



# The Canadian Refugee Sponsorship Agreement Holders Association

8 December 2016

Dear Minister McCallum,

The Canadian Refugee Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH) Council is disconcerted that, at this very late point in the year, you have not announced an annual global cap, which starts the process for individual allocations to SAHs for their 2017 sponsorships. We know that you value the work SAHs do to arrange sponsorships for a large proportion of Canada's resettled refugees each year and to provide for their settlement needs for 12 months. The integrity of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program (PSRP) depends on SAHs being able to make arrangements with constituent groups and co-sponsors and to promote the program to the Canadian public, and it takes time to do all this properly. SAHs are also frontline communicators between the public and IRCC about the PSRP, so when the program does not operate as it should we do not know what to say to the thousands of Canadians who want to be private sponsors.

SAHs were, for the most part, sympathetic to the delay last year (which stretched into May of this year), given the establishment of the new government and the extraordinary efforts regarding the Syrian resettlement, but we cannot understand the lack of a 2017 cap and allocations this year, and the absence of any explanation for the delay. This lack of clarity late in the year, for the third year in a row, seems to many to be the pattern rather than the exception.

We hope that you will address this situation very quickly.

Sincerely,

Brian Dyck

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Paulette Johnson

Sabine Lehr

Scott McLeod

Rob Shropshire

Donald Smith

Rebecca Walker