

Private Sponsorship of Refugees Evaluation

Conversation Guide for Sponsor Group 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 and tell us about your role in your sponsor group.

B. SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES

2. What did people in your sponsor group do to try to build a successful sponsorship experience?
 - a. Briefly, what did you do to provide transition/settlement support and to build relationships?
 - b. Briefly, what role did you play in influencing the broader resettlement sector and community?
3. Tells about the strategies you saw refugee newcomers in your sponsorship use to settle in Canada in their first year.
4. Which sponsorship activities seemed to work well, and which did not work well?
 - a. How do you think newcomers in your sponsor group would describe their sponsorship experience?
 - b. To what extent were different groups (SAHs, sponsor group, service providing organizations, and refugee newcomers) working together and coordinating their efforts to build a successful sponsorship?
 - c. What gaps in support were there? What challenges were there?

C. RESETTLEMENT OUTCOMES

5. How would you define a successful sponsorship experience?
 - a. What would an ideal sponsor look like in providing accessible and quality support?
 - b. What kind of relationship between sponsors and newcomers is best?
 - c. To what extent did your sponsor group have capacity to be successful?
6. How did the sponsorship experience change the newcomers in your sponsor group?
 - a. How would you describe change they experience shortly after arrival? At the end of their sponsorship?
7. How did the sponsorship experience change you and sponsors in your group?
 - a. How did you grow into your role as sponsors?
 - b. To what extent did you develop friendships with the newcomers you sponsored? How likely is it that the friendship will continue?
 - c. How likely is it that you will sponsor again? Why?

D. BEYOND THE SPONSORSHIP

8. What have been some lasting effects of the sponsorship experience?
 - a. How have sponsored newcomers been impacted beyond the 12-month sponsorship?
 - b. How did the sponsorship experience build welcoming and justice-seeking communities?
9. How can we improve the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program in Canada?
 - a. What could your SAH do differently to enable more successful sponsorships?
 - b. What could sponsors do differently to enable more successful sponsorships?
 - c. What could other SAHs/sponsors do to help newcomer refugees in their first year of Canada?

Thank you for your participation!