

Private Sponsorship of Refugees Evaluation

Conversation Guide for Newcomer Follow-up Focus Group

Introduction and Consent

To help you make an informed decision about your participation in this focus group, this letter will explain what the study is about, possible risks and benefits, and your rights as a research participant.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this conversation is to add to the evaluation of Private Sponsorship of Refugees program at [SAH name]. Through the evaluation we hope to assess the processes and outcomes of the coordinated efforts of Private Sponsorship stakeholders to: 1) provide quality and efficient resettlement support to newcomer refugees, 2) create positive, mutually transformative experiences for all stakeholders throughout the integration journey, and 3) build welcoming and justice-seeking communities across Canada. We are hoping the evaluation will help stakeholders to improve the ways Private Sponsorship of Refugees is implemented to better facilitate successful integration, equality and justice for newcomer refugees. This conversation should take between and 60-90 minutes.

CONFIDENTIALITY & VOLUNTARINESS

Only research team members will have access to the information shared today. The conversation will be recorded and notes will be taken. All recordings and notes will be stored in a password protected location at [name of location] to protect confidentiality. The recording will be used to supplement the handwritten notes and all recordings and notes will be destroyed after six years. Your name will not be associated with any quotes found in any written summaries. Your participation is voluntary and you may leave at any time during the session. Out of respect for each other's confidentiality and trust, we kindly ask that the conversation in this group is not shared with anyone outside.

BENEFITS

Your participation in this conversation will be added to the other data we are collecting in the evaluation [list other methods]. Combined, this evaluation data will help us better understand the processes and outcomes of Private Sponsorship of Refugees in [SAH name]. Data from this interview and other evaluation methods may be used in future reports, presentations or academic papers, and to inform the improvement strategies for newcomer settlement services.

RISKS

We understand that some questions may be difficult to answer. We appreciate your willingness to participate and know that you may feel uncomfortable talking about aspects of your work. If you feel this way, please feel free to skip questions or leave the conversation. Your decision to participate in this study will not affect your current or future relationship with [SAH name].

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

For questions about this consent letter or conversation, please contact: [name and contact of lead evaluator]

VERBAL CONSENT

Do you understand the purpose of this interview and agree to participate?
Do you agree to direct quotes being taken without your name/title attached?

Thank you for your participation!

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A. INTRODUCTIONS

1. Please introduce yourself. Tell us when you arrived in Canada and about your family.

B. SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES

2. Please state the strategies you and your family used to settle in Canada in this first year.
 - a. What did your sponsor group do to support you in your first year to/in Canada?
 - How did they support you/your family after you first arrived in Canada?
 - How did they later help you/your family to settle and how did they build relationships with you?
 - b. What strategies towards settlement did you initiate on your own?
3. Which sponsorship activities seemed to work well, and which did not work well?
 - a. How helpful was the support of your sponsors?
 - b. To what extent were you able to shape your sponsorship experience?
 - c. To what extent were your sponsors and other service providing organizations working together and coordinating their efforts to support you?
 - d. What gaps in support were there? What challenges were there?

C. RESETTLEMENT OUTCOMES

4. How would you define a successful sponsorship experience?
 - a. What would an ideal sponsor look like? What kind of relationship with them would be best?
 - b. To what extent was your sponsor group equipped to be a good sponsor?
5. How did your sponsorship experience change you (and your family) as a person?
 - a. In what ways did the sponsor group help you/your family shortly after your arrival?
 - b. In what ways did the sponsor group help you/your family to later settle in Canada?
6. How did the sponsorship experience change your sponsor group members?
 - a. How did they grow into their role as sponsors?
 - b. To what extent did they develop a friendship with you? How likely is it that you will keep a friendship with them?

D. BEYOND THE SPONSORSHIP

7. What have been some lasting effects of the sponsorship experience?
 - a. How has your sponsorship experience prepared you for your post-sponsorship life?
 - b. How did the sponsorship experience make a difference in your community?
8. How can we improve the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program in Canada?
 - a. What could sponsors do differently to make for a more successful sponsorship?
 - b. What could others do to help newcomer refugees in their first year of Canada?

Thank you for your participation!