

Initiative to support evacuations from Afghanistan

September 14, 2021

As news of the Taliban's advance across Afghanistan filled the international news, many Canadians were alarmed by the stories of fear and desperation. Firm members asked how they could help.

"Before the fall of Kabul, BLG launched a national pro bono project in partnership with a Toronto-based human rights and immigration law firm, Landings LLP," said [Hugh Meighen](#), a Toronto BLG partner who is leading the project.

Its purpose: to use Landings' referral network and refugee expertise together with BLG's national resources to rapidly identify, prepare, and assemble applications for vulnerable Afghans, and particularly those that assisted the Canadian mission in Afghanistan, seeking evacuation under the government's special immigration measures.

BLG was able to scale up this national pro bono effort rapidly with the help of lawyers and students in each of the Firm's offices.

"When Kabul fell, BLG lawyers continued their efforts to prepare and submit applications for individuals in dire need of evacuation," continued Hugh.

Lawyers, articling students and assistants across the country are continuing to assist Afghans in Kabul facing difficult circumstances.

"We expanded our efforts in response to the growing emergency to collaborate with international firms and allies in the United States, Britain and around the world," said Hugh.

With the window for immediate evacuation by Canada now closed, BLG intends to continue assisting those it can continue to reach to help them find ways to safety and ultimately resettlement in peace.

The national pro bono effort is ongoing for all individuals BLG has already assisted, but BLG is not currently conducting further consultations. For inquiries about refugee resettlement, please see the following links:

- [Afghans who worked for Canada can read more about current programs](#)
- [Additional information on the requirements for refugee resettlement in Canada](#)

BLG | Canada's Law Firm

As the largest, truly full-service Canadian law firm, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG) delivers practical legal advice for domestic and international clients across more practices and industries than any Canadian firm. With over 725 lawyers, intellectual property agents and other professionals, BLG serves the legal needs of businesses and institutions across Canada and beyond – from M&A and capital markets, to disputes, financing, and trademark & patent registration.

blg.com

BLG Offices

Calgary

Centennial Place, East Tower
520 3rd Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB, Canada
T2P 0R3

T 403.232.9500
F 403.266.1395

Ottawa

World Exchange Plaza
100 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1P 1J9

T 613.237.5160
F 613.230.8842

Vancouver

1200 Waterfront Centre
200 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC, Canada
V7X 1T2

T 604.687.5744
F 604.687.1415

Montréal

1000 De La Gauchetière Street West
Suite 900
Montréal, QC, Canada
H3B 5H4

T 514.954.2555
F 514.879.9015

Toronto

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower
22 Adelaide Street West
Toronto, ON, Canada
M5H 4E3

T 416.367.6000
F 416.367.6749

The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to constitute legal advice, a complete statement of the law, or an opinion on any subject. No one should act upon it or refrain from acting without a thorough examination of the law after the facts of a specific situation are considered. You are urged to consult your legal adviser in cases of specific questions or concerns. BLG does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy, currency or completeness of this publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written permission of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. If this publication was sent to you by BLG and you do not wish to receive further publications from BLG, you may ask to remove your contact information from our mailing lists by emailing unsubscribe@blg.com or manage your subscription preferences at blg.com/MyPreferences. If you feel you have received this message in error please contact communications@blg.com. BLG's privacy policy for publications may be found at blg.com/en/privacy.

© 2021 Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. Borden Ladner Gervais LLP is an Ontario Limited Liability Partnership.