

October 13, 2015

The Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Refugee Sponsorship – (and our Parishes)

The prospect of Refugee sponsorship is front and centre in the minds of many Parishes, Parishioners, and civic minded groups in communities in general. This presents an opportunity and a caution for the Parishes. It is early stages yet-but below I have listed a brief guideline for those Parishes who may be entertaining the idea:

- Parish Council must nominate a sponsorship as an official parish outreach initiative, and so note in Council meeting minutes. The amount required to begin a sponsorship is usually 50% of the Cost as outlined on the attached Sponsorship Cost Table issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.
- There are three Sponsorship Agreement Holders in Nova Scotia, of which the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island is one.
- Parishes (under CRA Charities guidelines) may issue charitable (tax deductible) receipts **only for** donations made **directly to the Parish** and deposited to Parish bank accounts. That is-Parishes are **not permitted** to issue receipts for donations received by any group or community organization.
- Since the Diocese is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder –The Diocese is responsible (financially) if there is a shortage of funds-once the sponsored family arrives in Nova Scotia. It will be necessary (before the application is moved forward by the Diocesan Refugee Co-Ordinator) for the Parish to supply evidence of the monies collected (see table). The most expedient way to do this is for the Parish to open a separate bank account to receive and hold the donated funds. “Evidence” would then consist of a copy of the bank statement of this account.

RECAP:

1. Parish Council establishes Refugee Committee-duly noted and authorized in Council Minutes.
2. Bank Account (duly named) is established –Signing Officers authorized by Parish Council.
3. Donations received and deposited directly to this account-receipts issued for these donations only. In the case of “in kind” donations-the general rule of receipting for Parish donations apply.
4. When financial goal reached –Diocesan Refugee Co-Ordinator notified-application process then begins.

Peter Flemming-Diocesan Controller