



*My mother is 39 years old. She is kind and beautiful.  
She has got short brown hair. She works as a teacher.  
She cooks very well. She does all the housework.  
She sometimes plays with me.  
She loves me very much. I love my mother. She is the best.*

*Safaa's ten year old daughter wrote and read this during our regular Whatsapp chats.  
She and her two older sisters and younger brother are learning English through the internet.*

### A WINDOW OF HOPE

After five long difficult years there is new hope that Safaa and her family will come to Canada.

It was May 2016 when Safaa's brother, Osama, and SPRIG, through St. John's United Church, submitted an application to sponsor Safaa and her four children. In the spring of 2020 the application to immigrate to Canada was denied. Then we consulted with a highly recommended immigration lawyer to look at the Federal government's decision. After obtaining and reviewing various related documents the lawyer advised us that there were matters of procedural fairness that could warrant a review of Safaa's case. We retained him to proceed with applying for a review of the application.

Since then, the immigration lawyer has been working with Safaa and SPRIG. Last month, the Federal Court of Canada granted leave for a judicial review of the refusal of Safaa's application. Fortunately, our lawyer was able to reach a satisfactory settlement of the judicial review without the need for a full court hearing in January. The government has agreed to have **Safaa's application sent back to the Canadian Visa Office in Lebanon to be redetermined.**

There is **still a potentially lengthy wait** ahead as the family's application information is updated and while the new Visa Officer considers the case, but the government has agreed to expedite the decision as much as possible. Of course, the outcome of the redetermination remains uncertain.

The happy news is that Safaa and the children are now being granted a second chance to have their application approved.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS - AGAIN WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP

Your prayers and support for Safaa and her children are important. One year ago we invited you to help pay for the legal fees for Safaa's case. Many of you responded generously and quickly.

Now more funds are needed for additional legal expenses relating to the redetermination. Be aware that financial contributions used for legal fees **cannot** receive charitable tax receipts.

Be assured that none of the charitable money held in trust by St. John's United Church Refugee Sponsorship Fund will be used for legal expenses. That fund can only be used for the settlement of refugees after they arrive in Canada. It will either be used to settle Safaa and her children here or it will be used to sponsor other refugees.

### YOUR FEEDBACK and SUPPORT

You may help pay for the additional legal expenses through a cheque or an e-transfer to [sprigshare@gmail.com](mailto:sprigshare@gmail.com) .  
If you have questions or comments, please phone Mabel Jean Rawlins, SPRIG chair, at 250 656 0834.

