![Mennonite Central Committee logo]

Refugee Sponsorship - Month 13 Planning

We know that many of our refugee newcomers across the province are keen to find employment and become self-sufficient. Over the years we have seen that refugee newcomers often find employment through accessing the sponsorship group's personal networks. The below is some additional information that may be useful as you support refugee newcomers through the time of transition to independence.

- **Learning English is a priority -** It is important that sponsorship groups continue to encourage and support newcomers to intentionally work at learning English as that is critical to their long term success in this country.

- Here are a couple helpful links that may be helpful in transitions to the **workforce**:
    - The Ontario government has a helpful website with various links that can guide newcomers as they consider: entering various trades/professions, accessing the credential assessment process, linking to various supports, etc. http://www.ontarioimmigration.ca/en/working/index.htm
    - A couple commonly used job listing sites are www.workopolis.com ; www.indeed.ca ; www.ontario.ca/page/jobs-and-employment ; www.jobbank.gc.ca
    - There are many local service agencies across the province that help people find work or start their own small business. These agencies are equipped to connect newcomers to various training and other supports for which they may be eligible. To find them in your area, try a google search of "employment agency" or contact 211

- Refugee newcomers who come to Canada through the Private Sponsorship Program are not eligible for Ontario **income support programs** until **after** the first year of sponsorship support. Should financial assistance be required after the first year, the below are two options to consider.
    - For information on accessing Ontario Works see: http://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/programs/social/ow
    - For information on Ontario Disability Support Program see: http://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/programs/social/odsp