



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Office for Refugees’ team would like to extend to you and your family our warmest wishes for a Blessed and Holy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the countless volunteers who have given of their time, talent and treasure to ease the plight of refugees.

May the Lord bless you for your kindness!

Christ is born for us, let us rejoice!

Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which is Christ himself. Jesus is the radiant “day” which has dawned on the horizon of humanity. A day of mercy, in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and reconciliation. A day of joy which radiates from all those who have encountered Christ.



## 2021 Allocations Update

ORAT is pleased to announce that we have completed our submissions for 2021, having used the entirety of the allocation provided to us by Immigration Canada. In total, we have sponsored roughly 700 refugees this year.

Our office has already started to work on 2022 cases, with several information sessions already held.

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## General Public Registration & Information on Operation Afghan Safety

ORAT is pleased to announce the details of the following two refugee resettlement programs. Cosponsors for both programs must reside in the Greater Toronto Area.

1) **General Public Registration:** This program is intended for member of the General Public who wish to sponsor family members who are in need of refugee resettlement. This programs is not intended for cosponsors who are parishioners of Catholic Churches, or of Eastern Rite Catholic or Orthodox churches within the Archdiocese of Toronto, with whom ORAT has developed specific programs for its members; and

2) **Operation Afghan Safety (“OAS”):** This program has been developed in conjunction with Immigration Canada as a response to the unfolding refugee crisis in Afghanistan. This special program is intended to assist those who wish to sponsor an Afghan refugee from specific vulnerable populations, which Immigration Canada has defined.

Online registration will take place simultaneously for both programs and will begin on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 12:01AM and will close on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 11:59PM.

If you wish to sponsor a refugee for either program, please click on the following link:

<https://intro-to-resettlement-public-2022.eventbrite.ca>

Given the expected high level of demand for these programs, registrants will be limited to sponsor 1 (one) family. Families, as defined by the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), are comprised of mother, father and dependent children under the age of 22. Exceptions may be granted to those who wish to sponsor more than one family when there are compelling reasons to do so. Please note that we will not consider any changes to the name of the Cosponsor or the name of the Principal Applicant (i.e., head of the refugee family) once the registration form has been completed.

Also, it is important to note that registering for these programs is NOT a guarantee that you will be able to sponsor through ORAT. Given the limited allocation given to ORAT by Immigration Canada for each program, and the expected large number of registrants, ORAT will be holding a draw for each program. All registrants within each program have an equal chance of being selected and invited to attend the “Introduction to Resettlement” Information Session. Only those with winning draw numbers will be invited to attend the online information session. For those invited, attendance is mandatory, marking the first step in sponsoring a refugee family through this office.

While Refugee sponsorship is not without cost, there is NO fee for registering for this program. However, those cosponsors that are allowed to proceed with the sponsorship process, will be required to deposit 100% of the liability with ORAT prior to the case being submitted to IRCC. These monies are held in trust for the refugee and are disbursed on a quarterly basis upon their arrival to Canada. We ask that you not register if you are unable to deposit the required monies.

The estimated average processing time for Immigration Canada for applications submitted to them in 2022 is 3 years. The table below outlines the estimated cost of sponsorship for refugees that arrive to Canada in 2025. Please note that additional monies are required to sponsor senior citizens. A table of these additional costs has also been provided.

## Sponsorship Cost Table

Family Size	Estimated Sponsorship Cost Assumes a 3 Year Average Processing Time Between Submission and Arrival	
1	\$ 18,900	<p><b>Dependent Adults:</b> Based on an Average Processing Time of 3 years, and using Immigration Canada's ("IRCC") definition, all unmarried children age 15 to 21 will be considered as dependent adults. For the purposes of IRCC forms, dependent adults are considered as part of the family unit, and are to be included in the one set of forms for the family. However, IRCC treats dependent adults differently from a financial perspective, requiring additional monies to be provided for every dependent adult in the family. For example: The finances required for a family of 4 (father, mother, one child age 12, and one child age 18) are to be calculated as a family of 3 + 1 (\$29,900+\$18,900=\$48,800) and not as a family of 4 (\$32,500). Please take this into consideration when calculating the total cost of sponsorship.</p>
2	\$ 27,900	
3	\$ 29,900	
4	\$ 32,500	
5	\$ 35,000	
6	\$ 36,800	
7 of more, for each additional member add	\$1,500	<p><b>Seniors:</b> When sponsoring a senior(s) (age 62 or older) you will be asked to deposit additional funds, in accordance with RAP policy.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If, at or prior to the time of arrival, financial liabilities (RAP Rates) are higher than the estimated figures presented herein, cosponsors will be required to deposit additional funds with the Archdiocese of Toronto.</p>

