

Hello,

Thank you for inquiring about the sponsorship of refugees. MCC is one of over 100 Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) in Canada. Each year, the Canadian Government (IRCC) sets a limited number of spaces for the total number of refugees we can sponsor. With the limited spaces IRCC allocates us, MCC in turn is limited in the number of requests we can take on.

HOW DO I SPONSOR A REFUGEE THAT I KNOW OVERSEAS?

MCC works in relationship with **Sponsorship Groups** and, as the SAH, MCC is responsible to ensure that the Sponsorship Groups are equipped and have the capacity to provide refugees with adequate support for successful settlement and integration into their new community in Canada.

WHAT IS A SPONSORSHIP GROUP?

A Sponsorship Group is a committed group of at least five people living in the same community in which the refugee/newcomers will live. The Sponsorship Group members will, combined, have the resources (funds and volunteers) to support the newcomers for 12 months or until they become self-supporting (whichever comes first).

MCC works with faith communities and diverse groups of sponsors across British Columbia. These include our constituency churches, other faith groups and variously constituted “groups” for example neighbours and/or friends; family and/or families; workplace colleagues etc.

You must gather a minimum of 5 to 8 people (depending on the number of persons being sponsored) before MCC will consider the submission of your sponsorship. Our staff will walk you through every step of the process from pre-arrival sponsor orientations to supporting the refugee/newcomers through their settlement when they arrive.

WHO CAN BE SPONSORED?

Resettlement to Canada may not be an available option for every refugee. Sponsorship is considered for person/s fleeing their countries because of:

- Having a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and
- Being outside of the country of his/her nationality, and
- is unable to avail him/herself of the protection of that country

In these cases, since there is no other long-term solution, resettlement to Canada can be an option.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS REQUIRED?

The Canadian government has determined the minimum monthly financial amount that must be provided to the refugee(s) on a monthly basis during their first year in Canada, that is equal to the current **RAP (Refugee Assistance Program) Rates***. The chart and the Minimum Financial Support calculator are available online at www.rstp.ca

**Please note that this minimum may not meet the cost of living in your community and more finances may realistically be needed.*

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

We open for sponsorship inquiries from mid January each year, for two weeks.

During this period, if:

- you have a sponsorship group in place *and*

- the finances required for sponsorship *and*
- the refugees you want to sponsor are registered with the UNHCR

then you can fill out our request form for consideration for refugee sponsorship. [Please find the request form here.](#)

For 2021, we will accept requests for sponsorship from **January 15 to January 31**

NOTE: due to the large number of sponsorship inquiries and the limited number of spaces, we cannot accommodate everyone who submits an inquiry. For updates on the process check our website:

[Request Form](#)

IS THERE ANOTHER WAY TO SPONSOR A REFUGEE?

For those who would want to explore other options, consider **Group of Five** or **Community Sponsorship**.

To sponsors through the Group of Five or Community Sponsorship Avenues, the Refugee Sponsorship and Training Program (RSTP) will assist in guiding you through the process. For details, check out www.rstp.ca

Alternatively, you can reach out to other Sponsorship Agreement Holders in the area.

Here is the link to the list of SAHs: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-outside-canada/private-sponsorship-program/agreement-holders/holders-list.html>

Wishing you the best in search of a durable solution for refugees in need of protection.

MCC Refugee Team