

SPRIG UPDATE #9 – September 10, 2016

Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiatives Group

Here is the latest information and clarification about the arrival of Fatma and her family. Since UPDATE #8 at the end of July the situation has changed again, as has the urgency of our shout-out for accommodation and support.

When will the family arrive here? Now the family is in Turkey, where the current unrest has created a delay in the issuance of exit visas. We are told that the family could arrive in a few months, rather than a few weeks. We are also told that we will receive a notice of arrival two weeks before their plane lands at Victoria Airport.

What are the housing arrangements? The Intercultural Association of Victoria (ICA) is responsible for the settlement of Fatma's parents and brother, and advises us to wait until the family is here to confirm that Fatma prefers to live with her family. Until long term housing is sorted out, temporary accommodation has been arranged. Fatma will stay on the Peninsula with a SPRIG member, and the rest of her family will be housed in a hotel organized through ICA, provided by the Canadian Government.

Thank you to everyone who jumped forward to help find housing when we put out the call a few weeks ago. That unplanned test run proved that our community can pull out all the stops, work all our connections and show enormous generosity when needed. As soon as we know more we will put out another urgent call for help, and thank you in advance for your willing response.

This continued uncertainty is proving the strength of our staying power. Hopefully our next UPDATE will inform you the date of Fatma's arrival. Please, dear friends, rest assured that the sponsorship funds are safely deposited in the St. John's United Church bank account and, with your help, the settlement plan is ready to implement. Thank you for your patience and continued support!

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