

HOW TO HELP REFUGEES IN NEW WEST

The Welcoming and Inclusive New Westminster (WINS) Local Immigration Partnership Council which comprises of business, community, faith, settlement and social service organizations, is providing the following information to assist those who want to make a difference.

Inquiries related to Accommodation and Volunteering

The Immigrant Services Society of BC has established a registry where those wanting to make a contribution can sign-up to provide accommodation and employment or volunteer their time. Please visit:

<http://www.issbc.org/prim-corp-nav/our-work-with-refugees/refugee-crisis/how-can-i-help-refugees>

Inquiries related to Private Refugee Sponsorships

Citizenship and Immigration Canada provides information related to sponsoring refugees. As a sponsor, you would provide financial and emotional support for the refugees for the duration of the sponsorship, which is typically one year. This includes housing, clothing and food. Please visit:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/ENGLISH/refugees/sponsor/index.asp>

MOSAIC is playing a key role with regard to facilitating Private Refugee Sponsorships. To access information about being a sponsor or to attend an information session, please visit:

<http://www.mosaicbc.com/refugees/refugee-support-you-can-change-lives-refugees>

Inquiries related to Making a Donation

The Welcoming and Inclusive New Westminster (WINS) Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Council has established an account to hold cash donations to help support the settlement of Syrian refugees in New Westminster. The Lower Mainland Purpose Society, as host agency for the LIP initiative, is designated to hold the funds. Use and distribution of the funds will be overseen by a sub-committee of the LIP Council.

To make a donation and to receive a tax receipt, the following methods are available.

By Cheque: Payable to the 'Lower Mainland Purpose Society,' plus indicate 'LIP Refugee Fund.'

Cheques can be dropped off at: Lower Mainland Purpose Society, 40 Begbie Street, New Westminster, BC, V3M 3L9.

By Credit Card: Telephone the Lower Mainland Purpose Society at 604-526-2522.

In Person: Drop by the Lower Mainland Purpose Society, 40 Begbie Street, New Westminster.

Don't forget your return address for a tax receipt and indicate that your donation is for the 'LIP Refugee Fund.'

Inquiries related to Offering Employment

Fraser Works Co-op, which is a one-stop WorkBC Employment Services Centre in New Westminster, can match employment opportunities with Syrian refugees of working age.

Please contact: **Michelle Danyluk or Tracey Fraser at Fraser Works Co-op**
Second Floor, 519 Seventh Street, New Westminster, V3M 6A7
info@fraserworks.ca or 604-522-9701 ext. 123

Inquiries related to Donating Products and Services at No or Low Cost

A registry has been established where businesses and organizations can offer products and services to assist in Syrian refugee resettlement in New Westminster – e.g., dental services, grocery gift cards, etc.

Please contact: **MP Peter Julian's Constituency Office**
7615 Sixth Street, Burnaby, V3N 3M6,
peter.julian.c1@parl.gc.ca or 604-775-5707

MLA Judy Darcy's Community Office
737 Sixth Street, New Westminster, V3L 3C6,
Judy.Darcy.MLA@leg.bc.ca or 604-775-2101

Inquiries related to Donating Clothing and Household Items

Discussions are underway with the New Westminster Inter-Ministerial Association and Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar (Sikh Temple) with regard to establishing reception sites for the donation of new or good condition clothing and household items. These reception sites will not be operational until there is a better idea as to refugee numbers, age, gender and family composition. In this way, donations can be targeted to the needs of refugees. This information will be available on the City's website and WINS member websites.

Inquiries related to Food and Meal Programs

Discussions will soon commence with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society, which operates a food bank in New Westminster, and the Muslim Food Bank. These discussions will help ensure that Syrian refugees who are in need of food security programs can access culturally appropriate food. In the meantime, those wanting to make a contribution can purchase a food bank voucher at their local grocery store, in which the proceeds will be used in New Westminster, or make a donation of food or money to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society and the Muslim Food Bank. This will not only benefit Syrian refugees but residents with low-incomes or living in poverty. Please visit:

<https://www.foodbank.bc.ca/> and <http://www.muslimfoodbank.com/>

