

**COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:**

Pictou County Safe Harbour (SH) is a community-based Private Sponsorship of Refugee (PSR) group founded in 2015 in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. With the help of community volunteers and community partners, SH has sponsored and settled nearly 50 individuals from Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

By using Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugee (PSR) program, SH enters into an agreement to provide resettlement assistance to the refugees we sponsor for one calendar year. Helping refugees make an economic transition has proven to be challenging due to language barriers; non-Canadian degrees, diplomas, or safety certificates; and poverty related factors, such as access to transportation or childcare. Through their efforts to help newcomers find work, PSR resettlement volunteers learn a wealth of information from employers, each other, the newcomers, job search services, and NSCC, among others. With this CLARI grant, SH wants to develop a study to build upon and formalize the valuable knowledge sharing within and across the three PC PSR groups (SH, Warm Hearts, CAIRNS) and their various community partners.

**PROJECTED BENEFITS:**

SH wants the project to create shareable resources for PSR volunteers, newcomers, and employers. Since the PSR focus is to provide resettlement assistance for one year, we want the resources to have a transition year focus. We would like them to be in digital format so we can share them with other PRS groups, employment-related service providers and the Refugee Talent Project being developed by the PCREN. For newcomers, a check box type, an online resource with links would be helpful; and perhaps a video story on newcomer transition experiences. All PSR groups experience volunteer turnover and renewal; thus a PSR volunteer economic transition handbook for new volunteers would be a valuable resource for SH and other rural NS PSR groups. Employers would benefit from knowing how other employers facilitated newcomer employment transitions.