

## Our Newcomer Family has Arrived...Safe and Sound!!

After a long flight, Mustafa and Safiya arrived on Monday evening with their son, Nihad, and his wife, Maddea, and their five-year old grandson, Mustafa (who despite the long flight from Istanbul arrived in suit and tie!).

Only a few months ago, we had been told that the wait for our family's arrival could be up to three and a half years. But we were persistent! Our group followed up regularly with MP Chrystia Freeland's office about our family's status.

About two weeks ago, we found out that our family was scheduled to arrive. Our core sponsorship group got into high gear and rose to the challenge.

Ricki Sharpe and Mona Kornberg from our Refugee Sponsorship Sub-Committee were at the airport to greet the family along with a beautiful Welcome sign.

After two days of travelling, they were understandably exhausted but so happy to be in Toronto. Nihad's brother, wife and five children arrived with them and are being sponsored by the Danforth Jewish Circle.

Joining Mona and Ricki at the airport was a member of our anchor family, Ala, and his aunt, Safiya's sister, who had recently arrived in Toronto as a refugee. There was an emotional reunion as Ala's aunt was reunited with her sister whom she had not seen in five years.

We are looking forward to helping Mustafa and Safiya, Nihad, Maddea and Mustafa settle in to their new lives here in Toronto.

This sponsorship has been a long time in the making. We wish to thank Pippa Feinstein for her fearless leadership and the rest of the Refugee Sponsorship Sub-Committee for their efforts.



Shul Members Mona Kornberg and Ricki Sharpe at the airport waiting for our newcomer family.



Omer Shamir, a key member of the sponsorship group and translator extraordinaire, and his son Shia