

July Refugee Update. July 18, 2016

This is an update of what has been happening since mid-June as far as refugees are concerned.

- Every other Wednesday, the SAHs across Canada receive new lists of Refugee families approved to come to Canada. PWS & D is one of these and each time the lists come in, Rob Shropshire competes with others to get as many families as he can for groups like us who want one. The lists include Syrian refugees and refugees from other countries. For the last two months there have been more Syrian refugees than before. He manages one or two Syrian groups each time.
- This process was supposed to stop at the end of June and then resume again in September. Because so many Canadians want a family, the government has continued this process until the end of July. There is now word that it may continue into August too, but that is not definite yet. We should know that soon.
- We don't know where we are on Rob S's refugee list because it depends on the lists he receives. We can afford a family larger than 4 people. There are also many single men counted on the lists.
- In mid-June we received permission from Session to use another method of bringing in a family, if we and MOCC decided we would like to do that. We had been to a Guelph Refugee Forum meeting where we learned about another government group that brings in refugee families related to refugee families already in Canada. There are three refugee families already in Guelph who have registered families who wish to come to Guelph through this other method (FLI). After a mid-June meeting with MOCC, the two groups decided to get more information and in the meantime wait until September when more people are around. This FLI method is more expensive for us because we would be responsible for the total cost, unlike the BVOR method where the government contributes 6 months cost or half the cost for a family. We would still need patience because changing our method of bringing in a family will take time too. These refugees are not flight ready and would have to work through that process.
- We received an email late last week from the Guelph Refugee Forum asking if we would like to choose any furniture for our possible family. The full warehouse, where all of the donated furniture has been kept, needs to be cleared out. The owner needs it by the end of July. We contacted people from the 3 churches and also the Guelph Refugee Forum for an opinion. Because of the timing of this opportunity, for several reasons we declined the offer. Where would we store a lot of furniture? Previously, also, we had discussed that we would like the family to make most of the choices for what they would like.
- St. Andrews has received \$5 000 from the Presbytery to be put towards our Syrian project.

This is all the news we have right now. Please keep this whole project in your prayers.

Paul and Joanne Harrison