



**Council Member Motion  
For the Council Meeting of April 27, 2017**

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**Date:** April 7, 2017  
**From:** Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Jeremy Loveday  
**Subject:** Advocacy to Improve the Refugee Settlement Process

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**Recommendation:**

THAT Council adopt the following resolution:

***Resolution: Advocacy to Improve the Refugee Settlement Process***

WHEREAS Many citizen sponsors responded positively and in line with Canadian citizenship values to the federal government's call in 2015 for Syrian refugees to come to Canada, building on a strong tradition of welcoming newcomers and providing sanctuary for people fleeing violence, hardship and persecution;

AND WHEREAS Many groups raised money, undertook training, secured housing, and generally prepared to welcome refugee families;

AND WHEREAS Because of a decrease in resources by the federal government, many sponsorship groups and Groups of Five are still waiting for refugee families;

AND WHEREAS A proven and effective approach to integrating refugees into Canadian society is have a group of citizens hosting them;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council requests the federal government take action to cease current moratoriums and limits to ensure that refugee families both from Syria and other countries are processed, and travel arrangements made, so sponsorship groups and Groups of Five that are ready to host such refugees can welcome those refugee families;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council requests that the federal government work with local refugee settlement partners, including sponsoring groups and Groups of Five, to improve the overall refugee processing and settlement system in Canadian communities, including Victoria, with adequate and sustained resources and coordination;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council requests that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Ahmed Hussen, urging them to take prompt and effective action on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Isitt".

Councillor Isitt

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Loveday".

Councillor Loveday