

MOTION

12. Action to Speed Refugee Arrivals

At the Regular Council meeting on December 13, 2016, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on December 14, 2016, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs
SECONDED by Mayor Robertson

WHEREAS

1. Many citizen sponsors responded very positively to the government's call in late 2015 for Syrian refugees to come to Canada;
2. Many groups raised money, undertook training and generally prepared to welcome a refugee family;
3. Because of a change in policy by the federal government, many sponsorship groups and Groups of five are still waiting for refugee families, including groups in Vancouver;
4. It has been shown that the best way to integrate refugees into Canadian society is with a group of citizens hosting them.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council request the federal government to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that refugee families both from Syria and other countries are processed, and travel arrangements made, so the sponsorship groups and Groups of 5 that are ready to host such refugees can welcome those refugee families within three months; and further.
- B. THAT the Mayor write to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, to urge them to take quick action on this matter.

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