



MCC Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

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How do I sponsor a refugee
that I know living overseas?

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a **Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH)** and holds an agreement with the Government of Canada to sponsor refugees. Each year, the Canadian government (IRCC) gives MCC a limited number of spaces for the total number of refugees we can sponsor.

As a SAH, MCC works with Sponsorship Groups and is responsible to ensure that the sponsorship groups are equipped and have the capacity to provide refugees with adequate support for successful settlement and integration into their new community in Canada.

? WHO CAN SPONSOR A REFUGEE?

Sponsoring a refugee requires a sponsorship group of at least five people with resources (financial resources and volunteers) to support the refugees for 12 months or until the refugees become self supporting (which ever comes first).

Refugees can be sponsored by sponsorship groups who are made up of any of the following:

- Faith Groups
- Neighbours and/or Friends
- Family and/or Families
- Workplace Colleagues

? WHO CAN BE SPONSORED?

To be eligible for sponsorship, a person must meet these criteria:

- They must have fled the country of his/her nationality because of a well founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. They must be living outside the country of his/her nationality, and be unable to avail him/herself of the protection of that country; and

- They must be unable or unwilling to return to their country of his/her nationality; and
- They must have no durable solution in the country of asylum, nor an open avenue to resettlement in any other country.

Since there is no other long-term solution for refugees who meet all these criteria, resettlement to Canada is their only option.

? HOW MUCH MONEY IS REQUIRED?

The Canadian government has outlined a minimum monthly financial amount that must be provided to the refugee(s) at the start of their one year settlement period and on a monthly basis during their first year in Canada that is equal to the current Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) rates. You can use this financial calculator to estimate the basic minimum amount expected by the government for your specific sponsorship: www.rstp.ca/calc.

Please note that the minimum amount may not meet the cost of living in your community and more finances may realistically be needed.

? HOW DO I GET STARTED?

MCC works with faith communities and diverse groups of sponsors across the five provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. You must gather a minimum of five people before MCC will consider the submission of your sponsorship.

Our staff will walk you through every step of the process from pre-arrival sponsor orientations to supporting the newcomers through their settlement when they arrive.



Each provincial office opens for sponsorship inquiries during a specific time of the year - see timelines and contact info listed below.

During this time, if you have a sponsorship group in place with the finances required for sponsorship and the refugee you want to sponsor meets the definition of a refugee then you can send an e-mail to us for consideration for refugee sponsorship.

MCC Ontario: Jan 1–8
refugee@mcco.ca

MCC Manitoba: Dec 1-31
refugeeresettlement@mccmb.ca

MCC Saskatchewan: Dec 15–Jan 15
migration@mccsk.ca

MCC Alberta: Dec 1–31
refugeesponsorship@mccab.ca

MCC British Columbia: Jan 15–Jan 31
sponsorship@mccbc.ca

Please note that due to the large number of sponsorship inquiries and the limited number of spaces, we will not be able to work with everyone.

mcc.org/refugee-sponsorship-canada



Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