



December 18, 2015

My dear friends,

I wish to express my deep gratitude to all those who have supported the Project Hope emergency refugee resettlement campaign. Over the last 100 days, \$3.1 million has been raised to support resettlement efforts. This is a tremendous accomplishment and I thank all donors for this tangible demonstration of assistance for refugee families in great need.

I also wish to express my profound thanks to the countless volunteers that have formed refugee settlement committees. Many churches have redoubled their sponsorship efforts, with some now welcoming a 2nd or 3rd family to our country. As volunteers, you will welcome and assist our newcomers for a year after their arrival in Canada, serving as ambassadors of hope, friendship and love. Giving of our time is one of the greatest gifts we can offer to those we encounter on life's journey.

It has been wonderful to see the outpouring of support for Project Hope from both our Catholic community and those of other faiths. We have also seen corporations, community groups and individuals beyond our faith community engage in this refugee settlement effort. I extend a special thank you to the many Catholic schools, students and teachers who have mobilized to support Project Hope. It is heartening to see such goodwill and cooperation alive and at work in our archdiocese.

Finally, I extend my thanks to the Archdiocese of Toronto's Office for Refugees. Since 2009, this full-time office has worked quietly yet tirelessly to welcome the stranger among us. Long after the story of refugee arrivals disappear from the headlines, we will be there to welcome those who need us.

Once again, be assured of my gratitude for all those who have supported Project Hope and will walk alongside our refugee families in the weeks and months to come. During this Advent and Christmas season, let us continue to pray for all those persecuted and displaced in so many parts of our world.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Thomas Card. Collins

Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto