

Interpretation & Privately Sponsored Refugees

Refugee Sponsorship groups are responsible for arranging language interpretation for the refugees they are supporting.

When do we need interpretation?

Interpretation services will vary according to the needs of the refugees and their level of English proficiency. Interpretation may be required when welcoming the refugee(s) to Nova Scotia, during meetings between your group and the refugee(s), and when support is required to assist in communication needs that arise – particularly in areas that require confidentiality, are complicated, or where they may be at risk.

Remember, the most important consideration is supporting refugees to become independent is accessing English as an Additional Language (EAL) to increase their proficiency.

How do we get interpretation if we need it?

1. For meeting refugees at the airport, giving them orientation to their new home and community, or sharing information with refugees, plan to:
 - recruit volunteers to your group that speak the refugee(s) language(s)
 - put aside some funds to pay an honorarium when you have to contract an interpreter
 - seek out apps or other technology to assist with translation
2. To access health, legal, or settlement services:
 - Any publicly funded service agency is required to have provide interpreters to support newcomers. *(This does not need to be provided by the refugee sponsorship group)*
 - HOWEVER: sometimes the refugee sponsorship group might need to advocate on behalf of the refugees to ensure such services are in place