## Additional Funds Required for Seniors

Single Senior (Without Dependents)	Single Senior (With Dependents)	Couple (1 Senior) (With or Without Dependents)	Couple (2 Seniors) (With or Without Dependents)
\$ 5,800	\$ 8,100	\$ 8,300	\$ 13,200

The funds required to sponsor a senior or seniors is to be added to the sponsorship cost for the corresponding family size outlined in the Sponsorship Cost Table.

## Questions & Answers (Q&A)

Source RSTP Bulletin November 19, 2021

**Q. What criteria does the visa office consider in determining which sponsorship case file is selected in queue/for review? Is the principle of first-in first-out (FIFO) applied in processing cases?**

**A.** Yes, the principle of first in, first out is the primary principle for processing in the PSR caseload. In very rare circumstances, where the vulnerability of the client or where there is an emergent protection requirement usually associated with refoulement, usually flagged by UNHCR, IRCC will prioritize those cases. The Minister's office may request to prioritize the resettlement of populations using a public policy. Please note that the UNHCR only flags GAR cases, for PSR cases, the sponsors must attach additional documentation to the application to flag the case.

For more detailed information regarding Cases for Priority or Special Processing, please visit the Government of Canada website: [HERE](#)

To understand how "vulnerable" cases may be defined and for examples of some emergent protection needs/requirements, please read our document: [HERE](#)

**Q. Checking one's application status on the government website does not seem to work or have any useful information. Is there a better solution for refugees who are concerned for the delay in their application?**

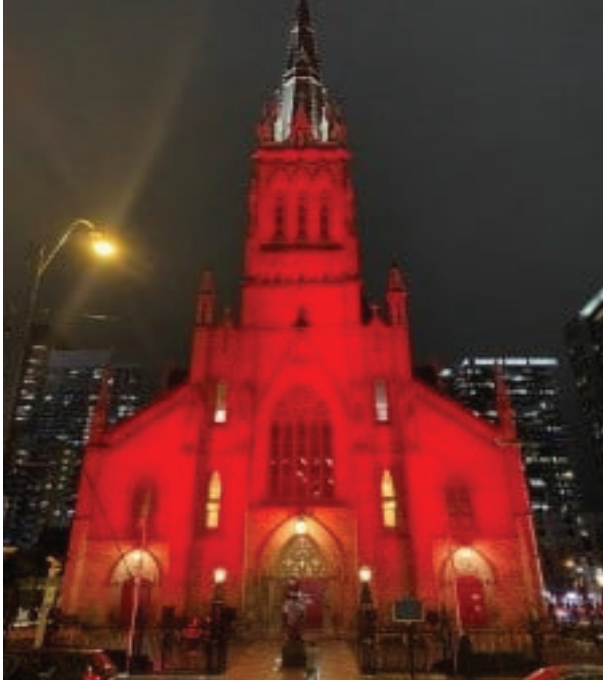
**A.** Processing times have been made worse during the pandemic. IRCC are aware that much of the information online regarding processing times is out of date. They (IRCC) are actively working with colleagues in their department to see how they can better reflect those challenges into the stated published processing times.

The online tool provides a general idea of where your application might be at but not where it might be in terms of the refugee processing stage. If you still have not received information about where your application is at **after 6 months**, please contact the IRCC Call Center.

They can and do follow up with missions for updates and they are the most reliable resource available to sponsors at this time. As you can appreciate, the inquiries within all levels of the department are through the roof. At this time, the call center is the best available information that we collectively have access to right now.

## Red Wednesday Honours Persecuted Christians

St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica once again stood up for persecuted Christians — one of dozens of cathedrals around the world illuminated for Red Wednesday. On a night dedicated to modern martyrs, Cardinal Thomas Collins urged Christians to “thank God for the gift of martyrs” and to “imitate them.” Click [here](#) to read the full article.



### 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)

### 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>

The Office for Refugees is Supported by

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