



City of  
**Peterborough**

---

**To:** Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee

**From:** Becky Rogers, Manager, Arts, Culture & Heritage Division

**Meeting Date:** January 14, 2016

**Subject:** Report ACHAC16-004  
Municipal Response to Refugee Crisis

---

## **Purpose**

A report to inform the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee on the City's response to the refugee crisis.

## **Recommendation**

That the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC16-004 dated January 14, 2016, of the Manager, Arts, Culture & Heritage Division, as follows:

That the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee receive the Report for Information.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications to receiving this report.

## Background

During 2016 Budget deliberations Council approved the provision of \$25,000 in 2016 and 2017 to assist with local efforts to relocate and integrate Syrian Refugees. They directed staff to work with outside agencies to determine how best to allocate the funds. To facilitate this, Allan Seabrooke approved the creation of a Municipal Coordination Committee. Committee members include:

Susan Bacque (Housing)  
John Coreno – Co-Chair (Social Services)  
Sharron Hayton (Customer Service)  
Richard Freymond (Finance)  
Kevin Jones (Transportation)  
Jodi DeNoble (Emergency Operations)  
Becky Rogers – Co-Chair (Municipal Immigration Portfolio).

This Committee will work with both the New Canadians Centre (NCC) and the newly created Refugee Resettlement Task Force (RRTF) to assist them in their efforts to resettle and integrate refugees in Peterborough.

The NCC reached out to key community stakeholders in the community for help as they recognized that with the prospect of up to 350 refugees settling in the Peterborough area, the undertaking is too large to be managed by a single organization or private group alone. The NCC needed help to successfully integrate the refugees who will be arriving in Peterborough. They anticipate that the refugee families and individuals will come to Peterborough in two streams. The first is through the Privately Sponsored Refugee (PSR) program in which individual sponsorship groups form to support specific Syrian families. Each group must provide \$30,000 to support a family for a year. The second stream is Government Assisted Refugees (GAR). Those refugees will receive government funding for a year. The New Canadians Centre hopes to welcome around 100 PSR's and 250 GAR's refugees in the new year.

The RRTF has been created to work at a strategic level, to ensure community collaboration behind the required inventory of resources. The RRTF's next step is to create groups with members from each organization to take on various responsibilities, including short and long-term housing, school registration, employment, health and dental care. To date, two committees have been established to coordinate Employment and Housing efforts.

The RRTF includes, but is not limited to representatives from the City, both School Boards, Trent University, Fleming College, the Peterborough Police Service, the Peterborough County City Health Unit, the United Way of Peterborough and District, the Peterborough Regional Health Centre, General Electric, Peterborough service clubs, the Kawartha Muslim religious Association, the MP and MPP. Their Terms of Reference are attached as Appendix A.

The NCC is providing the following support at this time:

- Providing information to the community through weekly emails, the NCC website, and other media; handling 30+ calls / day
- Providing information, training and coordination to sponsorship groups (Currently working with 37 separate groups sponsoring 45 families in Peterborough, Northumberland, Kawartha Lakes and neighbouring areas)
- Building list of community volunteers in areas such as temporary housing and interpretation
- Connecting community members / groups and coordinating responses (e.g. toy drives, Peterborough Refugee Sponsorship Network Facebook group, Welcome Refugee Group)
- Distributing funding from the Canadian Council on Refugees to sponsorship groups
- Coordinating community agency efforts
- Partnership with Habitat for Humanity – drop off centre for large item donations
- Partnership with St. Vincent De Paul's – as the drop off location for clothing, household items, toys and small household appliances
- Partnership with medical professionals and organisations – medical services and referrals for refugees
- Community Counselling & Resource Centre – training for mental health professionals
- Working with local Sponsorship Agreement Holder (Roman Catholic Diocese) and Casa Maria
- Working with the Kawartha Muslim Religious Association to provide community training and to find interpreters

Submitted by,

Becky Rogers  
Manager, Arts, Culture and Heritage Division

Contact Name: Becky Rogers  
Phone: 705-742-7777 Ext. 1442  
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755  
Fax: 705-743-2614  
E-Mail: brogers@peterborough.ca

Attachments:  
Appendix A – Refugee Resettlement Task Force Terms of Reference.

## **Appendix A – Refugee Resettlement Task Force Terms of Reference**

**Purpose:** The task force will consist of organizations represented by individual members who will be advised as to the current state of community efforts to resettle Syrian refugees, and act as champions of community will and resources towards that effort in the Peterborough area.

The Task Force will engage in the work of resettling refugees and bring resources to the table. The Task Force will not just be a gathering point for information, but also a launching pad to mobilize resources. When there are issues (health, security, education, finance, housing) the intention is that there will be people at the table that are able to provide resources.

The Task Force will provide information and develop institutional capacity, working towards the community mobilization of the necessary capacity to resettle Syrian refugees, particularly setting the stage for Government Assisted Refugees.

The New Canadians Centre is asking of the Task Force for input, buy-in, ideas, questioning, strategic thinking, and championing. The New Canadians Centre is not asking for oversight of our activities towards the purpose described above.

The New Canadians Centre wants to inform the Task Force of what we are involved in and allow the Task Force to provide NCC connections and help where that fits into their sphere of influence.