



MCC Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

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How do I sponsor a refugee that I
know overseas?

As a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is given a limited number of spaces for refugee sponsorship each year by the Canadian government.

MCC works in relationship with Sponsorship Groups and, as the SAH, MCC is responsible for ensuring 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 who live in the same community in which the newcomers will live. The Sponsorship Group members will have the combined resources (financial resources and volunteers) to support the newcomers for 12 months or until they become self supporting (which ever comes first).

MCC works with faith communities and diverse groups of sponsors across Ontario. You must gather a minimum of 5 people 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 newcomers through their settlement when they arrive. Refugees can be sponsored by groups who are made up of any of the following:

- Faith Groups
- Neighbours and/or Friends
- Family and/or Families
- Workplace Colleagues



WHO CAN BE SPONSORED?

Resettlement to Canada may not be the best option for every refugee. Sponsorship is considered for people fleeing their countries because of:

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

While resettlement to Canada may be the only option for some of the refugees, it is important to note that less than 1% of the refugees get resettled.



HOW MUCH MONEY IS REQUIRED?

The Canadian government has outlined a minimum 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/calc

*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 **January 1-8** each year. During that week, you must have 3 criteria in place:

- Have a sponsorship group in place *and*
- Have the finances required for sponsorship *and*
- The refugees you want to sponsor are registered with the UNHCR

When these criteria are met, you can send an email to us for consideration for refugee sponsorship. Please email your request to **refugee@mcco.ca**.

NOTE: due to the large number of sponsorship inquiries and the limited number of spaces, we will not be able to work with everyone who submits an inquiry.





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>

mcco.ca/supporting-refugees

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

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