

Refugee Support: Glossary of Government Terms

BVOR – Blended Visa Office Referred – This is a program designed to resettle Visa Office-Referred refugees through a cost-sharing arrangement between Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Sponsorship Agreement Holders and their Constituent Groups.

CG – Constituent Group is a group authorized by a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) to act on its behalf in sponsoring refugees. An SAH can authorize any number of Constituent Groups (CGs) to sponsor under its agreement. Each SAH sets its own criteria for recognizing CGs.

CIC– Citizenship and Immigration Canada

CPO-W – Centralized Processing Office Winnipeg refers to a CIC office that was launched in April 2012 and is responsible for in-Canada processing of overseas refugee sponsorship applications.

GCMS – Global Case Management System is Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s single, integrated, and worldwide database system used internally to process applications for citizenship and immigration services.

IFH – Interim Federal Health Program – A health program established by the Government of Canada that provides temporary medical coverage for some refugees during the settlement period in Canada.

IOM– International Organization for Migration has a primary mandate to make arrangements for the organized transfer of foreign nationals, including refugees, displaced persons, and other individuals in need of international migration services. It arranges transportation and medical examinations for refugees. The IOM provides an in-depth Canadian Orientation Abroad (COA) program on a contractual basis.

JAS – Joint Assistance Sponsorship – A joint undertaking by a Sponsorship Agreement Holder and one of its Constituent Groups and CIC to sponsor Government-Assisted Refugees requiring special assistance and whose admissibility depends upon this additional support to become established.

MC – Matching Centre – Office located at Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s (CIC) National Headquarters that is responsible for brokering between CICs located in Canada and Visa posts overseas regarding the destining and matching to sponsors of selected refugees who have been successfully processed and are ready to travel to Canada. The MC is also responsible for the destining of some Government-Assisted Refugees as well as coordinating Notice of Arrival information.

NAT – Notification (Notice) of Arrival Transmission – advises the local CIC and service provider organization (in the case of Government-Assisted Refugees and those under the Joint Assistance Sponsorship program) and sponsors (in the case of Private Sponsorships, Joint Assistance Sponsorships, and Blended Visa Office Referred cases) of the date of arrival and

flight details of the refugee, and of pertinent details such as the names of sponsors, onward travel arrangements to final destinations, and special needs (e.g., wheelchair required), etc. NATs are required to maintain accurate statistics and are sent for all refugees. They include point of origin, port of entry, date of arrival, flight details, special requirements and identification of special programs such as OYW or blended initiative.

OYW – One Year Window of Opportunity – A regulatory mechanism that allows non-accompanying family members to submit an application and be eligible to be processed in the same class and category as the principal applicant (PA) for up to one year following the PA's arrival in Canada. All family members must be identified on the PA's application form.

PA – Principal Applicant – For a single applicant, it is that one person. For spouses and common law partners including those with children, it is the person with the strongest claim to persecution.

POE – Port of Entry – Legal point of entry into Canada, staffed by Canada Border Services Agency employees. Most POEs are at international airports, legal border crossing checkpoints with the United States, and at lake and coastal seaports.

PSR – Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

RAP – Resettlement Assistance Program – A contribution program established by CIC that provides basic income support and essential services for refugees who have been admitted to Canada as Government-Assisted Refugees or under the Joint-Assistance Sponsorship program.

RSTP – Refugee Sponsorship Training Program – A program funded by CIC whose primary mandate is to provide training and information on the private sponsorship of refugees to SAHs, CGs, co-sponsors, Community Sponsors, and Groups of Five. See www.rstp.ca for more info.

SAH – Sponsorship Agreement Holder – An incorporated organization that has signed a formal sponsorship agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Most current SAHs are religious organizations, ethnocultural groups, or other humanitarian organizations. SAHs, which may be local, regional, or national, assume overall responsibility for the management of sponsorships under their agreement.

Secondary Migration – Refers to a refugee-initiated change in location on arrival in Canada, or during the period of the sponsorship, to a destination (city or province) other than the sponsoring community, i.e., the one chosen during the selection process overseas.

Sponsorship Breakdown – An official declaration that an irreparable failure to meet the sponsorship arrangements (care, lodging, and settlement assistance) has occurred. Sponsorship breakdown is a condition of deterioration in the sponsor-refugee relationship such that the sponsor is unable or unwilling to fulfill the terms of the sponsorship undertaking. Normally, attempts are made to re-establish the sponsorship, but failing those efforts, CIC will formally declare a breakdown in the sponsorship and depending on the circumstances, the sponsoring group may be found in default.

UNHCR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees