



**The Office of the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical
Province of British Columbia and Yukon**

Anglican Church of Canada
201–380 Leathead Road, Kelowna
British Columbia, V1X 2H8

March 1, 2023

To all members of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon.

Dear Anglicans,

The work of welcoming the stranger, the orphan and the widow in the form of refugee resettlement has been a part of the witness of the Anglican Church for many years. It is part of living out our baptismal covenant (seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself, striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being), and the Five Marks of Mission (responding to human need by loving service, transforming unjust structures of society, challenging violence of every kind and to pursuing peace and reconciliation).

The Province of BC and Yukon has established a Refugee Sponsorship Working Group dedicated to charting a path forward for the work of Refugee Resettlement in the province in the context of increasing collaboration amongst the member Dioceses and Territories, increasing organizational oversight on the part of the Government of Canada (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada – IRCC), and decreasing staff and volunteer capacity.

I invite you to hold this group in prayer as they undertake this task and discern together a way forward for our work in this area. Brendon Neilson (Executive Director, Diocese of British Columbia) will be convening this group and they will begin meeting later this month. They will report back to the Provincial Council in September and we thank them for their important work.

I would also like to welcome Jibril Mohamed who has been hired (through the Diocese of BC) as the Provincial Refugee Coordinator and will be working with the three existing SAH's (Settlement Agreement Holder) in our ecclesiastical province. He will be a staff resource for this working group.

If you would like more information or would like to donate to the work of Refugee Sponsorship in the province, please contact [Brendon Neilson](mailto:bneilson@bc.anglican.ca) (bneilson@bc.anglican.ca).

Yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. Dr. Lynne McNaughton, Metropolitan