

Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land Annual Report – 2021

In 1979, in response to the needs of the world's vulnerable people, the Diocese of Rupert's Land signed an Agreement with the Federal Government to sponsor some of the most needy refugees at the time - the Vietnamese "boat people". Since then, for over 40 years, the Diocese has continued with this ministry through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Programme. Over seven thousand people have been brought to Canada by the Diocese since its inception. As a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) with the Federal Government, it is one of over 120 agreement holders within Canada. Today, the PSR represents two-thirds of Canada's annual re-settlement refugee admissions (IRCC website). The programme does not rely on public funds. It taps into the support of individuals and benevolent associations, faith communities, and ethnic groups to raise funds for the support of newcomers for their first year in Canada.

In 2021, the UNHCR estimated that global resettlement needs increased to **1,445,383 persons**, compared to 2020 when **1,440,408** were estimated to be in need of resettlement. This increase is reflected in all regions except for Africa. Refugees are denied access to basic rights such as shelter, education, healthcare, employment, and freedom of movement.

The Refugee Coordinator attends workshops and presentations hosted by the National SAH Association and which sometimes includes staff from Immigration Refugees Citizenship Canada (IRCC). It is important to maintain currency with the policies and practice of IRCC in order to meet the requirements of the Agreement. Time is also spent attending educational webinars for updates and changes coming from the government.

The National SAH Association acknowledges that we are "working" in a system that has become more complex and time-consuming as we respond to meet the expectations of IRCC for Outcomes and Performance Measures. This is in a context where some SAHs are large organizations with paid staff and volunteers while others, like ours, is a ministry that is volunteer-led.

A major initiative from the government is the Programme Integrity Framework (PIF). The goal is to ensure that all resettled refugees receive the supports needed to achieve a positive settlement outcome. This requires closer monitoring by the Coordinator and increased record keeping. It is planned that all SAH's will undergo an "organizational assessment" and "risk-based analysis".

At the Conference in the fall, there was a session that looked at connections that have been made between sponsored newcomers and Indigenous communities across the country. Irene Sheldon (Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization of MB), and Reuben Garang (Immigration Partnership Winnipeg), presented work they have been doing in their organizations.

The Government of Canada's Immigration Levels Plan for the Re-settlement of Refugees in 2021 was 22,500 for the PSR Programme. However by mid-year, there was a backlog in the inventory of over 60,000 refugees due to the ongoing pandemic and border restrictions.

In 2018, a new policy was introduced requiring sponsoring groups to have the money needed to support the refugee-newcomer for one year, before the application is sent to Ottawa. In most cases, the money is raised by people who came to Canada as refugees and who want to bring other family members here. In other cases, the church forms a more integrated partnership with the community to assist in raising funds for the sponsorship.

The Diocese of Rupert's Land used 15 out of the 20 spaces requested for 2021, so had to return the five un-used spaces to the pool. It has been a challenge to find churches within the Diocese who are willing to undertake a sponsorship.

The report below, details the sponsorship activity within the Diocese.

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND - REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP - ACTIVITY REPORT - 2021							
Church	Application Submitted	Arrival	Refusal	Withdrawal	In Process	Awaiting Arrival	Complete
Crossed Hands	3 Apps for 8 People: May 2021 - Single Aug 2021 - Family of 6	10 Arrivals for 18 People	1 for Single	1 for Family of five	14 Apps for 34 People	3 Apps for 6 People	
St. Albans, Kenora, Ont.	1 App for a Couple July, 2019	10 Sept, 2020			0		10 Sep, 2021
St. Aidan's	1 App - May, 2020				1 App for Family of 4		
All Saint's	1 App - May, 2021				Single		
Holy Trinity	1 App - Feb, 2021				Couple		
Church of The Good Shepherd	1 App - March, 2020				Couple		
Red River Churches	1 App - June, 2017	1 Arrival -Single			0		
St. Mary la Prairie	2 App - Apr/19 and Dec/2020	1 Arrival for Family of 5			1 App - Family of 5		

Church	Application Submitted	Arrival	Refusal	Withdrawal	In Process	Awaiting Arrival	Complete
St. Margarets	9 Apps - March, Sep, Nov. 2019. Feb and Oct. 2020	2 Arrivals - Single, Family of 4	1 for Single	0	3 Apps for 14 people	3 for 3 People - Singles	
St George's Crescent Wood	1 App - June, 2020	0	0	0	1 App Single person	0	
St. Mark's	1 Submitted in 2016, 2 in 2020, 2 in 2021				3 App for 5 People		
St. Mary Magdalene	1 App - Nov, 2021 for Couple	1 App - Single Person			3 Apps for 9 People		
Hospitality House	Under Diocese, prior to HH becoming a SAH in 2018	4 Arrivals for 9 People in Wpg.	4 arrivals re-destined to Ontario and Alberta.				
TOTAL - 2021	7 for 15 People	19 Arrivals for 39 People	1 for a Single Person	1 – Family of 5	29 Apps for 77 People	6 Apps for 9 People	1 - Couple

As churches prepare for 2022, parishioners may be encouraged to reflect on the third statement in the **Marks of Mission** of the Anglican Communion worldwide, which calls us to;

Respond to Human Need by Loving Service

Marlene Smith – Refugee Coordinator (Volunteer)

We live, gather, work and worship on Treaties 1, 2, and 3 Land – the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, Sioux, and Oji-Cree People, and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We thank them for their stewardship of this land and we continue to inform ourselves of the past so that we may more fully understand and work towards peace and love, seeking to live in harmony with each other and in unity with God, Our Creator.