



AMO Support for Syrian Refugee Crisis - Call to Action

09/09/2015

Gary McNamara, President, AMO

Dear Colleagues,

Like you, I have been deeply affected by the disturbing images and stark realities of the Syrian refugee crisis. It is a situation that cries out for compassion and action.

AMO is challenging all of its member municipalities to donate at least \$100 to aid in the international effort to resettle the Syrian refugees in safe countries. We hope to raise at least \$40,000. This goal will help save two families and if we raise a greater amount, we can help save more families.

Donations can be made by cheque payable to Association of Municipalities of Ontario, with "Syrian Refugee Crisis" in the description field, and forwarded by Friday, October 2.

AMO will donate all of the proceeds to Lifeline Syria. This organization is seeking to resettle and integrate 1,000 Syrian refugees in Ontario over the next two years, reuniting them with their families. Lifeline Syria is a community-based initiative that will do this by helping to recruit, train, and match private refugee sponsors in Ontario with Syrian refugees approved for resettlement by the federal government. Sponsors will include organizations, individuals, or groups of individuals such as faith-based groups. The Ontario government has provided seed funding to Lifeline Syria to support its work but it is reliant on public donations to fulfill its mandate. More information about the organization and the initiative is found on the Lifeline Syria website.

I know how municipal governments in Ontario rally to help one another and their neighbours. I implore you to accept this challenge and donate to this worthy cause. It is one small way we can help ease the suffering of others through our financial contributions.

Sincerely

Gary McNamara
President, AMO

P.S. For other ways to help, see International Organizations Seeking to Assist Syrian Refugees:

- **Lifeline Syria** - This organization is seeking to resettle and integrate 1,000 Syrian refugees in Ontario over the next two years, reuniting them with their families.
- **The Canadian Red Cross** is accepting donations for their Syria Crisis Fund to provide assistance to Syrians living abroad in Syria and neighbouring countries.
- The **UNHCR**, the UN Refugee Agency, is the world's leading organization aiding and protecting people forced to flee their homes

due to violence, conflict and persecution. The UNHCR is directly aiding Syrian refugees.

- **Care Canada** is providing life-saving assistance to Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt.
- **Oxfam Canada** is providing aid and long-term support to hundreds of thousands of people affected by the crisis across Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.
- **World Vision** is supporting Syrians in Syria, as well as those who have fled to Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Jordan.

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