



Refugee sponsorship in Canada and the sponsorship program in the Ethiopian Association in the GTA and Surrounding Regions

Who can sponsor refugee in Canada?

- 1.) SAH (sponsorship Agreement Holder) - is a corporation incorporated under the laws of Canada or any Provinces thereof that signs a sponsorship agreement with the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The Agreement allows SAHs sponsor a certain number of refugees each year for the resettlement to Canada through the private sponsorship program.
- 2.) Group of Five - A group of five or more Canadians or permanent residents who have arranged to sponsor a refugee living abroad to come to Canada, the Group of Five can only sponsor applicants who are authorized as refugees by either:
 - The United nation Refugee Agency (UNCHR) or
 - The government of the country (foreign state) where the refugee lives.
- 3.) Community sponsors- Some community organization can sponsor refugees to come to Canada. The organization must agree to give emotional and income support to the refugee for the sponsorship period.

Community sponsors can only sponsor applicants who are recognized as refugees by either:

- The United nation Refugee Agency (UNCHR) or
- The government of the country (foreign state) where the refugee lives.

The Private Sponsorship of Refugee (PSR) program was launched over four decades ago. Canadians and permanent residents have come together to offer protection and a safe permanent home for tens of thousands refugees each year.

The Ethiopian Association in the GTA and Surrounding Regions is a sponsorship agreement holder (SAH) accredited by the immigration and citizenship Canada (IRCC) and sponsor refugees and participate directly in the Canada's Resettlement of Refugees.

The Sponsorship agreement states that the sponsor is an individual or organization that partner with a SAH to share responsibilities for undertaking. Often times cosponsors are relatives of or friends of the refugees who sponsor on a case-by-case basis.

When working with the cosponsors, we decide how the relationship works and what criteria cosponsors needs to meet, cosponsors must maintain the performance of the cosponsors and their sponsorship activities.

We as SAH are actively responsible for each refugee sponsored under the agreement. We also have a number of financial and legal responsibilities.

All refugees we sponsored have to settle in our community and need to oversee all sponsorship under the agreement even if cosponsors are participating. We also need to ensure the refugees we sponsor have what they need to live safely and independently in Canada.

We mostly sponsor refugee with family/friend links in Canada but occasionally undertake "welcome the stranger" cases,

Every year our Association receives a certain number of allocation or spaces.

The Ethiopian Association board of directors assign a committee to handle the immigration issues.

The Committee and the Office Administrator shall make announcements based on the number of spaces or allocations given to the association from the IRCC for the year.

The committee will issue out public notices for interested sponsorship applicants. The notice will be posted on the notice board of the association and the association website.

Our office receives applications from potential cosponsors in accordance with the committee's guidelines and prepare lists of applicants (cosponsors) for the committee's consideration and decisions.

The selection is on the first come first serve basis. However, each cosponsor must meet the basic criteria such as membership, attendance of orientation program and financial responsibilities.

The current list will be maintained, and new cosponsors will be added to the list.

Cosponsors selected through the process will be given a set of application forms.

All the time refugees are able to fill out their application forms by themselves, usually they require assistance from cosponsors assist to fill their forms.

Who provides the financial support?

Cosponsors are fully responsible for providing one year of financial support.

Financial arrangements between SAH (us) and the cosponsors

- 1.) There will be a nonrefundable administrative fee of 250,00 (two hundred fifty dollars)
- 2.) The cosponsor must be able to pay sponsorship amount depending on the size of the family. This amount will be calculated using the guidelines provided by the IRCC.

This sponsorship fund is considered as a deposit.

In case refugee needs support, the deposit will be kept for a year effective from the arrival of the Refugee in country.

The deposit payment is made to the Association by a certified or Draft check or money order. The payment must be delivered to the treasurer or the person in charge. All payments need to be issued with an official receipt from the Association. After all payments are made, the treasurer or the person in charge advises the office coordinator who handles the process to carry out the submission of the individual case.

One year, after the refugees arrival in Canada the cosponsor, who signed the undertaking can submit copies of necessary documents to retrieve his/her deposit amount from the Association. The retrieving process needs to be approved by the finance and budget committee. The committee follows up and reports on the situation or the status of the finance in regard to sponsorship to the board of directors.