

Private Sponsorship of Refugees Evaluation

Conversation Guide for SAH Program 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 and tell us about your role/position at your SAH.

B. SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES

2. What strategies or resources do people (SAH staff, newcomers sponsor groups) use to try to build a successful sponsorship experience?
 - a. Briefly, what does your SAH do to fulfil the SAH agreement? What do newcomers do? What do sponsor groups do?
 - b. Briefly, what role do you play in influencing the broader resettlement sector and community?
3. Which sponsorship activities seem to be working well, and which are not working well?
 - a. How do you think sponsors and newcomers would describe the accessibility and quality of sponsorship activities under your SAH?
 - b. To what extent are different groups (SAHs, sponsor groups, service providing organizations, and newcomers) working together and coordinating their efforts to build successful sponsorships?
 - c. What gaps in support need to be filled? What challenges need to be addressed?

C. RESETTLEMENT OUTCOMES

4. How would you define a successful sponsorship experience?
 - a. How would you define accessible and quality resettlement support? What kind of outcomes would you be looking for?
 - b. To what extent does your SAH and sponsor groups have capacity to provide quality support?
5. What evidence is there that refugees sponsored through your SAH are well positioned to integrate into the broader society?
 - a. What changes have you noticed in newcomers shortly after arrival (immediate outcomes)?
 - b. What changes have you noticed later in the sponsorship (intermediate outcomes)?
6. What evidence is there that sponsorship activities undertaken through your SAH support a mutually transformative experience?
 - a. How have sponsors been changed by the sponsorship experience?
 - b. How have SAH activities contributed to improving the broader resettlement sector and community to support refugee newcomers?

D. BEYOND THE SPONSORSHIP

7. What have been some lasting effects that you have noticed about the sponsorship experience?
 - a. How have sponsored newcomers been impacted beyond the 12-month sponsorship?
 - b. How does the sponsorship experience build welcoming and justice-seeking communities?
8. What can be done to improve the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program to better facilitate successful integration, equality, and justice for newcomer refugees?
 - a. What could your SAH be doing differently to enable more successful sponsorships?
 - b. What could sponsors do differently to enable more successful sponsorships?
 - c. What changes are needed in the broader resettlement sector?

Thank you for your participation!