

# Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI



Private Refugee Sponsorship

Synod Presentation 2017

**The Anglican Diocese of  
Nova Scotia and PEI is a  
Sponsorship Agreement  
Holder**

**“SAH”**

SAHs are organizations that have signed an agreement with Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to privately sponsor refugees

IRCC provides every SAH with a limited number spaces each calendar year for private sponsorship

# What is Private Sponsorship?

Private Sponsorship is the resettlement of refugee(s) to Canada, in which the financial costs of sponsorship and settlement support is provided by private groups or organizations. The commitment is usually for one year.

# Figures at a Glance from UNHCR



# Refugees come to Canada through:



## 1. Inland Processing

Person arrives in Canada and makes refugee claim.

As a signatory to the Geneva Convention, Canada is obligated to offer protection to refugees who arrive on its shores and claim asylum.

## 2. Overseas Processing

Refugees are processed overseas and come to Canada as:

- a) Government Assisted Refugees (GARs)
- b) Blended Visa Office Referred Refugees (BVORs)
- c) Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs)



# How much does it cost to sponsor a family

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>12 Months of Income Support</b>	<b>Start-up Costs</b>	<b>Estimated Total Annual Settlement Cost (\$)</b>
<b>1</b>	10,700	2,800	13,500
<b>2</b>	18,000	4,400	22,400
<b>3</b>	18,900	5,300	24,200
<b>4</b>	21,200	7,000	28,200
<b>5</b>	23,700	7,200	30,900
<b>6</b>	25,700	8,000	33,700
<b>7 or more (for each additional member)</b>	1,550	1,000	2,550

# Role of Groups

- financial support
- airport reception
- housing
- clothing
- food
- transportation
- day-to-day support
- orientation to neighbour and local services
- connecting the refugee(s) to essential programs (SIN, MSI, child tax benefits)





# Other supports

Privately sponsored refugees are Permanent Residents when they arrive in Canada.

They can access free settlement services in their community of settlement, such as:

- Settlement Orientation
- English Classes
- Employment Counselling

# Churches who have sponsored under the Anglican Diocese since 2014:

- All Saints Cathedral – 2 applications;
- St. Paul's Halifax;
- St. George's Halifax – 2 applications;
- St. John's Lunenburg - 2 applications;
- St. Stephen's Chester (application pending);
- Christ Church, Dartmouth;
- St. John's Larry Uteck Blvd;
- Parish of Bridgetown – BVOR sponsorship
- **Note:** There are also a number of Churches and Parishes in the Diocese involved with refugee sponsorship but who partnered with others and have sponsored under a different national or regional SAH

# Family Links and other ex-patriot groups

- The Anglican Diocese and all SAHs only receive a limited number of spots for sponsorship each year. If the spots are not used in that calendar year they may not receive as many the following year.
- Therefore, for any spots not used by an Anglican Church or Parish, we try to facilitate sponsorship by ex-patriot community groups in the Halifax area and family members of refugees who want to sponsor.
- For 2017 we are working in a collaboration with ISANS (Immigrant Settlement Services of Nova Scotia) and the Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax and Yarmouth – to share spots not used by an Anglican Church or Parish.

# For an Anglican Church or Parish to initiate the process of Private Refugee Sponsorship:

- 1. Canvass your Parish for interest and form a group;
- 2. Bring a request to Parish Council to nominate a sponsorship as an official parish outreach initiative and record in Council minutes;
- 3. Establish a bank account with signing officers duly authorized by Parish Council;
- 4. Make contact with the Chair of the Refugee Sponsorship Task Group – [anglicanrefugeesns@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanrefugeesns@gmail.com);
- Divide your group in to sub-groups, i.e. fundraising/financial, housing and contents, transportation, paperwork, etc.

# Current Statistics for the Diocese

- 38 active files;
- 126 people;
- Countries: - Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and Syria
- 40 spots (a spot means one person) are allocated to the Diocese for 2017 – those applications (10 new ones) will have to be prepared and submitted by the end of this year.
- We are working with the Eritrean Association of Nova Scotia, the Ethiopian Association of Nova Scotia, the Sudanese and South Sudan Association of the Maritimes, one Anglican Parish and two Syrian family links.

[http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/page/Refugees.](http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/page/Refugees)

For more information on Private Refugee Sponsorship in the Diocese, please check out the information on the Diocesan website

or email  
[anglicanrefugeesns@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanrefugeesns@gmail.com)



# Refugee Sponsorship: Challenges and successes

Starfish Refugee Project

Chester, NS

<http://www.starfishrefugeeproject.org>





# Challenges

- Expectations (sponsors)
- Expectations (refugees)
- Communication!
- Public perceptions
- “Month 13”





# Successes

- Personal relationship development
- Meeting specific challenges (DIY/rural)
- Integration/settlement (esp. children)
- Creating future opportunities (employment, education)





