



Private Sponsorship and Public Policy

Political barriers to church-connected
refugee resettlement in Canada

CITIZENS FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE



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Introduction

Canada has traditionally been known for its humanitarian efforts to help resettle those whose families have been uprooted and who live in fear for their lives. In 1986, “the people of Canada” received the UN Nansen Medal, an award given to individuals or groups for excellence in service to refugees. The honour was presented for Canada’s unprecedented response to the groups of refugees from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, a migration commonly referred to as the “Boat People” which effectively catalyzed churches and the government to start the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program.

Today, two-thirds of privately sponsored refugees come through one of 85 Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs). SAHs are incorporated organizations that have a signed agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to submit sponsorship applications for their own organization and for other sponsoring groups who work through them to submit their applications. The sponsorship commitment consists of financially and emotionally supporting a

refugee or refugee family for their first year in Canada, a task that includes raising about \$20,000 to \$30,000 depending on the family size and helping find accommodations, furniture, groceries, and eventually jobs. Since the inception of the PSR program in 1978, the majority of SAHs have been churches and church-connected organizations.

Some recent changes in policy, priorities, and processes at CIC have had significant implications for privately sponsored refugees and the faith communities that help them come to Canada. This study identifies church-connected SAHs’ top concerns relating to policy and government practices or processes that impact their refugee resettlement work. It then explores the methods used by these SAHs to engage the federal government on their concerns, investigates the efficacy of these methods, and documents SAHs’ perspectives on the best way to ensure the PSR program’s integrity moving forward.

With over 50 million refugees currently displaced from their homes around the world, the resettlement work done through SAHs over and above the Government Assisted Refugee (GAR) quota makes a life-and-death difference for thousands of individuals each year. It is the hope of Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) that this research will highlight the consequences of current government policy on the PSR program, and that it will enhance the ability of Canadian churches and the wider SAH community to advocate for policies and practices that better enable them to follow Christ’s call to welcome the stranger.

Methodology

The data in this study was gathered through key informant interviews with four SAH representatives from a variety of provinces and church affiliations. These interviews informed the creation of an online questionnaire which was distributed through the SAH Association, a national body representing the majority of Canada’s SAHs. A total of 41% of church-connected SAHs completed the survey.

Private Sponsorship & Canadian Churches

In the mid-seventies, Canadians were shocked by the plight of the Boat People arriving on their shores. The government resettled several thousand refugees, but the public wanted to do more. In 1978, Mennonite Central Committee worked with the government to negotiate and draft the first formal sponsorship agreement that would enable churches and similar organizations to privately resettle refugees. This helped open the door for Canada's unprecedented humanitarian response from 1979 – 1980, when 60,000 Laotian, Cambodian, and Vietnamese refugees were resettled. Since 1978, more than 200,000 refugees have come to Canada through the efforts and financial resources of faith groups, individuals, and community and ethnic organizations through the PSR program.

CIC reports that 6,623 privately sponsored refugees were resettled to Canada in 2013, with approximately two-thirds of them sponsored by churches or other sponsoring groups working through a SAH. Each year, the government sets target numbers for the PSR program, and it is largely the responsibility of SAHs to ensure they are met. In 2007, CIC released a report titled "Summative Evaluation of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program" which compared GARs with those settled through the PSR program. Both programs were equally effective at ensuring refugees' immediate needs were met, but privately sponsored refugees had higher employment income and became self-supporting more quickly.

