

## SYNOD of the DIOCESE of RUPERT'S LAND

### Mission and Ministry – Refugee Sponsorship Annual Report – 2023

... for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in – Matthew 25: 35

#### **Sponsorship of Private Refugees (PSR):**

The Global Cap set by the Federal Government for Sponsorship Agreement Holders in 2023 was 13,500. This represents the total number of people that could be sponsored for re-settlement to Canada for the specified year. Our Diocese requested 25 of those spaces.

#### **ACTIVITY LEVELS**

<b>2023</b>	<b>Applications Submitted</b>	<b>Arrivals</b>
Holy Trinity		Expect arrivals in 2024
St. George's - Crescentwood		1 arrival - Single
St. Mary Magdalene		1 arrival - Single
Crossed Hands	2 applications for 2 People	10 arrivals for 15 People
St. Margaret's	5 applications for 12 People	1 arrivals for Family of 3
St. Mark's		2 arrivals for 2 People
All Saint's		1 arrival for 1 Person
St. Mary's la Prairie	1 application for 7 People	
St. George's - Brandon	2 applications for 6 People	
Hospitality House		1 arrival for Family of 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10 Applications for 27 People</b>	<b>17 Arrivals for 29 People</b>

The family of six who arrived for Hospitality House was sponsored by the Diocese prior to 2018, before HH became a Sponsorship Agreement Holder. The family went to Alberta.

#### **COUNTRIES of ORIGIN**

Afghanistan, Burundi, Eritrea, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria.

#### **Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada (IRCC) - Programme Integrity Framework**

Notification was received from IRCC that the Synod of the Diocese of Rupert's Land met the Revalidation requirements of the Organizational Assessment completed in 2022. The work involved in the assessment was a major undertaking that consumed a lot of time over a two-year period. It was a relief to hear that we also passed the Operating Risk Analysis and have been placed in Level A, deemed the lowest risk of operation for the Diocese and IRCC. A new 5-year Sponsorship Agreement was signed in October, 2023.

The assessment exercise was a part of IRCC's evaluation of all Agreement Holders to ensure privately sponsored refugees are receiving the financial and settlement supports needed for successful re-settlement in Canada, and that sponsors are meeting programme requirements at

the levels established by IRCC. In addition, the purpose was to ensure we have the resources to monitor sponsors and provide periodic check-ins with newcomers.

### **The Annual General Meeting of Sponsorship Agreement Holders**

The AGM brought Refugee Coordinators and related staff and volunteers from across the country, along with IRCC staff to meet in Calgary, and for the second year, gave me the opportunity to attend in person. Thank you to IRCC. The theme was “**Adapting to a Changing Landscape Together**”.

In addition to presentations and discussion of processing applications and the challenges of working with governments in the world, the Association had a session on “Exploring Pathways to Indigenous - Refugee Allyship”. They provided resources which can be used to educate self and newcomers on our history. We are encouraged to **Listen, Build Relationships, Ask Questions, Learn** more about the history, and **Continue to Act** in meaningful ways.

With the help of the Anglican Refugee Network organized by PWRDF, we spent a day in worship and prayer, talking about the opportunities, challenges, and experiences we face when doing this work. As the 15 Anglican Dioceses working in refugee sponsorship across the country gathered, we shared our stories, experiences, and bonded in support of each other, renewed to continue this work.

### **Diocesan Refugee Committee**

The Diocesan Refugee Committee was re-established, with meetings held via Zoom in May and October, 2023. Members of this committee are; the Rev. John Dolloff, Colin Dorian, Kathy Flemmington, Rick Morgan, and Leanne Chase. This team acts to support and advise the Refugee Coordinator, be a link to the Executive Body of the Diocese, help to promote refugee sponsorship, and oversee the Diocesan Refugee Fund.

### **Sponsorship Process Policy**

This policy was revised to reflect the content of the new Sponsorship Agreement with the Federal Government.

Please contact Marlene Smith at [refugee@rupertsland.ca](mailto:refugee@rupertsland.ca) for information on sponsorships.

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

Thank you to all those 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)