

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

March 1, 2022
7:00-8:30 pm
Online Zoom

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

Regrets: Mark Ballard, Mary Ballard

Minutes

Agenda Item: Minutes and Business Arising

Discussion:

Sheila offered some revisions to the February minutes by e-mail. Bronwen has not yet made those changes.

Actions:

Bronwen will send out a copy of the revised minutes and receive approval by e-mail from the Steering Committee.

Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report

Sheila Sears

Actions:

Sheila moved to accept the February, 2022 Treasurer's Report.
 Seconded by Harry.
 All in favour.

Agenda Item: Sponsorship Requests

Discussion:

Lucille reviewed the applications of families that SAFE has agreed to sponsor and for which SAFE has agreed to be the SAH. Lucille gathered data on who the sponsor is, who has financed the application, who the co-sponsor is, who is taking primary responsibility for settlement.

CARE has requested 2 spaces for Asli Salah's husband and his daughter.

Actions:

Lucille will send out an e-mail to the Steering Committee outlining the information she has gathered from her application survey.

Sheila moved to approve CARE's request for 2 spaces for Asli Salah's husband and daughter.

Seconded by Pete.
All in favour.

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

Discussion:

Walaa Hadhad and family expected March 17. No NAT has been received.

Al Hariri's Quarantine Plan was submitted on Dec 24 2021.

Aysha Shoshara and children—application has now been accepted for processing.

Alahmad family of 6—2019 application. Interview scheduled for March 9.

Agenda Item: 2022 PSR Submissions

Discussion:

How many applications will we submit? Should we give some spaces back?

What should our role be as a SAH? Should we expand our work as a SAH? If a group from outside our geographic area asks us to be a SAH, would we consider that?

Do we separate as two entities, a SAH and a sponsorship group?

Actions:

We will consider these questions and make some decisions in June. In the meantime, we will conduct our capacity assessment.

Bronwen will set up a meeting with Bilal Abdul Kader and Shorouk Al Hasan to discuss their request to sponsor Shorouk's brother and family and Bilal's sister and family—finances, settlement responsibilities.

Agenda Item: Azaiza Family Update

Discussion:

The Azaizas' apartment is ready, airport arrival and taxi is organized. Quarantine requirements are not clear. March rent will be paid out of settlement fund.

Agenda Item: Almasri Family Update

Discussion:

An e-mail was sent out to the committee from Harry. Marwa is taking a course for women refugees through ISANS.

Agenda Item: Sulaiman Family Update

Discussion:

Both Adnan and Housam are interested in work. Mark reports that they are connected with ISANS.

Agenda Item: Al Issa Family

Discussion:

It was suggested that we ensure that the family is connected with Y-Reach and all of the services that Y-Reach offers.

Agenda Item: Program Integrity Framework Update from SAH Council/Navigation Unit

Discussion:

The IRCC are postponing the organisational assessment process ("revalidation") until at least May. This is similar to the process to apply to become a new SAH. SAHs will continue to have 3 months to prepare the assessments once the process launches.

The rest of the Program Integrity Framework (PIF) timeline is likely to be bumped in response, as well, with IRCC indicating that the full implementation of the PIF is likely in April 2023.

IRCC will provide an information session (hosted by RSTP) on March 30 and April 6. You can register at Wednesday March 30, 2022, at 1 PM EST (Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtduyvrjgtG9L1g3fv0ceRUz3TFw6Q3hTo>)

Wednesday April 06, 2022, at 1 PM EST (Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclfuuvqz4rG9VaBKfBUyrSL__qK_u8_dKr)

SAH Council/NU will continue to represent SAH interests within the PIF Working Group and will keep SAHs apprised of any changes/additions.

With respect to the need for audited financial statements, this was in the minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting held by IRCC with the SAH Navigation Unit, the SAH Council and RSTP. "Significant concerns around PIF, specifically re: requirement to present audited financial statements. Several SAHs have suggested they cannot meet this requirement and will therefore need to end their agreement. As many of these are larger SAHs, there are concerns around what will happen to their existing applications in process if they cease to be a SAH. SAHs are ultimately eager to hear directly from IRCC on both the status and details of the PIF." IRCC' response: "This has been raised in the PIF Working Group. IRCC's position is that this is critical for due diligence in confirming SAHs are in strong position of financial viability to support vulnerable newcomers. Understand this is a new and costly requirement – as per new process, only requesting this every 5 years. IRCC will be addressing Council's concerns around this shortly."

Actions:

Please consider registering for one of the two webinars, on March 30 and April 6.

Agenda Item: Fundraising

Discussion:

Sheila is building the auction site now. It will cost approx. \$90 US to use the auction website.

Actions:

Please share the auction information as widely as possible, to all networks.

Agenda Item: SAFE AGM

Discussion:

Keating Centre, 6:30 to 8:30, Conference Room A.

No food will be served.

Sheila is working to contact a keynote speaker.

Nominations Committee (Jack and Othman) has met and will be bringing nominations forward at the AGM.

Actions:

Lucille will send out an announcement for the AGM as soon as the room is secured. The announcement will include a request for nominations. Those wishing to fill a spot on the Steering Committee will be asked to provide a written expression of interest, describing their skills and background. The Nominations Committee will review all expressions of interest.

Agenda Item: Vulnerable Sector Checks

Actions:

Sheila moved that any potential volunteers who have paid for their VSCs be reimbursed.

Jack seconded.

All in favour.

Agenda Item: Recognition of New Canadians

Discussion:

Mark has spoken to the County office. The County will put together a gift bag to recognize those who have recently gotten their citizenship. Will we work with the Town for the same idea?

Agenda Item: SAH Capacity Self-Assessment

Actions:

We will meet March 29.

Harry will book a room at the St. Andrews Community Centre.

Agenda Item: Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Online.