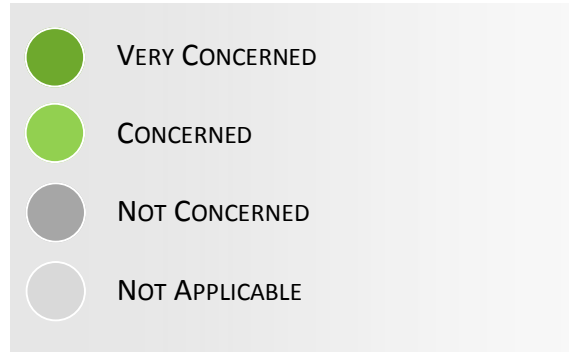


Common Acronyms

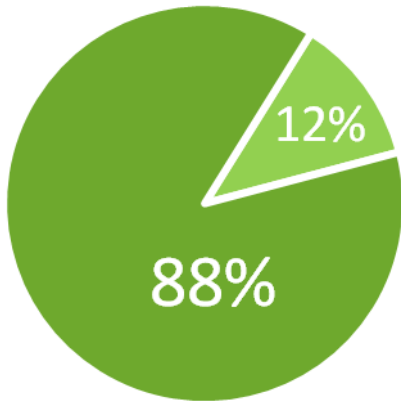
- BVOR – Blended Visa-Office Referred
- CCR – Canadian Council for Refugees
- CIC – Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- CPO-W – Centralized Processing Office – Winnipeg
- GAR – Government Assisted Refugee
- IFH – Interim Federal Health
- PSR – Private Sponsorship of Refugees
- SAH – Sponsorship Agreement Holder

There are currently 85 SAHs in Canada and approximately 72% are churches or church-connected groups. Among these groups, there is much variation as to the level of church governance that holds the sponsorship agreement with CIC. For example, in Catholic and Anglican churches, sponsorship agreements are almost exclusively held at the diocesan or regional level, with 18 and 15 SAHs respectively across the country. Denominations including Mennonite, Christian Reformed, United, Alliance, and Presbyterian each hold one sponsorship agreement at the national church office level; while several Orthodox and evangelical churches hold sponsorship agreements as individual congregations. Regardless of which organizational level of a church holds the agreement, it's community groups and church congregations who usually work through the SAH to resettle refugees into a community.

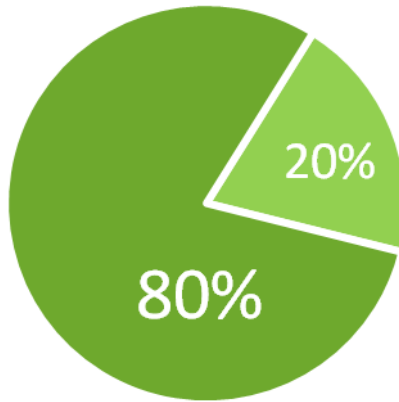
What policy issues and political trends are of top concern to church-connected SAHs?



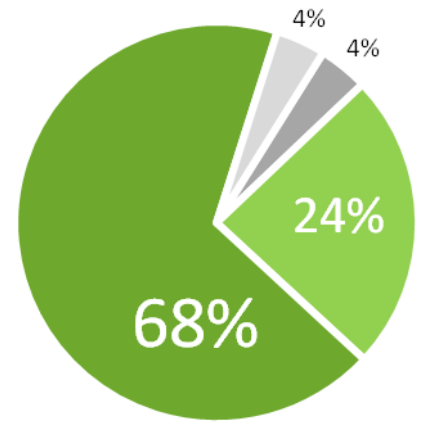
Wait Times & Processing Delays



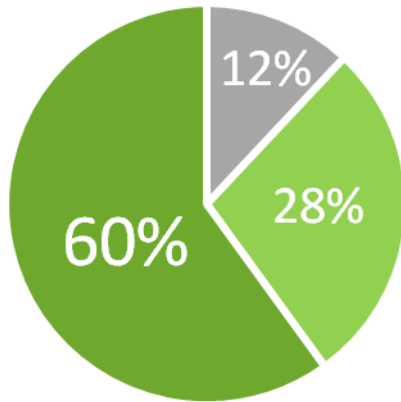
Interim Federal Health Program Cuts



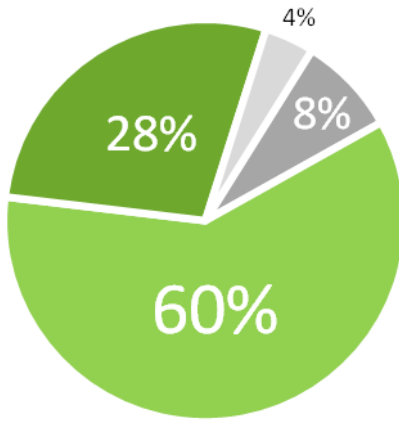
Lack of Government Consultation



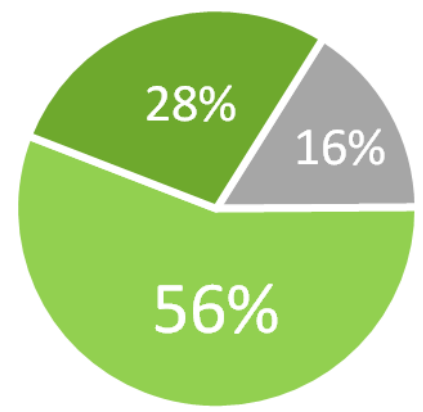
Change to the Age of "Dependent Children"



