

**Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace  
Steering Committee Meeting**

July 13, 2021  
7:00-8:15 pm  
Online

Present: Mark Ballard, Mary Ballard, Jack Beaton, Bronwen Cooke, Harry Daemen, Lucille Harper, Sheila Sears, Peter Wade

Regrets: Marla Gaudet, Othman Soufan

**Minutes**

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**Agenda Item: Minutes and Business Arising**

Lucille

Discussion:

Business Arising: RAP Rates, Migrant Research Panel Discussion

Actions:

A note will be included in the June 8 minutes to thank Othman for his work in supporting a family to find housing.

The Subcommittee assigned to explore RAP Rates will meet later in the summer or in the fall: **Marla, Pete, Harry and Sheila.**

All in favour of approving the June 8, 2021 minutes.

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**Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report**

Sheila

Discussion:

Members of the Steering Committee need to meet with Esmaeel to discuss the possibility of housing his brother. If he does not live with Esmaeel, further funds will need to be secured before he arrives.

The Walk/Run for Refugees raised more than \$15000.

The County Grant was not successful. Lucille suggests that we set up a meeting with the Town and County to talk about our work and cover topics such as employment, housing, possible financial support.

Actions:

**Lucille, Pete and Bronwen** will meet with Esmaeel to discuss housing his brother and/or the extra funds required for housing.

**Lucille** will write a letter to request a meeting in September with members of Town and County council.

Sheila moved the adoption of the June financial report.

Seconded by Harry.

All in favour.

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**Agenda Item: SAH AGM**

Lucille

Discussion:

The IRCC is engaging in a significant amount more of pre-arrival assessment, including individual assessment of the co-sponsors, ensuring that 100% of funds are available at the time of application, an annual assessment of CGs' finances. RAP rates will be changing soon. Travel restrictions continue to change. The SAH Council is setting up a mentorship program to match SAHS for support and exchange of information.

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**Agenda Item: Walaa Hadhad Family Arrival**

Lucille

Discussion:

Walaa and family will be coming from Saudi Arabia. Quarantine options were discussed.

Actions:

**Lucille, Bronwen and Pete** will meet with Alaa and family to discuss quarantine plan so that response to IRCC can be submitted within 3 days.

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**Agenda Item: Sponsorship Applications Underway 2021**

Lucille

Discussion:

Abdulkader Mohmed Sabbagh—family of 5, residing in Egypt, funds committed, application in process, Yasser Almashhoud to co-sponsor.

Rowaida Hudhud, family of 3—application accepted for further processing.

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**Agenda Item: Changes to By-laws—3 Year Board Terms**

Lucille

Discussion:

The changes to by-laws need to be sent out to the membership.

The Steering Committee is still without a vice-chair.

Actions:

**Lucille, Sheila and Harry** will work on revising the by-laws. Sheila will set up the meeting. A draft will be sent out to the Steering Committee for approval.

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**Agenda Item: Family Updates**

Marla

Discussion:

An update was given around employment and education for the Ghentawis.

Actions:

**Bronwen** will create a facebook post re. children receiving free dental care up to the age of 15.

**Bronwen** is working on putting together some training to provide to co-sponsoring families around expectations, power imbalance, ethical issues, issues around conflict, being accountable as a co-sponsor.

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**Agenda Item: Labour Mobility Luncheon**

Sheila

Discussion:

Sarah Wiseman has invited SAFE members to participate in a luncheon to discuss the Labour Mobility Initiative. An RSVP is requested.

Actions:

**Sheila** will share the invitation.

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**Agenda Item: Schwartz Business/ACALA/SAFE Partnership for Entrepreneurs**

Bronwen/Mark

Discussion:

SAFE will submit an application to Neil Maltby to be a client for his course in Entrepreneurship.

It was suggested that we ensure the objectives of the client (SAFE) remain the priority through the process and that the learning of the students is done through these specified priorities.

The hope is that we can build on this partnership over successive years to begin to build more supports for newcomer entrepreneurs.

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**Agenda Item: CARE Families**

Lucille

Discussion:

A letter was received from CARE assuring SAFE that CARE is still very active and involved in supporting their sponsored families.

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**Agenda Item: Refugee Run/Walk**

Harry

Discussion:

18 teams participated in the Run/Walk, with more than 16000km walked or run. The event raised about \$1 per kilometer!

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**Agenda Item: Keppoch Summer Programs**

Bronwen

Actions:

**Bronwen** will follow up.

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**Agenda Item: Policies and Procedures**

Actions:

SAFE Volunteer Interpreter Policy—deferred to August meeting

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**Agenda Item: Next Meeting**

August 10, 2021.

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