

**Office of the Regional Chair and CEO  
The Regional Municipality of Durham**



# **Statement**

## **from the Regional Chair**

September 30, 2015

### **Region Hosting Refugee Sponsorship Information Session**

Whitby, Ontario – In response to the current crisis in Syria, Durham's Diversity and Immigration Program is hosting an information session on private refugee sponsorship, in partnership with the Town of Ajax, Catholic Crosscultural Services and Lifeline Syria. In addition, the Region is set to donate \$25,000 for refugee relief efforts through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), which is donating the money to Lifeline Syria.

We're delighted that Durham residents are interested in learning more about private sponsorship and the local settlement resources available for refugees and other newcomers.

We know that a significant proportion of Syrian refugees that the federal government has committed to resettling are expected to be privately sponsored. Groups and individuals may commit to provide assistance and support to refugees for their first year of residence in Canada.

In the past, governments have found that privately sponsored refugees tend to become more self-sufficient sooner than those coming through government assisted programs, and are less likely to go on to social assistance. Sponsoring someone to leave a life of turmoil and distress and settle in this great country of ours is inherently an act of humanitarianism, yet it so much more than that. It has been said that welcoming and settling refugees isn't exclusively about charity. It's about investing in the future – not just theirs, but our own as well.

Governments accept refugees because there is an obligation to help people who are in dire need of sanctuary. But we shouldn't discount that there are economic and social advantages to our communities.

Immigrants and refugees are vital parts of our collective culture, and the economy. By increasing our diversity, we find the strength to create a better community.

Residents interested in learning more may register to attend the information event:

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Room LLC, Region of Durham Headquarters

605 Rossland Road E.

Whitby ON

Seating is extremely limited and only those registered will be admitted. Please register online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F982WHS>

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