Limited Allocations



Visa Post Caps & Sub-Caps



“We wait so long for a response as to whether a sponsored party is going to be allowed to come to Canada. This needs to be addressed as it discourages us from submitting private sponsorships.”

Respondent

Long Wait Times & Processing Delays

One hundred per cent of the church-connected SAHs surveyed expressed concern about the long waiting period and processing time required after a sponsorship application is submitted. While this can be attributed to the desire that refugees make it to safety in Canada as quickly as possible, there are other reasons more specific to the PSR program and church-connected SAHs.

Central to the success of a private sponsorship—especially when it’s not a family-linked case—is keeping the sponsoring group engaged. With sponsoring groups raising tens of thousands of dollars and mentally preparing to spend one year as the support network for a refugee family, the impact on momentum for a sponsoring group when a case is delayed for years cannot be overstated.

One SAH representative referenced a situation where a sponsoring group submitted the sponsorship application in 2011 and heard that the refugee family was interviewed in 2012. Since then, there have been no updates and they are “uncertain whether [the] family of eight will ever arrive.” Beyond that, all the funds raised by the sponsoring group are “frozen in an account rather than assisting a family [to] settle. Now

“I am aware that our government cannot control some of the delays, but there are others that are within their power to change.”

Respondent

this [group] is not sure if they will ever do another sponsorship due to lack of communication from CIC [and the international Visa office].”

Issues with the application process itself are also of specific concern. According to a SAH representative interviewed for this study, the main government form has changed “three times in the past three years.” CIC has now created one streamlined form and online system across all immigration categories, but this computer-dependent system is difficult in many refugee situations. It has led to time-consuming inefficiencies such as SAHs needing to courier documents back and forth for signatures after forms are filled out digitally in Canada.

Finally, SAHs expressed frustration that the 2012 creation of the Centralized Processing Office – Winnipeg (CPO-W) has not lived up to its promise of increasing efficiency over local CIC offices that previously processed the sponsorship applications.

“People designing the forms have no understanding of the realities faced by refugees.”

Respondent

“Creation of CPO-W, while aimed at ‘increasing efficiency,’ has cut down on [the] number of immigration officers processing applications and resulted in much longer wait times.”

Respondent

Cuts to the Interim Federal Health Program

All respondents surveyed for this study expressed concern about the June 30, 2012 cuts made to the Interim Federal Health (IFH) program, which historically provided health care coverage for refugees and asylum seekers until they were eligible for provincial coverage. As a result of the cuts, some

sponsoring groups have had to pay for medical expenses previously covered through IFH. Examples of expenses cited include eye glasses and vision care, emergency dental work, mobility devices, and prescription drugs such as insulin. Costs ranged from hundreds to thousands of dollars depending on the type of treatment and number of family members requiring care.

Approximately one-third of church-connected SAHs (32%) report that their sponsoring groups have decreased or ended their involvement in the PSR program as a result of the added liability for health costs.

Of these SAHs, 87.5% have five or fewer sponsoring groups affected in this way; while 12.5% report having six to 10 groups that have reduced their level of sponsorship or completely stepped back from the program as a result of the increased liability.

refugee claimants are now without coverage for any medical care unless they pose a threat to public health. Privately sponsored refugees—who arrive in Canada as *permanent residents*, not claimants—lost supplemental benefits such as vision care, emergency dental work, mobility devices and medication. Before the cuts, privately sponsored refugees received temporary benefits comparable to other permanent residents in a similar income bracket: those on social assistance.

