



## Office of the Primate

The Anglican Church of Canada  
L'Église anglicane du Canada

May 26, 2026

### **To the Canadian House of Bishops: an invitation to observe a Refugee Sunday**

Dear friends,

In the face of acute humanitarian need around the world and alarming cuts to immigration and refugee programs in Canada, I am joining Alongside Hope in inviting dioceses and parishes across the country to mark a Refugee Sunday at a time in the year of their choosing. I commend this invitation to you and your dioceses.

Anglicans in Canada have long been active in supporting refugees. Remarkably, fifteen of our thirty dioceses are sponsorship agreement holders (SAHs) with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, enabling them to privately sponsor refugees to come to Canada. Those who carry out the ministry of refugee sponsorship affirm how transformational this ministry is, both for the refugees and for those who welcome them. Refugees bring with them many gifts to enrich our communities and our country.

A Refugee Sunday is an occasion to draw attention to the historically high numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons globally, which continue to increase. Even in Canada, borders are closing and support is being withdrawn for those seeking “life, liberty and security of the person” and a safe place to call home. In November 2025, the federal government made cuts to immigration and refugee programs in its budget, including a devastating 54% cut—on top of a 20% cut the year previous—to the “global cap,” which limits the number of privately sponsored refugees Canada will welcome in 2026 (a drop to 5,000 from 13,500 in 2024).

The Alongside Hope Refugee Network has prepared [Refugee Sunday information and resources](#) to lift up the current state of refugees globally and the importance of refugee sponsorship in Canada. If you have any questions, contact [Suzanne Rumsey](#), Public Engagement Program Coordinator at Alongside Hope.

Joining with you in the hope that our church will always strive to welcome the stranger,

The Most Reverend Shane Parker  
Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada