



## THE MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SYRIAN NEWCOMERS

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

---

#### Background

The Government of Canada has met its goal of bringing 25,000 Syrian newcomers into Canada at the end of February 2016. Hamilton is one of the cities in Ontario that Syrian newcomers have settled.

On March 9<sup>th</sup> 2016, City Council adopted a motion to create the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Syrian Newcomers. The motion underscores the need for Hamilton community stakeholders to work together and create a successful process for the Syrian newcomers and the community agencies, partners and residents that support them.

---

#### Purpose and Mandate

The Mayor's Advisory Committee will act as a high-level table of community stakeholders supporting the resettlement of Syrian newcomers in Hamilton. The committee will share information, discuss issues and address key concerns, with a focus on the physical, mental, economic and social wellbeing of the Syrian newcomers in Hamilton.

The Mayor's Advisory Committee will be supported by five Working Groups in the areas of (1) Housing, (2) Health (3) Education (4) Employment, Language & Skills Development and (5) Community Support/Networks.

---

<b>Responsibility and Scope of Work</b>	<p>The Mayor's Advisory Committee will provide a collaborative environment to support the resettlement efforts. Specifically, the committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on community building, collaboration and community mobilization to address critical needs</li> <li>• Act as a think tank, share, discuss and advise on any large scale or systematic barriers and opportunities facing the process</li> <li>• Provide updates on issues arising from the existing working tables - housing, health, education, employment and community supports</li> <li>• Share information and discuss key data on the resettlement work in Hamilton as obtained from the government and community sources</li> <li>• Provide advice on how to build community engagement and participation</li> <li>• Share good news and stories that demonstrate the positive impacts of Syrian newcomers to the city's mosaic</li> <li>• Ensure Hamilton's key partners that support the resettlement effort have consistent and similar messages to the general public</li> <li>• Provide other relevant support and advice as applicable</li> </ul>
<b>Membership Terms and Rules of Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor's Advisory Committee will operate for 18 months (or as required and agreed upon by members based on community needs)</li> <li>• Members are expected to attend all meetings or send representatives if they are unable to attend</li> </ul>
<b>Chair &amp; Co- Chair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting Schedules and Commitments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Steering Committee will meet every 4-6 weeks (or as agreed upon by members).</li> <li>• Agendas and any accompanying meeting materials will be distributed prior to meetings</li> <li>• City staff will support the Committee in the coordination of agendas and follow up items</li> </ul>
<b>Member Composition</b>	<p>About 15 members are proposed. They include the five working groups and other community partners with key strategic roles in the resettlement effort. The proposed membership includes:</p>

---

**1. Five Working Groups (chairs)**

- Housing Working Group
- Health Working Group
- Education Working Group
- Employment, Language & Skills Working Group
- Community Support & Networks Working Group

**2. Key Resettlement Partners and Supporting Groups**

- Wesley Urban Ministries
- Immigrant Working Centre
- The Anglican Diocese of Hamilton
- The Catholic Diocese of Hamilton
- YMCA
- YWCA
- Muslim Association of Hamilton
- Hamilton Arab Culture & Heritage Centre
- Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council
- Refugee Advisory Committee of Council
- Anti-Racism Advisory Committee of Council

Individuals representing member organizations are expected to occupy senior management positions and are in a position of authority to make decisions on behalf of their organizations.

---

**Date of Last Review**April 7, 2016

---