All provincial and territorial governments condemned the IFH cuts, and several decided to step in with coverage on humanitarian grounds, though this took time. For example, the province of Ontario reinstated coverage on January 1, 2014—18 months after the cuts initially took effect. For this year and a half, sponsoring groups in the province were on the line for previously-covered medical expenses. While the reinstated benefits are not identical across the country, the majority of provinces now offer some level of temporary coverage.

Still, 40% of church-connected SAHs report that their

Multiple SAHs specifically referenced the concern that a cancer diagnosis could put the sponsors on the line for tens of thousands of dollars in medical fees. This would be in addition to the \$20,000 to \$30,000 the volunteer group must raise to resettle a refugee family to Canada. Multiple SAHs consulted for this survey indicated that the concern about liability for potentially catastrophic medical costs had a direct impact on sponsoring groups' ability or willingness to continue sponsoring.

“Fortunately we have not had an applicant with a serious chronic illness or cancer, or these individuals would not have access to medication.”

Respondent

“There was no choice other than buying two wheelchairs for sponsored refugees that needed them.”

Respondent

“There are so many things that hit the SAH community from left field.”

Interview Participant

Lack of Government Consultation with SAHs

Although the PSR program is meant to be a partnership between CIC and private groups, 92% of church-connected SAHs were concerned about the government’s lack of consultation with their private partners. Several respondents clearly differentiated between the departmental side of CIC (civil servants) and the political side (the minister’s office)—emphasizing that their frustration is towards the minister’s office and not the civil servants whose hands are often tied by political decisions.

A lack of meaningful consultation was identified outright as a concern during the study, but it was also referenced indirectly as respondents explained other policy concerns. For example, 88% of SAHs expressed concern about the change to the definition of a dependent child from 21 and under to 18 and under. As of August 1, 2014, 19-year-old children of refugees are no longer eligible to be sponsored to enter Canada with their parents, a decision one respondent said would make Canada “the worst country for refugee resettlement” and that another called “inhumane.” While the government officially asked for public consultation before implementing the change, even the overwhelming opposition (the majority of responses were opposed) could not halt the decision.

“[Minister Chris Alexander] seems to want more participation [in the program] while refusing to consider with us what we need in order to grow or even maintain our levels of sponsorships.”

Respondent

Two other examples of policy changes cited came as a complete shock to many in the SAH community, with no prior consultation and little opportunity for recourse. First was the announcement that SAHs would be required to find sponsors for several hundred Blended Visa Office Referred cases (BVORs), a hybrid sponsorship model that “blends” government and private support. It offers churches and other sponsoring groups a shorter time of financial undertaking (six months, with the government covering the other six months), a several month wait-time (as opposed to several years) for the sponsored refugees’ arrival, and no extra liability for medical costs as BVORs have full IFH coverage.

One of the several nuanced downsides is that BVOR cases are technically GARs, so if they aren’t sponsored under the blended format, the government will still resettle them. As one SAH representative explained, this goes against the ability of the PSR program to help refugees “over and above” what the government would already be doing, which is a “major selling feature” for churches. In addition, BVORs were added on top of existing PSR sponsorship numbers for the year. As one SAH explained: “There was no consultation to say, ‘Do you have any more capacity?’”

“When will [the federal government] realize you cannot dictate to volunteers the way you dictate to funded organizations?”

Respondent



Allocations & Visa Post Caps

The second example that surprised at least some SAHs was the 2013 announcement that Canada would accept up to 1,300 Syrian refugees by the end of 2014, with the government only responsible for 200 of these and 1,100 unilaterally allocated to private sponsorship. “We heard that on the radio,” said one representative of a national-level SAH. “It was such a slap in the face. We didn’t even find out before the Canadian public.”

“**[There is a] trend of increasing the number of privately sponsored allocations and claiming it as government commitment while actually reducing government assisted refugee numbers.**”

Respondent

The SAH community is not unified in their position on the 2012 introduction of a global cap on private sponsorship applications, with the available spots specifically allocated among SAHs by CIC. Some say that the allocations are too limiting and cut back on the number of refugees they could realistically resettle in a year. Others report that allocations are necessary to discourage excessive applications, cut down on current backlogs, and keep from re-clogging the system.

