

Syria-Antigonish Families Embrace

May 10, 2022

8:15-9:15 pm

Online Zoom

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

Regrets: Marla Gaudet, Othman Soufan

Minutes

Agenda Item: Sponsorship Requests

Discussion:

Bilal Abdul Kader and Shorouk Al Hasan have submitted requests for the sponsorship of Osama Sulaiman Al Talib and Linda Abdul Kader, family of 3, Bilal's sister and family. In addition, a linked application for Ahmed Abdul Kader, Bilal's brother. Bilal and Shorouk agree to be co-sponsors. Full funding is not available at this time but Bilal and Shorouk are working to gather funds.

Bilal and Shorouk have also submitted a request for the sponsorship of Ahmed Al Hasan and Fawza Al Hagazy, family of 3, Shorouk's brother. Bilal and Shorouk agree to be co-sponsors. Full funding is not available at this time but Bilal and Shorouk are working to gather funds.

Can the Ahmed Al Hasan family come through a different immigration stream, given that Ahmed is a nurse and his English is good? Atlantic Pilot Immigration Program? Come as a student? It is important that he has his English level assessed in order to consider these other streams.

Esraa HudHud has submitted a request for her fiancé, Abd Almajeed AlSeedawi, family of 1. Esraa agrees to be a co-sponsor. The Hudhuds will provide settlement support and finances for the sponsorship.

Once applications are complete, RSTP training must be completed.

Actions:

Pete moved that applications for the two families be submitted one at a time, each when half the funds become available. In the meantime, SAFE and the Abdul Kader family will research alternate options for immigration for the Al Hasan family.

Seconded by Mary.

All in favour.

Sheila moved that we submit the file for Abd Almajeed AlSeedawi, contingent on the family having half the funds at the time of application and the other half at the time of the medical. If the full amount of the funds are not available at the time of the medical, the application halted and funds will be returned to the family.

Seconded by Jack.

All in favour.

Alaa and Lucille will meet with Esraa to begin the application process.

Agenda Item: Family Updates

Discussion:

Almasri Family: 6 month check in has been done on May 9. Harry to circulate report to Steering Committee, upload to OneDrive and notify Sue Adams for tracking the schedule.

Azaiza Family: nothing reported

Sulaiman Family: Adnan is working at St FX as a cleaner; Hosam is working for the Town as a gardener

Darbi Family: all are doing well. Walaa and Ghassan have started English classes

Al Hariri Family: 1 month visit done. Just started English lessons yesterday.

Al Issa Family: Jack and Bronwen are arranging a check in.

Agenda Item: Pending Arrivals—Rana Ghentawi Family

Actions:

All agreed that we should start looking for an apartment for the Rana Ghentawi family and not wait until we receive the NAT.

Alaa will ask Yvonne Lynch about available apartments.

Agenda Item: Fire Extinguishers

Discussion:

Important to have conversations with new families about fire safety, fire extinguishers, fire detectors. Some families are not aware of the equipment and some important procedures.

Actions:

SAFE will purchase fire extinguishers for each new home, if the landlord has not supplied one.

Pete will check that the Azaizas and the Darbis have fire extinguishers.

Agenda Item: Notice to SAHs on Updated Integrity Framework

Actions:

Lucille has sent out this notice to the Steering Committee. Please have a look at it.

We will continue to work on our succession plan and our capacity assessment.

Mark will create and send out preliminary input questionnaires.

Agenda Item: Approval of Printing Costs (additional motion by e-mail, May 14, 2022)

Actions:

Bronwen moved that as part of a fundraising and volunteer recruitment campaign, SAFE pay for the copying of the handout that will be distributed for four screenings of Peace by Chocolate, one in New Glasgow and three in Antigonish, for a total of \$333.25.

Seconded by Sheila.

Approved by e-mail: Harry, Marla, Alaa, Osama, Mary, Pete, Mark, Jack and Lucille
