

Syria - Antigonish Families Embrace (SAFE) Steering Committee - MINUTES

Wed, June 12, 2024, 6:30-9:10 PM

ECCU Meeting Room

Present: Mark (chair), Harry, Ellaheen, Bronwen (notes), Anuj

Regrets: Rebecca, Karen Fish, Karen Briand

Action items:

- Memorandum of Understanding: **Tim** will circulate to the Board and to the Pictou CG (as a test run); we will approve it next meeting.
- Webpage review: **Mark** to work on.
- Check-in question reformatting: **Bronwen** is still working on this.
- Check-ins: **Bronwen, Tim and Maria** to organize for three families (Abdulkader, Mukhtar, Lodin)
- Review of in house training modules for sponsors
- **Harry** following up re. timeline/deadline for input into the application portal
- **Bronwen:** Pride month statement
- Land Acknowledgement

1) Minutes of April 10th board meeting

Should read June 12 as next meeting, not May 8.

Accepted: Moved by Tim, 2nd by Harry; all in favour

2) Financial report

- Financial Report for May accepted: Moved by Anuj; 2nd Ellaheen; all in favour
- If we use our personal e-mail re. a financial issue please copy to SAFE e-mail address so it can become part of the SAFE record.

3) Check-Ins

Ahmad Abdulkader: outstanding. **Bronwen** to organize.

Wazhma Mukhtar: **Maria** will organize and ask **Karen Briand** to join. Next check in due is 4 weeks.

Koshbo Lodin: plans being made for Month 13.

Needed to be included in 9 month check in: Income Assistance Rates and potential decrease in funding when on IA.

4) BVOR Update

Bringing more BVORs in on hold for now.

5) In Camera Session re Application Finances for Upcoming Arrival

6) Abdul Kader Family

Anuj moved that we begin a campaign to raise funds via Canada Helps to support the Abdul

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Kader Family as a result of their car accident, to provide immediate relief as a result of loss of livelihood, with the goal of the campaign being \$7500. The campaign will run for the next two weeks, starting this coming Friday.

2nd by Maria; all in favour.

7) Committee Reports

a) SAFE SAH/CG Applications

a.i) Applications in process:

See Harry's summary.

Tim moves that we authorize Anuj to explore and set up a bank account at an institution other than ECCU to facilitate international transfers for sponsorships. 2nd by Harry; all in favour.

a.ii) In house training module for sponsors update:

Manual and deck of slides prepared by Lucille and Pete. Mark will send out to committee for review.

a.iii) New verbal requests:

Harry will follow up with families who have not inputted application information into the portal and will provide a timeline/deadline for engagement.

b) Education: **Bronwen** will write a statement re. Pride month to be sent to families. **Mark, Ellaheen and Tim** to review before being sent.

8) Training/Webinars/Meetings

a.iv) RSTP Conference Oct 2: Tim to attend.

a.v) Walking Together: Strengthening Indigenous-Newcomer Allyship

Mark attended. We will begin to give a Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of our meetings that includes action items.

9) Date of next meeting

Tuesday, July 9, 2025 at ECCU.

10) Other Business

English lessons during the summer. We need ACALA volunteers that SAFE helps to facilitate. How can we find volunteers?