Another limit now impacting SAHs in order to reduce backlogs are “sub-caps” at some Visa posts, which limit the amount of applications made to sponsor refugees from specific regions of the world. To slightly ease these limitations, SAHs will exchange both general and Visa-post-specific sponsorship spots among themselves so that none go unused if some SAHs don’t reach their allowed limits or others have more demand for sponsorships from a certain region than the spots allotted them.

While many SAHs believe the allocations and sub-caps are necessary in some form, there are widely-held concerns relating to the lack of transparency from CIC surrounding the allocations system and the impact of area-specific sub-caps on the autonomy and sustainability of the PSR program. In total, 88% of surveyed SAHs expressed concern about the system for allocations and 84% indicated concern about the regional sub-caps.

“**When I first started I found it odd that we were working with government and there were no limits.**”

Interview Participant

Regarding allocations, SAHs say that CIC’s system places them in a tough situation when managing relationships with churches and other sponsoring groups. One SAH representative described having to turn down groups interested in sponsoring because their allocated spots had been assigned already, but then never receiving applications from some of the groups who had been given those coveted spots. “It just has made it really awkward,” said the representative, especially when they had to call the groups they had initially turned down to say they did have space—but at that point it was too late for anyone to make an application before the deadline. Now, they never say no to any group; they tell them to start preparing their application but that there’s no guarantee it will be submitted that year.

A more recent concern with allocations was the unexplained and continual delay from CIC in the release of the 2014 allocation numbers. They were eventually published on August 1, 2014, more than nine months after their scheduled release. This all but paralyzed SAHs from moving forward with sponsoring groups because they didn’t know how many spots they would have or how the numbers would be split between Visa posts. SAHs were continually promised release dates from CIC which inevitably passed without the release of the 2014 numbers. Now that the allocations are finally released, the influx of applications will likely only further slow the processing at CPO-W.

Another related concern of the SAH community is that area-specific sub-caps threaten the very viability of the PSR program. Because the majority of private sponsorships are named or family-linked cases, it’s often a personal connection that compels sponsors to commit to the financial undertaking and provide the year of settlement services. In a phenomenon referred

“The issue of not having received allocations is very frustrating to say the least, but most agonizing is knowing that real lives are being gambled with when simple administrative decisions like these are not being handled appropriately.”

Respondent

“The government has no humanitarian ears and refuses to hear the pleas of SAHs and chooses to sponsor only those populations that have political or financial benefit.”

