



## TIBETAN RESETTLEMENT PROJECT – SUNSHINE COAST

In 2007 His Holiness the Dalai Lama asked the Canadian government to consider allowing Tibetan refugees who are currently struggling to survive as displaced people in India to resettle in Canada. He expressed particular concern for residents of the most impoverished Tibetan settlements in north-eastern India in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

In 2011 the Canadian government committed to welcome 1,000 Tibetan refugees from Arunachal Pradesh to Canada over the next five years.

### THE NEED

Even with India's generosity, thousands of Tibetans living in remote regions may never have the chance to realize their potential and to experience what so many in Canada take for granted: the very best for themselves and their children.

They will want and need a great deal of guidance and support during their first year in Canada: room and board, financial assistance, language and skills training, help finding work and learning to become self-sufficient. They'll need help with basic things such as taking a bus, using an electric stove, opening a bank account and shopping.



### WHAT IS BEING DONE

Project Tibet Society is working with the government of Canada, representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Tibetan Cultural Centres and communities across Canada to fulfill His Holiness' request.

Sponsorship will be carried out by *Community Sponsors* or by *Groups of Five*. Groups of Five are made up of five or more Canadians who will guarantee support for a family, couple or individual for a twelve-month sponsorship period. Project Tibet Society will provide training and guidance for the groups as they become organized and throughout the sponsorship period.

## BECOMING INVOLVED

There are many ways to be involved. We need people who are willing to:

- sign on as sponsors and provide financial support
- sign on as sponsors without providing financial support
- help with financial support but not sign on as sponsors
- donate household items for when the families strike out on their own
- donate time for settlement assistance including English lessons, trips to visit with the Tibetan community in Vancouver, job search help and help with becoming acquainted with our culture and community.



*This is an opportunity to provide not only humanitarian assistance but the chance for them to be able to stand on their own feet.*  
– Lobsang Nyangdak, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

## SUNSHINE COAST

Under the guidance of the Vancouver Project Tibet Society, we plan to bring several Tibetan families to the Sunshine Coast, beginning early in 2013. As of September 2012 there are three fully formed sponsorship groups on the Sunshine Coast and several more people are considering being sponsors or helping with financial support.

Spirit Dance Centre is multi-faith charitable organization with a mandate to support refugees. We will be a Community Sponsor for at least one of the families coming to the Sunshine Coast. We will assist other sponsorship groups with their organization and fundraising and we will help co-ordinate sponsorship groups on the Coast so that we can support and assist each other.

The Coast offers a caring and welcoming community which will help the Tibetans adapt to their new country. Our lifestyles and the natural environment here will offer a less traumatic transition for them than arriving to a large and fast-paced urban environment. In turn, the Coast and our growing multi-faith community will be deeply enriched by the richly compassionate and community-based faith and culture of the Tibetan families.

## TO LEARN MORE PLEASE CONTACT:

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