



# Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

## UPDATE #7

May 20, 2016

*Things are moving forward. You are invited to*

### **SPRIG's COMMUNITY GATHERING**

*From 1 to 2:30 pm Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> at St. John's United Church, 10990 West Saanich Road*

*We will share with you the exciting progress SPRIG is making.*

*There will be time to discuss the imminent tasks and responsibilities of the settlement plan.*

*If you want to become more involved, we will offer you opportunity and options.*

### **PREPARE TO WELCOME A SINGLE WOMAN, AND A FAMILY OF FIVE**

This summer the first SPRIG sponsored refugee will arrive on the Peninsula. Each of us can do something to welcome the newcomer, and thus to build a stronger community.

A lot has happened since UPDATE #6 (see <http://www.sprig.me/news/>). A month ago we told you that SPRIG would be applying through two government programs, (1) the **Blended Visa Office Refugee (BVOR) Program** and (2) the **Family Link Initiative of the Privately Sponsored Refugee (PSR) Program**. This is where we are now:

1. **A single woman could be here soon through the BVOR Program:** SPRIG is now preparing the sponsorship application including a detailed settlement plan for a single Syrian woman who has been referred for resettlement by the Canadian visa office abroad. Once our application is approved this young woman is expected to arrive within 4 to 12 weeks – possibly before September. The Canadian government shares some of the costs of BVOR resettlement with the Community Sponsors.
2. **The process is now underway for a Syrian mother (the Principal Applicant) and her four children under the age of 12 to come to the Saanich Peninsula through the Family Link Initiative of the PSR.** After days of painstaking work, on May 13th SPRIG submitted a 104-page application to the Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg, including a detailed settlement plan. St. John's United Church is named the Community Sponsor, with SPRIG and the Principal Applicant's brother as Co-Sponsors. Her brother and sister-in-law, who now live in Victoria with their children, are anxious to see their sister and her children safe and settled here. We expect the family of five to arrive some time in 2017 – but we should be prepared in case they arrive earlier. SPRIG is responsible for all the expenses of the family for their first twelve months in Canada.

#### **KUDOS:**

As we prepared the PSR application we had help from a number of trainers at the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program and from a committed friend of the refugee family. We cannot imagine doing it without their help.

#### **A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:**

The formal partnership has been signed between SPRIG and St. John's United Church. See photos on SPRIG's Facebook account.

**CHECK OUT SPRIG's website and see us on Facebook and Twitter:**

[www.sprig.me](http://www.sprig.me) [sprig@gmx.com](mailto:sprig@gmx.com)



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