

How to call Canada your home

Our new program aims to resettle 5 North Korean refugee families by 2023

About

In partnership with the Canadian Government, we will resettle five North Korean families from Southeast Asia within two years. The pilot will focus on North Korean women and their families.

Eligibility

Foreign national must be a woman, who has been victim of sexual gender-based violence, a North Korean citizen, has not previously resided in South Korea, has never held a position in service of the North Korean government.

Process

Once you register with HanVoice, we will securely send your family's information to field partners. If your family is identified and meets specific conditions, we will contact you to fill out the refugee application form.

About HanVoice

HanVoice is a charity in Canada working to advance human rights in North Korea. HanVoice operationalizes its mission through refugee resettlement, human rights education, and policy development. HanVoice has three full-time staff members, over 30 volunteer directors, 300 volunteers and nearly 20 chapters across Canada.

Every step with you and your family.

HanVoice will be an implementing partner for this project with your family, the Government of Canada, and the private sponsors. More specifically, our responsibilities would include:

- Identifying applicants for processing;
- communicating with applicants and a coordinating organization on the ground;
- acting as an intermediary between private sponsors and the Canadian Government;
- communicating with sponsors in Canada to facilitate preparation of the sponsorship;
- matching individual applicants with specific sponsors in Canada;
- receiving completed sponsorship applications from sponsors in Canada;
- forwarding all completed applications to the responsible local government office;
- maintaining accurate records for each sponsors group, including a detailed Settlement Plan for each sponsorship application; and
- facilitating the resettlement process during the 12-month period.

Process

A safe and secure path towards a better future.

HanVoice is a charity that helps North Korean refugees resettle in Canada. Once you register with HanVoice, we will securely send your family's information to field partners. If your family is identified and meet specific conditions, we will contact you to fill out the refugee application form.

Please note that HanVoice nor our partners can guarantee that we will be able to successfully locate, rescue, or resettle your family in Canada. Our role as a charity is limited to facilitating your family's potential resettlement from Southeast Asia to Canada. Under Canadian law, HanVoice cannot provide money or support for the escape and rescue of your family.

The process of applying for refugee status in Canada from transit countries can take between three to six months or more, but this can vary. If you have questions about processing times, please contact us and we can discuss further. The main applicant must be a North Korean woman, who has been victim, or is at risk of, sexual and gender-based violence. She must not have lived in South Korea before. The main applicant's family members can include their spouse and dependent children.

In some cases, other family members may be able to apply to come to Canada later under the One Year Window program. This program allows family members who did not travel to Canada with the Principal Applicant to apply to come to Canada within one year of the Principal Applicant arriving.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is this program?

This is a private sponsorship program to resettle North Korean refugees in Canada, which will become the third country after South Korea and the U.S. to accept North Koreans. Canadians who volunteer as sponsors will be asked to support the families for 12 months or until they become self-sufficient. From putting up the money for sponsorship, to picking them up at the airport, to helping register their children for school, sponsors will be involved in every step of your family's resettlement process.

Who is eligible for this program?

The main applicant must be a North Korean woman, who has been victim, or is at risk of, sexual and gender-based violence. She must not have lived in South Korea before. The main applicant's family members can include their spouse and dependent children.

What is sexual and gender-based violence?

Sexual violence is a form of gender-based violence and encompasses any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. Sexual violence takes multiple forms and includes rape, sexual abuse, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, forced abortion, forced prostitution, trafficking, sexual enslavement, forced genital mutilation and forced nudity. Gender-based violence is considered to be any harmful act directed against individuals or groups of individuals on the basis of their gender.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will processing take?

The process of applying for refugee status in Canada can take between three to six months or more, but this can vary. There are several factors that impact processing times, including logistics concerning exit permits; security, criminality, and medical assessments; interviews; flight availability; and any additional COVID-19-related restrictions.

How long is the sponsorship period?

Sponsors will provide your family with care, lodging, settlement assistance and support for the duration of the sponsorship period. Usually, the sponsorship period is 12 months starting from arrival in Canada or until you become self-sufficient, whichever comes first.