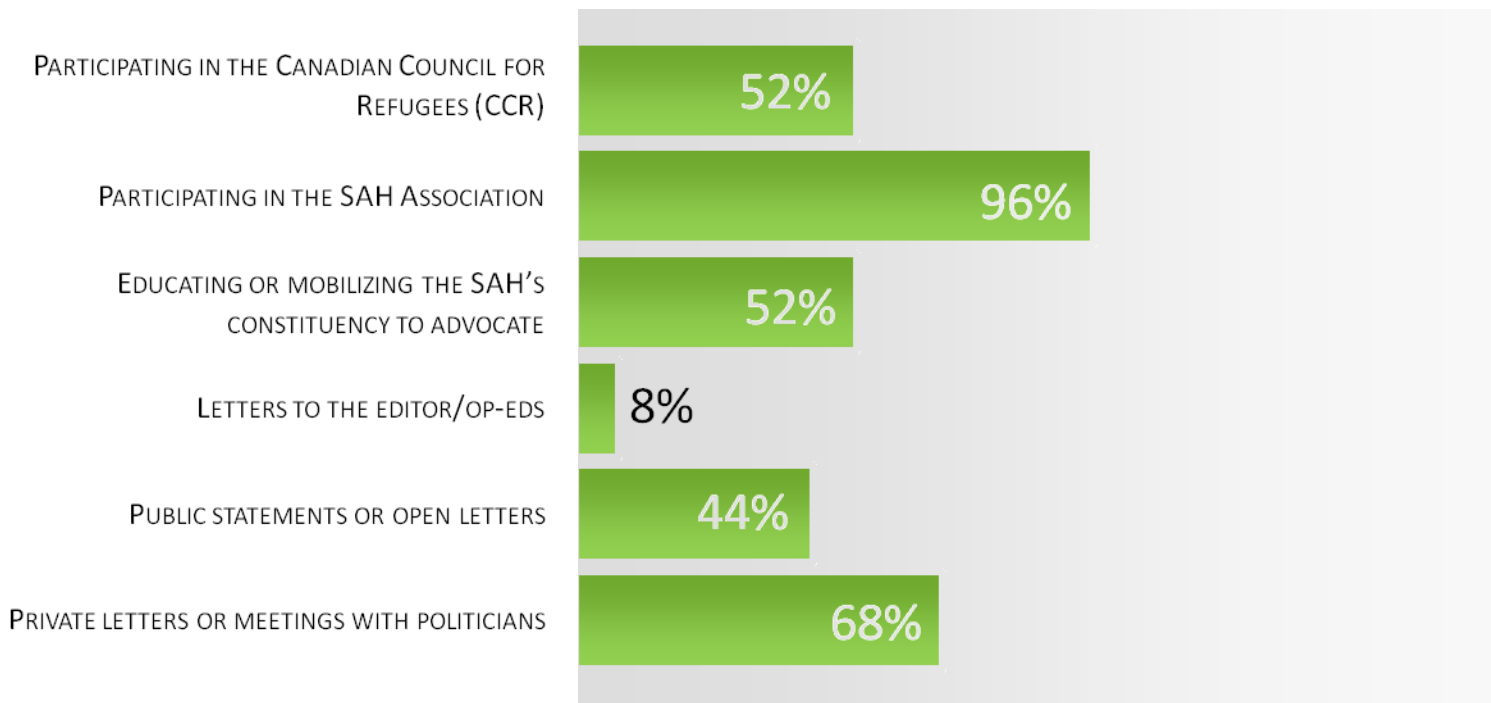
Respondent

to as “the echo effect,” there are increases in private sponsorships in regions previously prioritized for government-assisted resettlement. After the government program moves on to a different region, many of the resettled refugees turn to private sponsorship to help friends or family still caught in dangerous situations. Therefore, the sudden and severe limits on applications to the Nairobi, Cairo, and Islamabad Visa posts in the last two years have had a chilling impact because they corresponded to the regions with high numbers of “echo effect” sponsors. In this way, policy decisions are jeopardizing the very engine of the PSR program.

“We as private sponsors are losing our ability to sponsor those people we wish to help. That is the families of new residents who wish to have other family who are in danger with them in safety.”

Respondent

How do church-connected SAHs engage the federal government about their concerns?



"The strongest approach would be to speak together as a SAH Association, publicly and frankly, about our concerns. The upcoming federal elections would be a very good point of focus."

Respondent

Collective Engagement

One hundred per cent of church-connected SAHs consulted for this study were involved in some form of collective body that engages the government on their behalf. Many indicated that this strategy is more effective than acting individually, even when it seems that collective actions are routinely ignored by the political side of CIC.

The SAH Association, formed in 2011, is open to all SAHs and currently represents 77 of the 85 total in Canada. Their mandate is to be the collective voice of SAHs, and their eight-person elected SAH Council sits on a CIC-NGO committee that meets three to four times a year to discuss issues related to the PSR program. The full SAH Association meets once a year, with travel paid for by CIC. This annual multi-day meeting includes a "SAH-only" day of the meetings and also provides a forum to engage with CIC and UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency.

While the SAH Council regularly writes to the Minister of CIC to express the association's concerns, the correspondence often goes unanswered. There are cases, however, where the association's collective decision to take action has moved the political side of CIC to respond to concerns. For example, it was pushback at the 2012 SAH Association meeting that reversed intended IFH cuts for BVOR cases. With the SAH community being told they would need to find sponsors for hundreds of these GAR blended cases, the representatives present fought back and refused to take on the responsibility for BVORs unless full IFH coverage was included.

Just over half (52%) of the SAHs surveyed for this study said that they are involved with the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), a networking, advocacy, and educational group for organizations involved in all aspects of refugee and migrant services. Other collective bodies referenced include the Catholic network on refugee assistance, animated by the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto; and smaller local coalitions formed between geographically close SAHs and refugee-serving groups across the country.

