

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee,

During the past four years, 12 million individuals have fled their homes because of the conflict in Syria; of this number, 1/3 are children. Over 4 million Syrians are currently refugees and are located, in refugee camps, mostly in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. In a response to the significant challenges being faced by displaced Syrians, countries across the world, including Canada, have made strong commitments to providing help --- the Government of Canada has indicated that it will assist in settling 25,000 refugees over the next year, including 10,000 by the end of 2015.

Communities are readying for the arrival of both government-sponsored and privately-sponsored refugees. Our efforts in London have been focused on supporting faith-based groups to raise funds to assist with private sponsorship applications. Through this initiative we've seen a groundswell of support and a desire from our community to act. To support government-sponsored refugees, we will work closely with our community partners. We are building upon these long-standing partnerships between the City, settlement and ethno-cultural stakeholders, including educational institutions, social service agencies, the business sector and neighbourhood and community working groups.

City staff have been working closely with the Cross Cultural Learner Centre (CCLC), our community's local Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) to support CCLC in its provision of essential services to Government Assisted Refugee (GAR) newcomers as they arrive in this community. Over the next very short period of time, community partners will be actively engaged in the work of CCLC in its coordination efforts to support refugees as they immigrate to London.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has taken a leadership role in the coordination of municipal supports for refugee resettlement.

As a Council, we need to take action to support this very important initiative. We request City Council adopt the following motion:

That the following actions be taken with respect to refugee resettlement:

- A) The Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to update City Council on their current plans for the refugee families arriving in London, and any additional measures the City of London can take to better support newcomers.
- B) The Mayor BE REQUESTED to send letters of support to the Provincial and Federal governments, demonstrating a collective commitment to resettle refugees; and
- C) The Members of City Council who sit on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Board of Directors and Standing Committees (Deputy Mayor Cassidy, Councillor Zaifman and Councillor Usher) BE REQUESTED to further pursue these national conversations and opportunities to coordinate efforts.

Sincerely,



Mayor Matt Brown



Councillor Mo Salih- Ward 3