My family won't be able to speak English. How will they survive in Canada?

Sponsors will speak Korean and there is a strong Korean community in Canada. With that said, Canada is a multicultural country, where many immigrants and refugees have English as their second language. Sponsors therefore will encourage English language lessons using providers such as Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC), a free language training program for eligible adult learners. Your family will not have to pay to for LINC.

How will my family find a home in Canada?

Sponsors will find temporary housing for your family before your family's arrival and attend to housing needs during the sponsorship period. This involves securing appropriate housing as well as providing safety, adequate housing, basic furniture, and household essentials.

How will my family find a job in Canada?

Sponsors will find temporary housing for your family before your family's arrival and attend to housing needs during the sponsorship period. This involves securing appropriate housing as well as providing safety, adequate housing, basic furniture,

and household essentials. Sponsors will help your family search for employment by orienting your family to the job culture in Canada, attending skills training programs and mock interviews, and developing a CV/Cover Letter. For families with professional backgrounds, we will explore certification/ bridging programs, TOEFL English tests, mentors, and internships, and identify resources to support continuing education or trades/technical school. For families with children, sponsors will search for public schools and assist with enrollment. All children aged 6–18 can attend school, regardless of their or their parents' immigration status.

How will my family pay for health-care coverage?

The Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) provides temporary coverage of healthcare benefits for newcomers. A Certificate of Eligibility will be issued upon arrival and can be presented to access coverage. IFHP provides coverage in addition to Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for the first year only. Coverage can be used before an application for OHIP is complete.

Basic OHIP Coverage	IFHP Supplemental Coverage
Medical Services	Limited Vision Care
Doctor visits	1 pair of eyewear (glasses and/or lenses every 2 years)
Standard immunizations	1 vision test per year
Prenatal and obstetrical care	
Lab tests & x-rays	Urgent Dental Care
	Emergency dental exams & x-rays
Hospital Services	Extractions & Dentures
Emergency room visits	
Hospital stays	Mental Health Services
Medical & surgical care	Psychological counselling
Diagnostic imaging	Assistive devices, medical supplies, and equipment

Life in Canada

Supporting your family for a year after arrival.

Sponsors will provide your family with care, lodging, settlement assistance, financial assistance, and support during the sponsorship period. Usually, this is 12 months starting from arrival in Canada or until you become self-sufficient, whichever comes first.

Private sponsors will support your family by:

- providing the cost of food, rent and home utilities and other living expenses;
- providing clothing, furniture and other everyday goods;
- locating interpreters;
- selecting a family physician and dentist;
- assisting with applying for provincial health-care coverage;
- enrolling children in school and adults in language training;
- introducing newcomers to people with similar personal interests;
- providing orientation on everyday activities such as banking services, transportation; and
- helping in the search for employment.

Financial support your family can rely on.
Minimum Sponsorship Support

When the 12-month sponsorship period is complete, the sponsored families must be financially independent and the sponsor’s responsibilities end. If they are not self-sufficient at the end of the sponsorship, they can apply for social assistance.

Becoming permanent residents in Canada

Your family will become permanent residents the moment they sign their Confirmation of Permanent Residence document at the airport.

As a permanent resident, they:

- can access the same social benefits and health care coverage as Canadian citizens;
- do not require a permit to study or work;
- are protected under Canadian law and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- have responsibilities, including paying taxes and respecting all federal, provincial, and municipal laws; and
- can apply for Canadian citizenship when eligible.

Family Size	12 Months of Income Support	Start-Up Costs	Minimum Support
1	\$13,370	\$3,065	\$16,435
2	\$20,020	\$4,565	\$24,585
3	\$20,680	\$5,590	\$26,270
4	\$21,400	\$7,000	\$28,400
5	\$22,500	\$8,400	\$30,900
6	\$23,500	\$9,570	\$33,070
Additional Member	\$1,550	\$1,000	\$2,550

