



North-Am Immigration Organization

Annual Settlement and Refugee Sponsorship Report (2023)

Introduction

North-Am Immigration Organization (NAIO) is committed to supporting refugees through settlement and integration processes. In 2023, we have made significant strides in settling numerous families, receiving new approvals, and enhancing our capacity as a refugee sponsorship and settlement service provider. This has not been able to happen without the constant and active support of our community partnered settlement service and sponsorship organizations, including, North-Am HR Pro Services Organization, and AfCan Community Development Center. These CS Organizations have been highly effective and formed an enduringly effective partnership to address the needs of refugees/newcomers and deliver the best of settlement services to integrate them efficiently within the communities/riding of their residences. This report outlines our achievements, challenges, and plans.

Refugee Settlement and Integration

In 2023, NAIO jointly with partnered Community Sponsorship Organizations (North-Am HR Pro Services and AfCan Community Development Center-Charity) have successfully settled over 15 families in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). These families have been integrated into their new communities, accessing essential services, education, and employment opportunities. Additionally, we have settled 3 families outside the province of Ontario, each of which has been well established and integrated into their respective communities.

Settlement services: Below are the settlement services that we have provided to the above-mentioned refugees settled in 2023 prior and post-arrivals.

Pre-Arrival Refugee Settlement Services in Canada

1. Information and Orientation:

- Providing information about life in Canada, including housing, healthcare, education, and employment.
- Preparing refugees for cultural differences and expectations.

2. Language Assessment and Training:

- Offering online language assessment tools.
- Providing information about language training programs available upon arrival.

3. Employment Services:

- Offering information on the Canadian job market.
- Assisting with resume preparation and job search strategies.
- Providing information on credential recognition and licensing requirements.

4. Settlement Planning:

- Developing a personalized settlement plan based on the refugee's needs and goals.
- Connecting refugees with community services and supports available upon arrival.

5. Health Information:

- Providing information on the Canadian healthcare system.
- Offering guidance on how to access medical services and obtain health insurance.

6. Education and Training Information:

- Providing details about the Canadian education system.
- Assisting with the enrolment process for children and adults in educational institutions.

Post-Arrival Refugee Settlement Services in Canada

1. Reception and Orientation:

- Welcoming refugees upon arrival at the airport and accommodating them at their permanent residences.

- Providing immediate orientation sessions about life in Canada and available services.

2. Language Training:

- Offering in-person language classes through programs like Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC).

- Providing language training for specific purposes, such as employment or education.

3. Employment Services:

- Offering job search assistance, job matching, and placement services.

- Providing job readiness workshops and training programs.

- Assisting with credential assessment and recognition.

4. Housing Assistance:

- Helping refugees find and secure affordable housing. Prior their arrival, we already secure a permanent housing to directly transferring the refugees into their accommodation from the airport.

- Providing information on tenants' rights and responsibilities.

5. Health Services:

- Assisting with access to healthcare, including finding family doctors and specialists.

- Providing information on mental health services and support.

6. Education and Training Support:

- Assisting with the enrolment of children in schools.

- Offering adult education programs, including skills training and higher education opportunities.

7. Community Integration and Social Services:

- Facilitating connections with community groups and social networks.

- Offering mentorship programs to help refugees adapt to their new communities.

- Providing information and access to recreational and cultural activities.

8. Legal and Financial Services:

- Offering legal assistance with immigration and settlement-related issues.

- Providing financial literacy training and assistance with opening bank accounts.

9. Family and Child Services:

- Offering support services for families, including childcare and parenting programs.

- Providing information on family reunification processes.

These services are designed to ensure that refugees can effectively integrate into Canadian society and build successful lives in their new home.



New Approvals and

Throughout 2023, NAIIO received scores of new G numbers and secured 5 approvals, allowing us to continue our mission of sponsoring and settling refugees. We will be following same above-mentioned steps to be ready for the newcomers' arrivals at the exact time of arrivals once determined by IRCC in-bound after approval of the applications, and those who have received the approvals, the overseas IRCC office(s) to process the application(s). Moreover, we have already updated the online applications that needed to be informed to IRCC. Likewise, we have been in constant contacts with the refugee families responding to their inquiries, questions, and any concern, they might have had.

Sponsorship Agreement Holder Application

A significant milestone for the organization was receiving an invitation to apply to become a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH). Our application has been seconded for submission in 2024, which will enhance our ability to support more refugees in the future.

Community Support and Donations

NAIO has been fortunate to receive generous donations from community members and prominent businesses, including Afghan Supermarket, KHOGIANI Capital Corps., and Watan Kabob chain of restaurants. These donations have been crucial in supporting vulnerable Afghans who have been deported forcefully from Pakistan and are currently in Afghanistan. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors for their unwavering support.

Board of Directors and Organizational Planning

The Board of Directors at NAIIO has held regular meetings throughout the year to implement our annual organizational plan effectively. These meetings have been instrumental in addressing obstacles and finding solutions to enhance our service delivery. The board's dedication and strategic planning have been vital to our success in 2023.

Future Work Plans

Looking ahead to 2024, NAIIO aims to:

1. Finalize and submit our SAH application to expand our sponsorship capacity.
2. Continue settling and integrating more refugee families within and outside Ontario.
3. Strengthen partnerships with community members and businesses to secure additional support and resources.
4. Enhance our programs and services to better meet the needs of the refugees we serve.

Conclusion

2023 has been a year of growth and achievement for North-Am Immigration Organization. We are proud of the progress we have made in settling and supporting refugee families and are excited about the opportunities ahead. With the continued support of our community and partners, we are confident in our ability to make a meaningful difference in the lives of refugees in Canada.

Acknowledgments

We extend our deepest appreciation to all our donors, partners, and volunteers for their contributions and dedication. Together, we are making a significant impact on the lives of those who need it most.



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Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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President
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