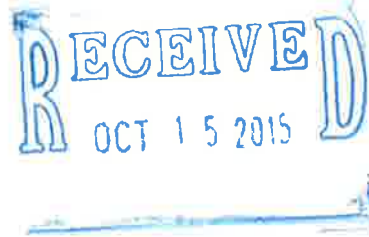




cc: Council

October 7, 2015



Warden Kevin Eccles
Grey County Council
595 9th Avenue East
Owen Sound ON N4K 3E3

Warden Eccles:

The plight of political and cultural refugees from war torn countries in the middle East and elsewhere that is currently demanding the world's attention is truly heartbreaking. This is a humanitarian crisis that should touch every one of us and many communities are rallying in support of settling refugee families in their municipalities. The Municipality of Meaford passed a resolution on September 28, 2015, to encourage a grass roots initiative to help with this crisis. That resolution is attached for your consideration.

But there is more to this story beyond the compelling humanitarian aspect. Municipalities in Grey County are experiencing declining or static populations, in particular, an out-migration of young people. This humanitarian opportunity could encourage the permanent settlement here of these refugees, many of whom bring excellent skills, experience and a desire to relocate where their families can thrive in a welcoming, stimulating and safe environment. This permanent resettlement here in Grey County might be more realistic if we are able, through a collective effort, to attract several families from similar backgrounds and languages to come to Grey County.

It is our intention by distributing this letter and resolution to our neighbours, that this might be given consideration and that each municipality will then offer encouragement to their own local community initiatives.

Sincerely,

Mayor Barb Clumpus
Municipality of Meaford

Encl/

Cc: Bill Walker, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound via fax: 519-371-0953
Larry Miller, MP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound via fax: 519-371-1059



Council of the Municipality of Meaford - Current Refugee Crisis

Moved by: Mayor Clumpus

Seconded by: Councillor Calvert

Whereas, the plight of refugees fleeing their war-torn countries is prominent in the public conscience recently; and

Whereas, there are many communities mounting a response to this crisis by organizing local initiatives to support the settlement of refugees in their locations; and

Whereas, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has pledged to support local municipalities in this effort; and

Whereas, the Municipality of Meaford is a "caring community" where newcomers are warmly welcomed with the essential services, and the quality of life that sustains families and presents opportunities for successful resettlement.

Now therefore be it resolved that this Council and Municipality encourages a collaborative grass roots effort working with our neighbouring community groups to assist with the settlement of refugees in our small town and rural communities; and

Further that this motion be circulated throughout Grey County and to the relevant Provincial and Federal Ministries.

Carried Resolution #30-07-2015