

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

June 8, 2021  
7:00-8:30 pm  
Online

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

**Minutes**

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**Agenda Item: Remembering those murdered in London, ON**

Actions:

**Lucille** will compose a message to send to families and our community.

**Bronwen** will ensure that all families receive the message.

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**Agenda Item: Minutes and Business Arising**

Lucille

Discussion:

Sheila requested that in the minutes of May 11, 2021, the money received from Tri-Heart, as discussed in Treasurer's report, be labeled as Term Deposit #42.

Actions:

All in favour of approving the May 11, 2021 minutes.

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**Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report**

Sheila

Discussion:

The Term Deposit #51 (Al Hariris) is \$15400. We will need to add \$9000 because they will likely be living on their own, not sharing accommodation with Esmaeel and family. This \$9000 will be included as a liability in the next financial report.

Actions:

Sheila moved the adoption of the May financial report.

Seconded by Harry.

All in favour.

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**Agenda Item: Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) Rates**

Sheila

Discussion:

As a committee we have collectively acknowledged the high costs of housing and the low RAP rates, especially for families with young adult children that receive a small CCB payment each month. We may therefore consider looking at other options for calculating our RAP rates, eg. paying an amount that equals minimum wage for a full-time job.

Actions:

Marla, Pete, Harry and Sheila will form a sub-committee to form a recommendation to bring back to the July or August meeting.

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**Agenda Item: SAH Webinar**

Sheila

Discussion:

Sheila summarized a SAH webinar that she attended:

- new rules being put in place—SAHs must have money when sponsorship application is submitted
  - IRCC is exploring/re-evaluating how it handles issues around secondary migration
  - BVOR program is still on hold. All cases being re-evaluated, most vulnerable will come first
  - 65,000 refugees currently in the cue
  - interviews are being done remotely
  - a review of RAP rates is being done
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**Agenda Item: Sponsorship Applications Underway 2021**

Lucille

Discussion:

Abdulkader Mohmed Sabbagh—application in progress

Rowaida Hudhud, family of 3—application sent on for further processing from ROCO

Interviews for some families are going ahead, medicals are being done.

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

Lucille

Discussion:

An official change to the by-laws needs to be made with Joint Stocks and CRA

Actions:

**Sheila** will look into making the change in the by-laws.

**Bronwen** will look back at minutes and Board Term documents created by Jack and will send these to Jack, Lucille and Sheila

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**Agenda Item: Ghentawi and Altaleb Updates**

Marla

Discussion:

Medical Emergency Funding for the Ghentawi family was approved.

Ann Botross from ISANS is working with Levy's Leather for jobs for Miyada and Abed.

Both families have gardens built with Zane deNoncourt's help and are also using the community garden boxes with support from Zane and Marla.

Actions:

**Othman** will connect with the Ghentawis regarding computers needed for summer studies.

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**Agenda Item: Al Hariri Family Housing**

Marla

Discussion:

Various options are being explored.

Actions:

**Othman** will talk to Esmaeel about asking the landlord for an extension of the lease

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**Agenda Item: Grant Proposals**

Othman

Discussion:

Municipality of County of Antigonish Community Partnership Grant, 2021—will hear this week.

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**Agenda Item: Refugee Run/Walk**

Harry

Discussion:

4700km were walked by 18 teams in the first week. Approx. \$2313 in donations has come in. Many teams are being sponsored by kilometers so expecting most donations to be made in the last week of the event.

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**Agenda Item: Policies and Procedures**

Actions:

- SAFE Volunteer Interpreter Policy (Bronwen): Bronwen will follow up next meeting
  - Code of Ethics (Sheila): Approved.
  - Volunteer Screening Policy (Marla): Approved.
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**Agenda Item: Summer Meetings**

Lucille

Actions:

We will plan for a short agenda for the July 13 and August 10 meetings, about ongoing family needs.

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**Agenda Item: Other**

Discussion:

Norine Verberg's Research Group: A seminar will be held either July 7 or July 14. Details to follow. This will explore issues around refugee resettlement.

Migrant Research Panel Discussion: Is anyone willing to sit on the panel?

National SAH Conference coming up.

Actions:

**Jack** will participate in the Migrant Research Panel discussion.

**Lucille** will participate in the National SAH Conference. If interested, others can also sign up to participate.

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**Agenda Item: Next Meeting**

July 13, 2021.

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