Constituency Education & Activation

Fifty-two per cent of church-connected SAHs said they have tried to address their policy concerns by educating their sponsoring groups (churches or parishes, for example) and mobilizing them to advocate. One SAH representative emphasized the importance of SAHs educating their organizations' own leaders on policy impacts and concerns. One denomination-wide SAH talked about the potential for educating their "captured constituents" in the pews and recently encouraged their congregations' sponsorship committees to speak with their local MPs on the delay in allocations. They have also prompted churches to use the CCR's talking points about the IFH cuts to speak with one voice on the issue and educate their communities. This SAH recommends that the SAH Council consider organizing SAH Association members into working groups to enable better mobilizing between the Council, SAHs, and their constituents.

Individual Engagement

Sixty-eight per cent of survey respondents said they had used private letters or meetings with politicians to bring their concerns to the government. Forty-four per cent had used public statements or open letters to communicate concerns to both politicians and the public. Several respondents reported using the media to influence public sentiment, clarify government misinformation, or speak directly on policy issues. Some SAHs referenced being interviewed by the media or seeking other press coverage, while 8% wrote letters to the editor or op-eds.

"Unfortunately, Twitter seems to be one of the few ways to get the attention of the Minister."

Respondent

"It's very frustrating that the Minister has not responded to any letters from our Council."

Respondent

“First and foremost for SAHs are the urgent applications before them. They can’t take valuable time with CIC and with each other as SAH groups *not* talking about individual cases or [procedures].”

Respondent

“We did not make public statements since this government not only does not respond to such action—they blacklist groups who criticize them. For the sake of keeping the door open and the possibility to meet with the Minister, we have not [...] participated in a public campaign.”

Respondent

Legal & Political Avenues

A limited number of SAHs used more official mechanisms to have their concerns heard. One Manitoba SAH cited involvement in a lawsuit against the federal government which was ultimately unsuccessful, and another explained that they submitted an Access to Information (ATIP) request for data being withheld by CIC. In this latter example, SAH representatives at the 2012 SAH Association meeting requested to know the actual amounts of extended benefit claims to IFH so they could predict the costs in *extreme* cases that they would now be liable for. CIC initially promised the data, which never came. When then-CIC-Minister Jason Kenney responded in the media—saying that churches didn’t need to get upset because the *average* annual cost of refugees’ extended benefits was \$170—one SAH submitted an ATIP request. The results, as explained by this SAH representative, were not ideal: “CIC would allow me to consult their database for \$100 for 10 minutes and \$10/minute after the first 10 minutes. Since the cost could have been exorbitant, I filed a complaint with the Information Commissioner. The Commissioner’s office has followed up, but so far without success.”

Barriers to Engagement & Ways Forward

The more established SAH organizations usually have one paid employee, full- or part-time, responsible for coordinating their sponsorship activities. Others rely on one or more volunteers to implement the program. With such limited resources, as well as the desperate situations of the refugees they’re working to help, many SAH representatives feel they don’t have time to focus on policy issues or trends. Whenever they have the ear of CIC, the priority is working through procedural details and getting answers to case-specific questions. The necessity of maintaining this working relationship with CIC places SAHs in a difficult position regarding government engagement.

Some SAHs believe it’s better to take “a cooperative approach rather than an adversarial approach,” as one representative explains. SAHs with this perspective describe the importance of building relationships with civil servants and politicians because “the ministry needs to be present at [SAH Association] conferences” and because CIC staff are able to “raise up issues through internal channels.”

In contrast to this view, other SAHs feel the need to move beyond cooperation with CIC. As one SAH representative explains, “Our regular communications with the CIC civil servants work well, but the effect is limited by the Minister’s apparent failure to consult with them or respond to their recommendations.” In the words of another: “We believe that the CIC staff are essentially on our side, but [they] are powerless to help.”



This general divide extends to SAHs' views on engaging the media. Some SAHs see the media as a valuable tool to educate the public on "the realities versus political lies" when it comes to refugee policy and practice in Canada. Other SAHs have a different view, saying their experience has shown that going to the media is counterproductive to creating meaningful change in the program. "It seems the current government tends to see this as an act of hostility and seems less willing to engage in dialogue," begins one SAH representative. "One could perhaps say that they were not that interested in dialogue to begin with, but I think it is more likely they will open up with quiet discussions out of the public view."

