

Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace
Steering Committee Meeting

January 11, 2023
7:00-8:30
25 Appleseed Dr. Community Room

Present: Mark Ballard, Jack Beaton, Bronwen Cooke, Harry Daemen, Marla Gaudet, Lucille Harper, Sheila Sears, Maria vanVonderan

Regrets: Mary Ballard, Alaa Hadhad, Osama Sulaiman, Peter Wade

Minutes

Agenda Item: Meeting Minutes and Business Arising from December 14, 2022

Discussion:

Business arising:

Marla has set up and advertised two sessions to support families to apply for government financial assistance—heating, housing, dental care. Families have an opportunity to make an appointment with Marla for help in completing the forms. The sessions will be held at the library.

Work has been done to help Bilal and Shorouk in their fundraising to bring their family. Bilal has sent an appeal to Unifor, an appeal to the SAFE membership has been sent out and a GoFundMe page is being worked on.

Actions:

Harry moved to adopt the minutes from the December 14, 2022 meeting.

Seconded by Marla.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report

Discussion:

A correct to be made to the report: Instead of reading "December 31, 2022 Bank balance", the first line of the report should read "November 30, 2022 Bank balance".

Actions:

With the above-mentioned correction, Sheila moved to adopt the financial report from December 31, 2022.

Seconded by Mark.

All in favour.

Marla, Harry, Sheila and Jack will meet to look at criteria for funding an application and amount that can be provided by SAFE.

Agenda Item: Najlaa Alzaanin, Coordinator, Antigonish Guysborough Immigrant Support Program

Discussion:

Najlaa was unable to join us because of the weather.

Agenda Item: Sponsorship Applications, Overseas Family Updates, and Pending Family Arrivals

Discussion:

Four of the following families had applications submitted in 2021:

- Ibrahim Balkis Bairouti family of 2, Egypt, SAFE, PSR application submitted March 2021.– interview scheduled for May 26 but subsequently postponed with no new date. Application in process. Medical completed November 29.
 - Rowaida Hudhud family of 2 (linked), Lebanon, to settle in Halifax, application submitted June 2021. – no update
 - Yazan Bayan, family of 1 (linked), Lebanon, to settle in Halifax, application submitted June 2021. – no update
 - Abdulkader Mohmed Sabbagh family of 5, SAFE, PSR application submitted October 2021 – Egypt. No update. Requested update from Cairo Migration, December 12, 2022.
 - Aysha Shoshara family of 3, One Year Window, Syria, application submitted February 2022. Application approved on July 4, 2022 and sent to Amman for processing. Update requested October 19. Emailed Sean Fraser’s office to help get update on January 7, 2023.
 - Abdalmajeed Al Sedawi family of 1, SAFE PSR application with co-sponsor Ammar Hudhud, submitted May 27, 2022. Received G# on October 14, 2022 after multiple inquiries to IRCC.
 - Mohammad Bairqdar family of 1, Syrian Family Reunification Project PSR application submitted November 7, 2022. No G-Number yet.
 - Bashir Hussein Nur family of 2, CG: CARE, PSR application submitted December 15, 2022. Bashir is from Somalia and living as a refugee in Uganda. No G-Number yet.
 - Khoshbo Lodin, family of 1, CG: Canada Afghan Women Embrace (CAWE). Operation Afghan Safety (OAS) application submitted on December 23, 2022 and accepted for processing December 29, 2022. Application sent to Islamabad for processing on January 3, 2023. Khoshbo is in Pakistan. The group has 50% of the funds required.
 - Marie-Josée Nirere family of 3 with dependent adult son linked with Mpenzi Elysee, adult son. CG: Pictou County Safe Harbour. PSR application submitted January 1, 2023. Rwandan family in Kenya refugee asylum.
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Agenda Item: Sponsorship Requests Approved by SAFE

Discussion:

- Ahmed Algoma Alhasan family of 3, Lebanon, request to sponsor from Shorook Alhasan. Lucille, Sheila and Alaa met with Shorook to discuss possibility of family coming through immigration route. Depending upon meeting English CBL Level 4. – Alaa following up.
 - Osama Suleiman Al Talib family of 4 linked application with Ahmed Abdul Kader, Lebanon, request to sponsor from Bilal Abdul Kader, PSR application underway. Will submit once funding has been received. Met with Bilal Abdulkader on December 12 to discuss efforts to raise necessary sponsorship funds.
 - No update on Shorouk's brother. Awaiting CBL level to determine if he is eligible to come under a different immigration stream.
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Agenda Item: SAFE Sponsored Family Updates

Actions:

- Hosam and Adnan need to have their Month 13 check-in.
 - Harry has been working with Mahmoud and Marwa to arrange their Month 13 check-in.
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Agenda Item: SAFE SAH Sponsored Family Updates

Discussion:

- The Alqass Matte Family is considering secondary migration to Ontario.
- The Zaheer family needs a check in.

Actions:

- Lucille** will e-mail Clare MacNeil (Inverness group) to find out what Meshel's plans are.
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Agenda Item: Performance Integrity Framework

Discussion:

- Lucille responded to IRCC to let them know SAFE will be sending audited statements for 2022, once the financial audit has been completed, and then we will request a reassessment to move out of Level C.
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Agenda Item: Joint Volunteer Recruitment Session

Discussion:

Organizations participating will include SAFE, CACL, ACT, AAHS, plus 4 other organizations. Organized by AAHS. The sessions will be held January 17.

It was agreed that once we have people sign up, SAFE will hold its own volunteer session to welcome and orient volunteers.

Agenda Item: SAFE Steering Committee Contacts

Actions:

Lucille will notify IRCC that Mark will be the primary contact and Sheila the second contact.

Sheila will make the change with the SAH renewal.

Agenda Item: Secondary Migration of the Alqass Matte Family

Discussion:

The plan is that SAFE will remain the SAH and Fair Hearts will remain the sponsorship group. We have not heard a response from Fair Hearts about this plan.

Actions:

Lucille will contact Fair Hearts for an update.

Agenda Item: Labour Skills Immigration Proposal/Rural Resettlement Model

Discussion:

An application has been submitted that outlines ACALA and AWRC as providing settlement and English services. The application requested funding for one settlement worker/navigator and one English EAL immersion teacher. It is assumed that Y-Reach would remain involved also. SAFE submitted a letter of support.

Discussion continued on jobs and forms that are required.

Agenda Item: SAFE Board Development Session

Discussion:

The next SAFE Board Development session is scheduled for February 1, 6:30-9:30

Planning Lead for AGM, March 2023

Actions:

The AGM will take place sometime in March.

Nominations Committee: **Jack, Marla and Pete**

Planning Committee: **Harry and Sheila**

Annual Report: **Lucille** will start the report. **Mark** will complete the report. Committee leads to finalize reports.

Lucille will be away February 13 to March 24.

Next Meeting: February 13 at 7:00. Chairperson required.

Additional Motions Generated through e-mails following Steering Committee Meeting:

1. Sheila Sears moves that Mark Ballard (SAFE, Vice-Chair) be added to have signing authority for all SAFE accounts held at ECCU.
 Seconded by Mark Ballard.
 All in favour (February 5, 2023).

2. Sheila Sears moves that Lucille Harper be removed from having signing authority for all SAFE accounts held at ECCU.
 Seconded by Mark Ballard.
 All in favour (February 5, 2023).

3. Peter Wade moved to approve the expense of \$120 to 32 Auctions.
 Seconded by Jack Beaton.
 Majority in favour (January 25, 2023).