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

Frequently asked questions

1. Why do we need sponsor groups?

According to the announcement made by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration on May 10, 2007, the Government of Canada will facilitate the immigration of the Vietnamese refugees who remain in the Philippines close to 20 years by assessing their application based on humanitarian and compassionate consideration. The applicants have to demonstrate that they have the potential to resettle successfully in Canada, based on their professional and linguistic skills, the experience that they've gained in earning their living in the Philippines, and especially on the support of sponsor groups upon their arrival in Canada. This is the reason why we need to set up these groups.

Currently there are 161 people (31 families and 68 individuals) who need resettlement in Canada.

2. What is the role of sponsoring groups?

The sponsor groups have to show that they're prepared to support the refugees, upon their arrival in Canada, on a voluntary basis. **No legally binding agreement with the government is required.** The support services consist of the following: arranging for accommodation, looking for employment, purchasing medical insurance, registering the adults in language or professional development course, and enrolling the children in schools.

3. What are the resettlement expenses (estimates in Canadian dollars)?

a/ Pre-Arrival

- Application processing fee: \$570 for adults, \$150 for dependent children (under 22 years of age).
- Permanent residence fee: \$490 for heads of family and spouses.
- Medical examination fee in the Philippines: about \$100 for adults, \$50 for children (14 years old and under).
- Air transportation from the Philippines to Canada: \$1,100 for adults, \$900 for children (3 – 11 years old)

- Transportation from various locations in the Philippines to Manila for interviews with Canadian immigration officers: from \$100 to \$500 each person, depending on the distance between their current residence and Manila)

b/ Post-Arrival (monthly expenses, for the first three months, including the initial costs of setting set up households)

- Rent: \$400 for individuals, \$800 for a family of 4 (husband, wife, and 2 small children).
- Food: \$400 for individuals, \$1,000 for a family (as above)
- Other expenses: about \$400 for individuals and \$700 for family.

4. Division of responsibilities?

The Coordinating Committee for the Sponsorship of Vietnamese Refugees in the Philippines (CCSVRP) – founded by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation (VCF) through the Vietnamese Canadian Centre, its charitable affiliate – will cooperate with SOS VietPhi and VOICE (Vietnamese Overseas Initiative for Conscience Empowerment) to raise funds to cover the pre-arrival expenses of **those who can't afford them**. The sponsor groups will provide post-arrival financial support to those refugees **who don't have the means to support themselves**.

5. Will tax receipts be issued for donations, and how can we get them?

If the local sponsor groups can't issue tax receipts, the donations need to be sent to the Coordinating Committee in Ottawa. The Committee will refund the expenses of each group up to the limit of its contribution, and will issue tax receipts to all donations of \$5.00 and up. If a sponsor group doesn't use up its contribution, the surplus will be used to help other groups in need or used in other charitable activities, as specified by Canadian tax laws.

6. Can a sponsor group terminate its activities due to unforeseen reasons?

If a sponsor group can't continue its activities, for example, due to an irreconcilable disagreement between the sponsors and the refugees, or due to a financial difficulty or a lack of volunteers, it can terminate its activities because **in principle, there's no legally binding agreement with the government on the sponsorship**. In this case, the Coordinating Committee will ask the VCF's local member association or other organizations to take over the task of helping the affected refugees. Failing that, the refugees -- who have become full permanent residents of Canada by now -- will be able to get help from social service agencies like any other permanent resident.

7. What should be done to proceed with the sponsorship?

First of all, you need to form your own sponsor group. Then you contact the Coordinating Committee to get information on those who require sponsorship and to decide whom to sponsor. After that, the sponsorship group will contact the selected refugees directly to provide them with the information necessary for the application and to guide them on the resettlement in Canada.

8. When will the refugees arrive in Canada?

It takes several months for the application process and the medical examination and security checks to be completed. Therefore, the admitted refugees are expected to arrive in Canada, at the earliest, between 6 months to a year after the submission of their applications.

9. How can we make financial contributions?

You can make donations to the Project *Freedom at last* by sending a cheque or a money order – please avoid sending cash – made payable to “**Vietnamese Canadian Centre / Project *Freedom at Last***”, and sent it to the following address:

Vietnamese Canadian Centre
249 Rochester St., Ottawa, ON K1R 7M9, CANADA

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

In order to avoid possible misdirection of the donations, contributors in Canada are asked to send them directly to Ottawa or through reliable local organizations. Donations from the U.S. or elsewhere can be sent to the above address or to VOICE (1802 S St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009 U.S.A., c/o Lawyer Trinh Hoi or Lisa Nguyen).

10. Where will the surplus funds (if any) go, after the completion of this project?

After the termination of the Project *Freedom at last*, if there's any surplus, it will be used in those activities which are allowed by Canada's current tax laws.

11. Whom should we contact for more information?

For further information, please contact the ***Coordinating Committee for the Sponsorship of Vietnamese Refugees in the Philippines*** at the postal address, telephone or fax numbers, or email address shown above.

June 27, 2007