SAHs are also split in their view on taking public, political stances. Some SAHs believe the most realistic way to improve the PSR program is by keeping the doors open with those in power, while others feel that the only way to move forward is by *changing* those in power. The former advocate for "meeting with the ruling party's MPs rather than preaching to the choir when meeting with opposition parties," while the latter emphasize public education and activation leading up to an election. One SAH representative says

that politicians listen to SAHs in some areas of Canada—but only in places where they need to win votes. In stronghold ridings, SAHs' letters may take months to be passed from MPs to the Minister, which only leads to a "non-answer or rationale" for the decision or policy in question. Others who have contacted CIC about their concerns report feeling "chastised" for raising issues.

"There's a power imbalance. If they say something we can say we don't like it, but ultimately they're the ones running the program," says a representative from a national Protestant SAH about working with CIC. This representative notes that SAHs say they want advocacy but some are hesitant to link up with the CCR which is known for being more political and for challenging policy through the legal system. Other SAHs note that the SAH Council errs on the side of caution, not wanting to encourage political action or organizing because it could jeopardize the mostly diplomatic relationship that currently keeps the program running. Still, SAHs hope to find some common ground and an effective way forward through the SAH Association, as it's seen as the best opportunity to have a unified voice on the PSR program.

“The [SAH] Council is hesitant to be overtly political in response because this could have a negative impact on the relationship between the SAHs and the program. However, it is questionable how long we will wait quietly.”

Respondent

“I think it would be helpful to have a more coordinated and comprehensive response from the SAH community to the government. As an Association we could take more coordinated action at least to clarify the program and what our role is in resettlement.”

Respondent

Conclusion

Churches and church-connected groups in Canada have played a vital role in Canada’s PSR program from its inception in the late 1970s. Since then, faith communities across the country have made significant contributions to resettling the 200,000-plus privately sponsored refugees who have found safety in Canada.

One hundred per cent of SAHs surveyed in this study are concerned about policy issues and trends currently affecting the PSR program. They described their concern with the several-year wait times and processing hurdles that jeopardize their sponsoring groups’ future engagement in resettlement work. They also confirm that cuts to the IFH program have left church-based and other voluntary sponsoring groups on the line for previously-covered supplemental health costs. About one-third of SAHs report that their sponsoring groups have had to decrease or end their involvement in the PSR program as a result of this increased liability.

Ninety-two per cent of church-connected SAHs indicated a troubling lack of government consultation with SAHs over decisions affecting faith groups, other sponsoring groups, and the refugees resettled to Canada. They cite examples like the unpopular regulatory change in the age of “dependent children” and the unexpected announcements about SAHs’ roles

in resettling BVOR and Syrian refugee cases. A strong majority of church-connected SAHs also expressed concern about the paralyzing delay in allocation numbers and the impact of area-specific caps that undermine the PSR program’s ability to incent the substantial cost of sponsorship through personal connection.

While SAHs agree on the gravity of their policy-related concerns, they are not unified in their perspective on the best ways to effectively engage the government for reform. The largest consensus is that collective engagement is necessary, specifically through the SAH Association as it represents 91% of SAHs in Canada. All SAHs’ main priority is ensuring the safety and successful resettlement of refugees, and this is dependent on the health of the PSR program and the political context.

With the current level of frustration felt about policies and political trends, it’s clear that some form of coordinated advocacy is necessary. SAHs must clarify their common objectives and concerns and be strategic in expressing their collective voice. Both cooperation and direct advocacy—depending on the issue at hand and the timing—are needed as tools for SAHs and the wider faith community to effectively fulfil their mandate of welcoming the stranger.

CITIZENS FOR
PUBLIC JUSTICE



FAITH JUSTICE POLITICS

Citizens for Public Justice is a non-partisan, ecumenical Christian organization that promotes public justice in Canada by shaping key policy debates through research and analysis, publishing, and public dialogue. CPJ encourages citizens, organizations, and governments to support policies and practices that reflect God's call for love and justice.

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