



Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

UPDATE #20

December 18, 2017

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT:

At this joyful and generous season, we thank the many many people who continue to support the Syrian families that SPRIG is working with. You have given time, skill, money, furniture, clothing and much more. Over all the ups and downs over the past two years your hopes, your commitment and your prayers have been so important as we pursue our goal of bringing refugee families to safety and security in our community.

CONFUSION IN SAFAA'S APPLICATION:

In October the SPRIG UPDATE #19 stated that Safaa's application had been approved and we became very excited about their imminent arrival. Unfortunately there was misunderstanding about the status of the application for her and her children.

Elizabeth May's office has been very helpful in trying to find out what is happening in this application process. Recently they sent us the following information:

"Unfortunately, many of the delays we are seeing in relation to these files are being caused by international security agencies working in partnership with Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). These international agencies are often responsible for conducting the background checks and security clearances required by IRCC's refugee applicants. Unfortunately, since these agencies do not answer to IRCC directly it is impossible for us to facilitate expedited processing of these applications."

HOUSING MATTERS:

A generous landlord held an ideal two-bedroom suite in Sidney for a couple of months, ready for the arrival of Safaa and her family. However, because we do not know how long it will be before they arrive, we have informed the landlord that we can no longer expect him to reserve the suite. The Steering Committee decided we could not risk investing SPRIG funds to hold an empty suite indefinitely.

We trust that a welcome door will open when it is needed.

SHOPPERS OPTIMUM CARD is ending its option to donate points to charity:

If you have a Shoppers Optimum Card, as of January 1, 2018, customers will no longer have the option to donate loyalty points to a charity. So, before that date please transfer your points to the SPRIG account so that we can redeem them to purchase goods for the Syrians.

Go to <https://www1.shoppersdrugmart.ca/en/optimum-new> to donate your points to SPRIG before year end.

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