

**Trung Tâm Người Việt
Canada**



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Charitable Organization Registration No. 0772350-59-10

**Coordinating Committee
for the Sponsorship of Vietnamese Refugees in the Philippines
Project *Freedom at Last***

PRESS RELEASE

**Sponsorship and fund-raising campaign underway
to help refugees resettle in Canada**

The Vietnamese Canadian Centre (VCC), the affiliated registered charity of the Vietnamese Canadian Federation (VCF), is pleased to announce the establishment of the **Coordinating Committee for the Sponsorship of Vietnamese Refugees in the Philippines** to undertake Project *Freedom at Last*, an initiative by the VCF to sponsor Vietnamese refugees who have been stranded in the Philippines since 1988.

After 5 years of lobbying by the Vietnamese community in Canada, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) announced on May 10, 2007 that the government will facilitate the immigration of the Vietnamese who remain in the Philippines based on humanitarian and compassionate consideration. The applications of those who don't qualify for admission to Canada under either the Family Class or the Federal Skilled Worker Class will be assessed based on this consideration.

At present, there are 161 persons (31 families and 68 individuals) who need resettlement in Canada.

Under Project *Freedom at Last*, the Coordinating Committee will work with work with SOS VietPhi, an organization founded in 2005 to assist the VCF in lobbying for the resettlement of these refugees in Canada, and VOICE (Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Conscience Empowerment), a U.S.-based non-profit organization, to raise funds to help the refugees cover the costs of their resettlement (including the application processing, medical examinations, permanent residence fees, and transportation costs), and to form sponsor groups across Canada to help bring them to Canada.

The sponsor groups will, on a voluntary basis, provide basic resettlement assistance to the refugees, for example, by arranging for accommodations, medical insurance, employment, language or training courses for adults, and children's school enrollment. **They will not be required to sign any legally-binding agreement with the government.**

All donations to Project *Freedom at Last*, in cheques or money orders (cash to be avoided), should be made payable to “**Vietnamese Canadian Centre / Project Freedom at Last**”, and sent to the Vietnamese Canadian Centre, 249 Rochester St., Ottawa, ON K1R 7M9 CANADA.

Donations of CDA \$5 or above will be issued a tax receipt which can be used in either Canada or the U.S.

In order to avoid possible misdirection, contributors in Canada are asked to send their donations directly to the VCC or through reliable local organizations. Contributors in the U.S. or elsewhere can send their donations either to Ottawa or to VOICE’s office in Washington, D.C., c/o its representatives, lawyers Hoi Trinh or Lisa Nguyen (1802 S St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009 U.S.A.)

For further information, please refer to the VCF’s Announcement #1 or the Qs&As of June 27, 2007 or contact the ***Coordinating Committee for the Sponsorship of Vietnamese Refugees in the Philippines*** at the postal address, telephone, fax, or email address shown above.

-30-

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