



BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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Exciting BVOR incentive for SAHs

IRCC has developed a special time-limited incentive for SAHs which sponsor BVOR cases between November 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019. For each BVOR case a SAH sponsors during this time, they will receive an additional PSR SAH cap space in 2019.

For example, if a SAH sponsors a BVOR family of three, they will receive additional cap space for three PSR applicants. The additional PSR spaces will be given out after April 30th. SAHs can use the spaces to submit additional PSR applications starting May 1st, 2019. The spaces can be carried over into future years. The additional spaces cannot be traded among SAHs. They can only be used by the SAH that sponsored the BVOR that resulted in the additional space or spaces.

This special initiative recognizes the efforts of the SAHs who sponsor BVOR refugees and will maximize BVOR spaces in 2019.

The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as the most vulnerable in need of resettlement. It is called blended because it is a cost sharing arrangement. Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provides up to six months of income support for the newcomers, while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support, start-up costs and up to one year of social and emotional support.

UPDATE: Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) rates

IRCC reports that there are no planned increases for RAP income support rates for 2019. The rates are expected to stay the same this year. However, if there are increases to provincial social assistance then the rates may need to be matched under RAP.

To view the RAP rates for your province visit <http://www.rstp.ca/en/sponsorship-responsibilities/resettlement-assistance-program-rap-rates/>

Mark your calendars!

The first batch of BVOR profiles for 2019 will be available on the RSTP BVOR matching database on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 1:00 pm EST.

Log in with your user name and password, or contact bvor@rstp.ca for access.



Photo: Human Rights Watch

Big events in your life can also help refugees



When Toronto residents Natasha Carew and Sean Ritchie got married in 2017, they asked their guests for an unusual wedding gift: to help them sponsor a refugee family through the BVOR program. Seeing photos of Aleppo in ruins following the 2016 bombing had got Natasha, a lawyer, wondering what she could do to help. She found RSTP and the BVOR program after a quick internet search of the words “private sponsorship Canada.”

They created a pamphlet for their wedding guests about refugee sponsorship, the BVOR program and their own sponsorship plans. Then they invited them to get involved by joining their Group of Five, donating money, volunteering to help the refugees get settled, or just signing up for news on the sponsorship.

“I would like to see more people our age getting involved in something like this,” says Natasha of their experience as refugee sponsors. She sees the big events in life, such as birthday parties and retirement parties, as opportunities for involving friends and neighbours in refugee sponsorship. “It’s humbling to see the impact,” says Sean. “Just imagine all the other families that are out there needing sponsors.”

BLENDED VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

For more information, visit www.rstp.ca
or email bvor@rstp.ca

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CCS
Catholic Crosscultural Services



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Lifeline Syria BVOR funds are still available!

Thanks to a donation of nearly \$500,000 from the Lifeline Syria Fund (hosted by the Toronto Foundation), sponsorship groups across Canada will be able to sponsor UNHCR-referred Syrian refugees to Canada. Lifeline Syria funds have been donated by generous Canadians from all backgrounds.

Through this initiative, the start-up costs and half of the first year of the newcomer’s income support will be covered by the Lifeline Syria Fund. The Government of Canada will provide the other 6 months of income support for the sponsored Syrian newcomers under the BVOR program. Private sponsors will provide up to one year of social, emotional and logistical settlement support.



Through the BVOR program:

You will save a life.

The Canadian government will share the costs of sponsorship.

The refugees will arrive in a few weeks.