



Connect. Learn. Share.

PRIVATE
REFUGEE
SPONSOR
Ontario
NETWORK

STRIVING TOWARD BEST PRACTICE

Sustaining Sponsorship: A Changing Landscape

Increasingly sponsors have been focussed on how the landscape has changed since 2016 and the significant issues they are facing in terms of what the future might hold around repeat sponsorships and keeping committee members engaged. This practice guideline explores the results of a 2021 research study around barriers to repeat sponsorships, [[Sustaining Private Sponsorship by Hyndman et al, 2021](#)], and covers key points about the role of training, and how community practice and, team-building can help address the engagement issues.

Key learnings from sponsorship research:

- Functions as a community practice
- Rooted in ongoing commitment to global human rights and social justice
- Connects local community action to global politics of injustice and displacement
- Barriers to repeat sponsorships include financial strain, volunteer fatigue and emotional burnout, overreliance on unpaid labour, administrative burdens, policy and ethical tensions and lack of institutional support

Key learnings about community practice:

- Preparation and skills development; need to create a settlement plan
- Importance of lived experience in connection, learning and sharing
- Focus on culture, language, expectations, fears and autonomy
- Learn how to avoid conflict

Key learnings about engagement:

- Maintain a shared vision; motivation drives commitment and readiness
- Engagement keeps the group connected and enables recruitment
- Rotate assignments, refresh skills and knowledge
- Stay informed on refugee issues; be aware of current research; advocate for action
- Create awareness of your work
- Connect, learn and share for empowerment
- Celebrate milestones

Resources:

- Refugee Sponsorship Training Program – www.rstp.ca
- Private Refugee Sponsor Network (Ontario) – www.refugeesponsornet.ca
- Canadian Council for Refugees – www.ccrweb.ca
- United Nations Refugee Support – www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2024
- *Sustaining the Private Sponsorship of Resettled Refugees in Canada*,
Hyndman et al, (2021), **Frontiers in Human Dynamics**, May 11, 2021.
<https://jhyndman.info.yorku.ca/exploring-private-refugee-sponsorship/>

Settlement Tools:

Chapter 7-Settlement Preparation Handbook:

<https://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Chapter-7-Settlement-Preparation-FEB18-1.pdf>

Private Sponsors' Resource Booklet ON Arrival & Orientation of Newcomers:

<https://www.rstp.ca/en/orientation/>

RSTP – Ensuring a Successful Sponsorship Year (many useful resources)

<https://www.rstp.ca/en/infosheets/ensuring-a-successful-sponsorship-year/>

Code of Ethics for The Private Sponsorship of Refugees Toolkit

<https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/code-of-ethics.pdf>

Rights of Privately Sponsored Refugees:

<https://www.rstp.ca/en/your-rights-as-a-privately-sponsored-refugee/>

Find Settlement Services Near You

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/services/index.asp>

IRCC-Key Contacts and Activities

<https://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/PSR-Operations-Key-Contacts-and-Activities-January-2024.pdf>

Responsibilities of Sponsors and Availability of IRCC funded Services

<https://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Responsibilities-of-Sponsors-and-Availability-of-IRCC-funded-Services-for-PSRs-and-BVORs-Oct-2019.pdf>

Post-arrival Requirements Guide

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/sponsor-refugee/private-sponsorship-program/assessments/post-arrival-requirements.html>

Private Refugee Sponsorship Network Workshop Recordings –

www.refugeesponsornet.ca/training-workshops/

Private Refugee Sponsorship Network Practice Guidelines –

www.refugeesponsornet.ca/practice-guidelines/