

# About Private Sponsorship

# MVRRT / METRO VANCOUVER REFUGEE RESPONSE TEAM

## Two Routes To Private Sponsorship

Private Sponsorship of refugees occurs primarily within two of Canada's three refugee classifications.

- ✘ **Government Assisted Refugees** are referred to Canada by an organization such as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Their first year of settlement is supported by the Government of Canada.
- ✔ **Privately Sponsored Refugees** are referred for resettlement by a private sponsor who agrees to provide financial and other support for the refugee for one year. Over 90% are family reunification cases, but refugees must conform to criteria.
- ✔ **Blended Visa Office Referred Refugees** are Convention refugees matched with a private sponsor. The Federal Government provides up to six months of income support, while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support and up to a year of social and emotional support.

## Strength In Numbers

There are also several ways for Canadians to band together as refugee sponsors.

A growing number of **community organizations** sponsor refugees to come to Canada. The organization must agree to give emotional and financial support to the refugees for the full sponsorship period — usually one year.

A **Group of Five** is five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents who have arranged to sponsor a refugee to come to Canada under similar terms to a community organization.

A group such as a religious, ethnic, community or service organization can become a **Sponsorship Agreement Holder**, and sponsor a refugee individually or in concert with others.

The **Blended Visa Office Referred Program (BVORP)** engages a three-way partnership between the Government of Canada, the UNHCR and private sponsors to facilitate the arrival of Blended Visa Office Referred Refugees.

## Help is at Hand

It's important to know that as a sponsor you will be one of hundreds, and there are many resources to help you.

In Metro Vancouver refugees and their sponsors are supported by groups such as **MOSAIC, ISSofBC, North Shore Multicultural Society, Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and many others.**

These agencies have numerous programs to support refugees, and many of them also have services and events to support sponsors. The **Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)** program can be found in almost every school district. These groups provide a wide range of support - counselling, English language classes, skills training, job search, etc. To help you find refugee services and supports in your city, the **MVRRT** has built an on-line database: [www.metrovanrrt.ca/refugee-programs-services/](http://www.metrovanrrt.ca/refugee-programs-services/)

The **Refugee Readiness Hub** ([www.refugeehub.issbc.org](http://www.refugeehub.issbc.org)) provides information on current and projected numbers of refugees to BC and lists many valuable tools and resources for sponsors.

**Refugee Sponsorship Training Program** website ([www.rstp.ca](http://www.rstp.ca)) is another excellent source of information, it holds guides and videos on application processes and the sponsorship process, settlement planning, and roles and responsibilities.

## What is Expected of Sponsors?

These are some of the responsibilities during the sponsorship period:

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, go to: [www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/)



## WHAT SPONSORS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR:

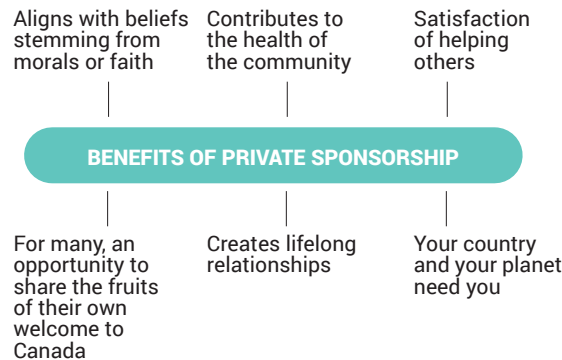
- Costs occurring outside of your designated sponsorship period
- Any debts that the sponsored newcomers incur
- Costs of attending private schools
- Travel loan repayments
- Any crimes or offenses committed by the sponsored newcomers

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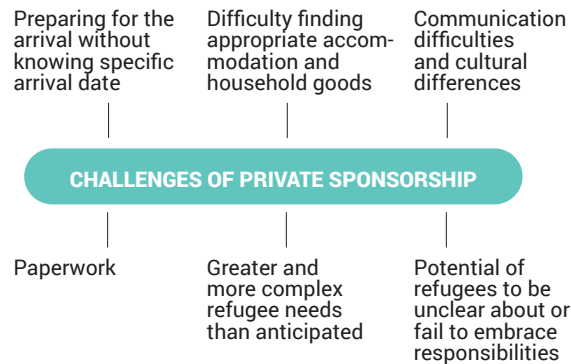
### Why Sponsor Refugees?

There are many reasons why individuals become refugee sponsors. This is just a small sampling of the motivations and benefits that sponsors have identified:



### Some of the Challenges Involved

The happiest and most successful sponsors are prepared for these and other challenges:



## About the Metro Vancouver Refugee Response Team

The MVRRT was established in early 2016, with funding from the Government of British Columbia. The MVRRT Vision is that

**"All refugees in Metro Vancouver have access to the information, services and supports to ease their settlement and expedite their integration into the community."**

Membership represents organizations spread throughout the region and across a diverse sphere of activities.

## The Metro Vancouver Refugee Response Team

*These Member Organizations provide guidance, leadership and oversight to the MV RRT. Collectively they developed the Action Plan that will guide the activities of the MV RRT for 2016-17.*

- MOSAIC – MV RRT Contract Manager
- PEERs Inc. – Project Consultants
- Back in Motion Rehab, Inc.
- BC Alliance for Manufacturing
- BC Centre for Ability
- BC Construction Association (BCCA)
- BC Muslim Association
- Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC
- Burnaby Board of Trade (BBOT)
- Burnaby Community Services
- Burnaby Family Life
- Burnaby Public Library
- Burnaby School District 41
- Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- City of Burnaby
- City of New Westminster
- City of Vancouver
- Coast Mental Health
- Coquitlam Public Library (CPL)
- Douglas College
- Fraser Health
- Immigrant Employment Council of BC
- Islamic Society of British Columbia
- ISSofBC
- Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver
- Lower Mainland Purpose Society for Youth and Families
- New Westminster School District 40
- North Shore Multicultural Services (NSMS)
- Pacific Immigrant Resources Society
- Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS)
- Richmond School District 38
- Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- South Asian Community Coalition Against Youth Violence
- Syrian Canadian Council of BC
- Syrian Community Network
- United Church
- Vancity
- Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Society
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Vancouver School Board (VSB)
- YWCA Metro Vancouver

### Tell Us What You Think

Was this information helpful?

Email us at: [sspindari@mosaicbc.com](mailto:sspindari@mosaicbc.com) to let us know if this fact sheet was useful to you, or if you have suggestions for further content.

### More Info

For more info on the MVRRT, check out our website at <http://metrovanrrt.ca> or contact **Saleem Spindari, MVRRT Project Manager.**  
T: 604.254.9626 ext. 226  
E: [sspindari@mosaicbc.com](mailto:sspindari@mosaicbc.com)

To find out more about refugee resettlement in B.C., visit the BC Refugee Readiness Hub at <http://refugeehub.issbc.org>



MOSAIC



WelcomeBC