

BILAL AND FAMILY HAVE ARRIVED IN CANADA!

It was an exciting and emotional Monday afternoon on February 12! The Summerlea Refugee Support Coalition members were overwhelmed with joy to greet Bilal and his family at the airport. Moya Whitley (MP Francis Scarpaleggia's Assistant) joined us as she had been so helpful in checking on the status of their file over the past year, and she came with lots of small Canadian flags and buttons which the family eagerly accepted. Although exhausted from their long voyage from Riyadh through Frankfurt to Montreal,

Broad smiles and warm hugs more than made up for our lack of Arabic, and their limited English and French (although they said "Thank you" to each of us). On February 15, Bilal, Farah and their daughter Dalal (11) and sons Abdulla (10), Baraa (5) and Huzafa (3) moved into their Ville St Laurent apartment (in the same building as Salman, Bilal's brother, and our co-sponsor), which we had furnished in advance.

We are planning to organize a Welcoming Celebration for Bilal and his family at Summerlea United Church once the snow disappears, and members and friends of the four congregations that formed the Coalition will be invited to come to it.

Stay tuned.....

Sheila Laursen