

DIOCESE of RUPERT'S LAND

Mission and Ministry – Refugee Sponsorship - 2022

2022 Activity Report

Due to Immigration's persistent backlog in processing applications of refugees for re-settlement to Canada, Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) were not permitted to submit sponsorship applications until May, 2022. By December, ten applications were submitted for a total of 31 people. The remaining four spaces were allowed to be carried over to 2023.

Refugee-Newcomers arriving in Manitoba totaled 33. Three moved to Saskatchewan after arrival.

2022	Applications Submitted	Arrivals
Holy Trinity	4 applications for 13 People	
st. benedicts table/St. Margaret's	1 application for 2 People	
Crossed Hands	4 application for 10 People	4 arrivals for 8 People
St. Margaret's	1 application for 6 People	6 arrivals for 16 People
St. Mary's la Prairie		1 arrival for a Family of 5
St. Aidan's		1 arrival for a Family of 4

The Federal Government gave each SAH ten spaces to be used for the special Operation Afghan Safety Programme in order to meet its commitment to re-settle Afghani Refugees in Canada. Preliminary work was done when two sources asked for help from the Diocese to sponsor these refugees. However the sponsorship did not materialize.

A major portion of the year was spent attending meetings with IRCC, education sessions, and doing work in preparation for the Organizational Assessment required by IRCC for all Sponsorship Agreement Holders. This is part of the Programme Integrity Framework introduced by the Federal Government to ensure privately sponsored refugees are receiving the financial and settlement supports needed for successful re-settlement, and that sponsors are meeting programme requirements at the levels established by IRCC. It is also an exercise to determine the risk level of each SAH and to ensure we have the resources to monitor sponsors and provide periodic check-ins with newcomers

The Organizational Assessment was completed and submitted in November, and we now await the outcome of IRCC's assessment before signing the new five-year Agreement in June, 2023.

The Annual Meeting of Sponsorship Agreement Holders across Canada was held in a hybrid format, offering representatives the opportunity to meet in person if they chose. I was happy for the chance to attend in person and meet those of the Sponsorship Community whom I had "met" through e-mail communication and Zoom over the prior almost three years.

The third statement in the **Marks of Mission** calls us to;
Respond to Human Need by Loving Service

This is what we seek to do in sponsoring refugees and helping them to re-settle in our communities, providing them with new opportunities to live, work, and worship freely in Canada.

The Diocese is seeking churches/parishes willing to help with sponsoring refugees. Please contact Marlene Smith at refugee@rupertsland.ca for more information.

You may also support this ministry by sending donations to the Diocesan Refugee Fund to help support refugee re-settlement. This fund was established in 2013 after the death of the Rev. Jim Wolf, who supported refugees.

Thank you to all parishes within the Diocese of Rupert's Land who participate in refugee sponsorship. It is a ministry where new relationships are built and nurtured.

Yours in service,

Marlene Smith (Refugee Coordinator, Diocese of Rupert's Land)