 14-day quarantine period again from the date they showed symptoms.

Persons arriving in Canada with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 must isolate for 14 days immediately.

- Sponsored refugees with symptoms on arrival will either:
 - Be taken to a Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) facility where they can isolate for the 14-day period; or,
 - Be taken to a hospital if they require immediate medical care and assistance.

Please click on the following link and choose "July 17, 2020" to access bulletin, which contains many useful links: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/bulletins/>

RSTP Resource Kit

In preparation for the resumption of refugee travel to Canada, the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP) has developed a Resource Kit for refugee sponsors. We ask that all cosponsors and CGs, who are expecting the arrival of a refugee, read this document. Immigration Canada will contact sponsors of travel-approved refugees, prior to travel arrangements being made, to confirm that the sponsor is ready to receive the refugee, and is able to fulfil the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement. This resource kit outlines the various things that need to be incorporated into the quarantine plan. The plan will need to communicate to the refugee prior to their travel to Canada.

To access this document, click on the link below and select the "Resources" tab on ORAT's website, then choose "Travel Resumption Resource Kit for Sponsors"

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

Guidance for Private Sponsors Regarding COVID-19

Source: Extract from RSTP Document entitled *Guidance for Private Sponsors Regarding COVID-19*

IRCC acknowledges the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the sponsorship community. Sponsors have an important role to play in ensuring that newcomers continue to receive the standard levels of support while taking into account COVID-19 specific guidelines created by governments at all levels. Please find below, a number of resources that will be a help to sponsors as they work to settle their newcomer.

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Guidance for Private Sponsors Regarding COVID-19

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- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC): Visit PHAC's website to obtain the latest public health information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources.html>;
- Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP): We encourage sponsors to visit RSTP's website to obtain PSR specific updates and resources: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/>.
- Service Provider Organizations (SPO): SPOs are an invaluable resource for cosponsors. While, most settlement services are operating at reduced capacity, with the focus being on critical settlement and resettlement services (primarily Resettlement Assistance Program and case management), some organizations may be offering other limited services based on their capacity to do so. A list of all Service Provider Organizations (SPOs) can be found on the IRCC website <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/services/index.asp>
- SettleNet.org: SettleNet.org is an online platform for Canada's immigrant and refugee serving sector where sector staff, leaders and those in related fields can learn, share, connect and collaborate. It contains information on a wide variety of settlement topics that sponsors may find useful. Sponsors who are interested in accessing SettleNet are invited to visit settle.net and register.

To access RSTP's complete document entitled "Guidance for Private Sponsors Regarding COVID-19, please click on the following link:

<http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Guidance-for-Private-Sponsors-Regarding-COVID-July-2020.pdf>

Success Story from Holy Rosary Church

Nora is a refugee from the Central African Republic (CAR) who was sponsored by Holy Rosary Church. She arrived in Toronto on July 11, 2019.



From left to right: Chris Ann from ORAT, Nora, Anneliese Blackwell, Alisia Sabatini, Udo Kaul and Ray Boyce.

Nora was born in the CAR and lived a good life there until the Civil War. In 2014 Antibalaka militia attacked Bangui, the capital, including her family's house. Her Christian family had sheltered two Muslims and were therefore treated as traitors. The house was destroyed and Nora was captured, but managed to escape after three days in captivity. Her parents and siblings fled in different directions and their whereabouts are still unknown.

She then started a long and arduous journey working her way from CAR to Cameroon, through Nigeria and finally to a UN refugee camp in Ghana. She left Bangui on February 19, 2014 and arrived 390 km later on March 21, 2014. Nora then spent over five years living in the UN Camp, finding work outside the camp to get by.

Nora came to Canada with a degree in business from a college in Bangui. As French is the national language in the CAR, she was educated in French. So when she arrived, she was

referred to the Centre Francophone for assistance with her settlement. Nora lived for the first month with the son and daughter-in-law of a HRC parishioner which she enjoyed very much. She attended ESL classes and soon found part time work at the Alchemy Pickle Company. In mid-August she rented a small but cozy basement apartment. By November she found a job working full time in a paper factory. Her ability to perform the challenging shift work alternating from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shows her strong work ethic and desire to succeed in this country.

With this job, Nora was financially self-sufficient after four months in Canada. In February of this year, she found a better position in the offices of the Centre Francophone. She now works from home during the pandemic, and shares a house in Scarborough with a friend. Nora is much admired by her sponsors and she in turn is very grateful to ORAT and Holy Rosary Church. Happy Anniversary to Nora on July 11!

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

In preparation for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which takes place on September 27, 2020, we have provided a number of items that explore this year's theme, which is dedicated to the pastoral care of Internally Displaced People. Click on the following link to read Pope Francis' message for this year 106th "World Day of Migrant and Refugees".



http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20200513_world-migrants-day-2020.html?fbclid=IwAR3uGBTKf5UEkkljWxowRfG99B-IOmX66dPfJtoLgvZMv99Zouw9rE2zzQ

The Holy Father's message, focuses on the pastoral care of internally displaced persons who currently number over 41 million worldwide, and whose suffering has only been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. We have provided two other items that explore this year's theme, "Forced Like Jesus Christ to flee" which is dedicated to the pastoral care of Internally Displaced People. Please click on the following links to view the videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdN2vFMkqWU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oS5SvUWlsZo>

Education Updates

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office for Refugees of the Archdiocese of Toronto has moved all information sessions to an on-line webinar format. Until further notice, the office will not be holding any in-person information sessions.

For those not familiar with a webinar format, a webinar is an on-line, live virtual event that provides a two-way audio/visual communication between the speaker and attendees. Registration for these events will continue through ORAT's <http://orat.eventbrite.com/> page. Attendees will receive a confirmation link 48 hours before the webinar start, which they are to use to access the event.



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

ORAT Website

Please visit ORAT's website to learn more about the PSR program, and to access an array of tools and resources that we have made available to assist CGs and cosponsors. Click on the following link to access our website:

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

The Office for Refugees is Supported by



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