

726 Rockheights Avenue,  
Victoria V9A 6J3  
November \_\_, 2015

**Re: A Family for Esquimalt**

Dear Members of Esquimalt Council,

Susan Gage and I are two of your constituents. Like many, we are deeply concerned with the refugee crisis in Europe, and feel that from our position of wellbeing we should do something about it. We have already raised \$8000 through family and friends using a gofundme account with the intention of sponsoring a Syrian family to come and live in Esquimalt.

But just as "it takes a village to raise a child" it seems that it takes a village to sponsor a refugee family. We are planning to form a Constituent Group here in Esquimalt, which will be undertaking a sponsorship under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program. We hope to raise at least a further \$30,000 to make the sponsorship possible, and to form a strong committee of people prepared to take on the tasks necessary to achieve a smooth passage for our family. We believe that Esquimalt is an ideal location for settling a young family in crisis: we are a mixed and inclusive community with terrific local facilities, and we are close to downtown Victoria and all the support services available there.

Susan is a member of Esquimalt United Church, where there is a small core group interested in working with the community to sponsor a refugee family. Esquimalt United is sponsoring a community meeting on **Wednesday December 9th at 7:00 pm**, and we are hoping for a big enthusiastic turnout from which we will be able to start building our committee and collecting donations. We are especially hoping that members of Esquimalt Council will be able to attend, and also wondering whether it is possible for Council to somehow give your endorsement to this effort to bring a refugee family to Esquimalt. We would also appreciate any help you can give us in publicizing the meeting.

We are working with Sabine Lehr, Immigrant Services Manager at the Inter-Cultural Association (ICA). The ICA is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) and will guide us through all the Governmental paperwork involved in the sponsorship, and be an invaluable source of information and assistance. Sabine will speak and answer questions at our December 9th meeting.

I also intend to write to all the businesses in Esquimalt, asking them to pledge some assistance, either financial or in kind. I believe that if Council can endorse us and if the general public in Esquimalt become involved and aware, that we in Esquimalt could be a truly welcoming place for a displaced family to settle.

Yours sincerely,

Philippa Catling  
Ph: 250-294-1659. Email: pcatling@gmail.com

# Help bring a refugee family to Esquimalt

You can help bring a refugee family  
to Esquimalt. Learn more about what's  
involved and how you can help.

## How

Attend an information session with  
Sabine Lehr, Immigrant Services Manager  
for The Inter-Cultural Association  
of Greater Victoria (ICA).

## When

Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 PM

## Where

Esquimalt United Church Sanctuary  
500 Admirals Road (at Lyall St.)

For more information  
Phone: Esquimalt United Church, 250-384-3031  
Email: [esquimaltrefugeeproject@gmail.com](mailto:esquimaltrefugeeproject@gmail.com)

