

## SEEKING REFUGE

### AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

#### Edition 7, February 2023

# Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven – Data Collection to Better Support Displaced Ukrainians

In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Government of Canada has implemented measures to make it easier for Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to Canada and is providing a range of federal and provincial settlement services and supports for newcomers. Ukrainians continue to arrive in Canada via several pathways, including the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET).

The Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven National Secretariat aims to bring together and connect different groups in Canada that are supporting Ukrainians who have come to the country. The Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven website serves as a central hub for information and resources related to the Ukrainian humanitarian movement in Canada. By visiting the website, Canadians can stay informed about the latest developments and find ways to get involved. They can offer their support as volunteers, provide temporary or permanent housing for those in need, or make financial donations, which are tax deductible, to help those who have been displaced.

One of the purposes of Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven is to collect data to help inform service gaps and policy planning. To gather information on displaced Ukrainians, they are asked to complete a Pre-Arrival Survey and Post-Arrival Survey. Pre-arrival survey findings can be found here, while post-arrival analyses is available here.

Many Ukrainians left everything behind due to the war. The need for comprehensive post arrival support is critical to ensure newcomers have access to key services they need to settle into their new communities. Each surveys' information helps inform policy decisions and supports Ukrainians both before and after their arrival in Canada. The completion of pre-arrival and post-arrival forms is voluntary but strongly encouraged. If you know or work with Ukrainians who recently arrived or plan to relocate to Canada, please encourage them to fill in the surveys.

Please distribute the Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven Pre-Arrival survey and Post-Arrival survey with all the Ukrainians you work with. This information will further guide services throughout Canada:







Post-Arrival Survey (click here)

#### Resources for Hosting Newcomer Ukrainian Families

Canada established a pathway for the arrival of displaced Ukrainians and their family members called the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET). Providing a free, temporary visitor status, CUAET allows successful applicants to live, work and study in Canada until it is safe to return to Ukraine. Many Canadians have opened their doors to arriving displaced Ukrainians, volunteering to temporarily host newcomer Ukrainian families in their homes.

Together with United Way BC and the BC Refugee Hub, AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network hosted the webinar: *Welcoming Newcomer Ukrainian Families – Best Practices for Hosts and Landlords.* Recognizing that many people in our communities want to help by offering temporary housing, it is important to offer them the support and information to make the living arrangement a successful one.

The webinar features presentations and discussions with the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program and Inasmuch Community Society who shared their practices and considerations. This webinar covered:

- The role of the host and the newcomer
- Best practices for being a host family
- Expectations for hosts/ landlords and newcomer Ukrainian families
- Balancing support vs boundaries
- · Ethical considerations
- · Positive benefits for the host and the Ukrainian family

In addition to the webinar, a *resource page* has been developed for current and future hosts with webinar highlights and additional resources. Both the webinar and the resource page can be accessed here:



Webinar - Best Practices for Hosts and Landlords (click here)



Resource Page – Best Practices for Hosts and Landlords (click here)



Afghans who have arrived in Canada since August 2021 as of February 2023:

28,010



Ukrainian nationals who have arrived in Canada since January 2022 as of February 2023:

158,277

Source: Government of Canada - #WelcomeAfghans: Key Figures, Government of Canada - Ukraine Immigration Measures: Key Figures

**Afghan Resettlement Resources** 

**Ukrainian Migration Resources** 

Please take the time to fill out the feedback survey so AMSSA can make Seeking Refuge more relevant to your needs

Survey



AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network is an initiative to strengthen community capacity to support resettled refugees and displaced Ukrainians through education, information dissemination, research and training. The Seeking Refuge bulletin has been created to keep service providers up-to-date on news, resources, and to provide information on frequently asked about topics related to recent migrations of displaced Ukrainians and resettled refugees. If you know someone who would like to receive this bulletin, please share this link.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs



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