

Information Sheet

How to Bring Refugee Relatives to Canada

One Year Window

The one-year window of opportunity provision (OYW) allows Principal Applicants (PAs), who entered Canada under the Convention refugee from abroad class or Country of asylum class, to apply for specific non-accompanying family members within one year of the PA's arrival in Canada.

Non-accompanying family members **must** have been named on the PA's original IMM008 (Generic Application) **and must** be one of the following family members of the principal applicant:

- Spouse
- Common-law partner
- Dependent children, or
- Dependent children of dependent children of the principal applicant.

If family members meet eligibility requirements, they will be processed as either GARs (Government Assisted Refugees) or PSRs (Privately Sponsored Refugees) depending on the stream in which the original principal applicant was processed prior to arrival in Canada.

Privately Sponsored Refugees

If the family member was not named on the IMM008 and does not meet the OYW eligibility, then private sponsorship can be used to bring relatives to Canada. This can be done in one of two ways:

- If the refugee has official refugee status documents from the UNHCR or their country of asylum, then a Group of 5 (5 or more people) or a Community Sponsor (business or organization) can make application to sponsor the family directly to the Canadian government. (see video on how to sponsor refugees through a Group of 5) <http://www.rstp.ca/en/resources/videos/sponsoring-refugees-through-a-group-of-five/>
- If the refugee does not have official refugee status documents, then the sponsor would need to have a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) submit the application. The Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada are a SAH others can be found by selecting the province on this page (note some SAH's are national but are listed under the province of their head office): <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/list-sponsors.asp>

Processing an application through the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (as your SAH)

- The relative (the new Principal Applicant) must be in a country of asylum and meet the other eligibility requirements - <http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugees/are-you-eligible-for-private-sponsorship-to-canada/>
- The sponsor (person bringing the refugees to Canada) must have a group of people committed to assisting with all settlement needs for 12 months after the refugee's arrival in Canada.
- The sponsor must have secured all necessary funding to sponsor the refugee. The private sponsorship cost table: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5413ETOC.asp#appa>
- The SAH must have spaces available to process the application.
 - o SAHs have a limited number of people they can sponsor per year. Those numbers are determined by the government. We usually have a waiting list so it's possible that your application could be delayed 1 – 2 yrs.
- Once the sponsor(s) have formed a group and secured the funding, they can contact our office for advice on next steps.
- Since we are church-based SAH we submit applications through churches (any denomination) who take full responsibility for the sponsorship. Many churches sponsor directly or in partnership with a sponsoring group.