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**Coordinating Committee
for the Sponsorship of Vietnamese Refugees in the Philippines
Project *Freedom at Last***

**News Update
(January 31, 2008)**

Summary

- As of January 31, 2008, 149 persons have been assisted by various community supported groups in their application for resettlement in Canada.
- Entry visas have been approved for 9 cases (families or individuals).
- Altogether close to half a million dollars has been raised in this project.
- The refugees are expected to arrive in Canada this Spring.

1. Community Support Groups

Up to now, 149 persons have been supported in their application for resettlement in Canada in various cities as follows:

	No. of persons
Toronto	45
Ottawa	33
Calgary	29
Vancouver	26
Edmonton	12
Winnipeg	2
Saskatoon	1
Hamilton	1
Total	149

Thanks to the dedication and hard work by VOICE's staff in Manila, all of the cases, except for two health-related cases, have been submitted to the Canadian Immigration Officer in Manila before the deadline of December 31, 2007.

The following persons have been issued entry visas to Canada:

Nguyen Thi Thuong & Le Quy Hoa Niem (Calgary, relative-sponsored)
 Le Tat Trong & Tran Thi Ho Thao (Calgary)
 Luong Cong Cuong (Calgary)
 Huynh Ngoc Dat (Vancouver)
 Tran Thi Tuyet (Winnipeg)
 Ly Thi Bai & Nguyen Van Be (Vancouver)
 Hua Vi Minh (Vancouver)
 Nguyen Thi Thanh Le (Ottawa)
 Nguyen Bao Dinh Duong (Ottawa)

It is expected that the refugees will start to arrive in Canada by the Spring of this year.

2. Fund Raising Campaign

According to the preliminary figures that have been obtained by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation, as of January 31, 2008, a total of CAD 354,069.81 and USD 164,523.28 has been raised to help the refugees. Some of this money has been transferred to VOICE's office in Manila.

	Receipts		Transfers to VOICE (Manila)
	CAD	USD	USD
Vietnamese Canadian Federation	132,969.00	22,311.00	11,296.00
Hoa Nghiem Pagoda, Vancouver	59,500.81	75,895.00	36,000.00
VOICE (funds raised in Australia)		17,035.00	17,035.00
VOICE (contributions to Washington, D.C., office)		8,402.75	8,402.75
Family of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association (FVPPA) (funds raised in Washington, DC)		40,879.53	40,879.53
Vietnamese Association, Toronto	41,418.00		
SOS VietPhi - VOICE (Toronto)	33,062.00		27,000.00
<i>Freedom at Last</i> - Calgary	71,114.00		
Refugees Support Group - Edmonton	16,006.00		
Total	354,069.81	164,523.28	140,613.28
Total (CAD = USD)		518,593.09	

Expenses (preliminary)

	CAD	USD
- VCF administration & volunteer support	1,363.65	
- Refugees' application processing fees		26,640.00
- Transportation in the Philippines for refugees		4,093.00

VOICE operation (Manila)

- Office rent		4,490.00
- Staff salaries		9,540.00
- Staff transportation		6,236.00
- Other operational costs (office maintenance, overheads, miscellaneous, etc.)		18,985.00
Total	1,363.65	69,984.00

Expected resettlement expenses 388,800.00

Loans from CIC (considered on a case-by-case basis) – not yet known

- Permanent residence fees
- Transportation, Philippines - Canada

VCF Expenses

The expenses incurred so far by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation under the Project Freedom at Last are as follows:

	CAD	USD
Application processing fees (1)		9,700.00
Transportation (1, 2)		1,596.00
Volunteer's passport extension		300.00
Printing, postage (3)	873.65	
Administration support (3)	190.00	
Total	1,063.65	11,596.00

- (1) Paid to VOICE
- (2) Airfare for volunteer, Ottawa-Manila
- (3) VCF's office, Ottawa

3. Conclusion

The Coordinating Committee will continue to raise funds to support community support groups and to use in emergency cases after the refugees start to arrive in Canada.

The Committee is currently sending out tax receipts to all contributors who sent in their donations before December 31, 2007.

Donations can be sent by cheques or money orders (the mailing of cash is to be avoided). They can be made payable to **Vietnamese Canadian Centre / Project *Freedom at last***, and sent to the address given below:

Vietnamese Canadian Centre
249 Rochester St.
Ottawa, ON
K1R 7M9
Canada

Donations of CAD/USD 5.00 or above will be issued a tax receipt.

To avoid possible misdirection of the donations, contributors are asked to send them directly to the above address or through reliable local organizations. Donations from the U.S. or elsewhere can be sent to Ottawa or to VOICE's office in Washington, D.C., c/o its Executive Director Lisa Nguyen (1802 S St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009 U.S.A.).

Can D. Le
Project Leader, *Freedom at Last*

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