

Media Release – For Immediate Distribution

Justin Di Ciano sponsors Syrian refugee family through “Project Hope” and launches ‘The Etobicoke Challenge’ urging Etobicoke-Lakeshore residents and businesses to support 100 day campaign

TORONTO, October 29, 2015 – Moved by the continuing Syrian refugee crisis, Justin Di Ciano is urging local residents and businesses in Etobicoke-Lakeshore to join in sponsoring refugees from the Middle East through donations and volunteer engagement.

The worsening plight of Syrian refugees continues to see no end, and shocking images of families torn apart by civil war has roused worldwide outrage and struck a particular chord with Torontonians.

In partnership with the Archdiocese of Toronto, Justin Di Ciano has made a \$30,000 pledge towards Project Hope in order to sponsor a Syrian family for settlement in the Greater Toronto Area.

“The Archdiocese has taken a strong leadership role on this important humanitarian effort”, said Mr. Di Ciano. “My goal is to raise awareness and help support the Archdiocese in their target of raising \$3 million by mid-December to settle 100 refugee families within the Greater Toronto Area as soon as possible.”

“This campaign is going to take more than just financial assistance and there are many ways we can get involved,” said Di Ciano. “In order for ‘Project Hope’ to succeed we need to establish 100 volunteer committees in the GTA to prepare for the arrival of these refugee families.”

The Archdiocese will prioritize refugees fleeing war and violence in areas of greatest need, including Syria and Iraq, regardless of religious affiliation. Since 2009 the Archdiocese has worked to resettle 3,100 refugees. Families that will be sponsored through Project Hope have already been identified for travel to Canada, with some expected to arrive in early 2016.

In support of ‘Project Hope’, Justin Di Ciano is launching ‘The Etobicoke Challenge’ with a goal of raising \$250,000 by December 15, 2015, in addition to asking residents to work through churches, corporations and community groups to establish volunteer committees of 6-10 people prepared to make a one year volunteer commitment to journey with sponsored families. To donate, volunteer or learn more about Project Hope, visit www.archtoronto.org/projecthope or contact the Archdiocese of Toronto’s Office for Refugees at: (416) 645-0827.

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