

SEEKING REFUGE

AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

Edition 13, April 2023

New Pathway to Permanent Residence Established for Afghan Extended Family Members of Former Language and Cultural Advisors

August 2021 marked the end of the War in Afghanistan and the beginning of the Taliban's takeover of the country. This left countless Afghans stranded in the country and fearing persecution, including those individuals that had supported Canada's mission in Afghanistan. In response, the Government of Canada announced that it is their intention to resettle 40,000 Afghan refugees in Canada by the end of 2023. Since August 2021, [29,010 Afghan refugees have settled in the country through a combination of special programs.](#)

Recently, the Government of Canada announced [a temporary public policy to open up a new pathway to permanent residency for *extended family of former Afghan language and cultural advisors \(LCAs\)*](#). LCAs refer to Afghan individuals who supported the Government of Canada during their mission in Afghanistan. While Canada had welcomed LCAs and their direct family members (spouses, children) to migrate to the country, the offer was not previously open to extended family. This announcement means that extended family who may also be at risk from the Taliban, now have the opportunity to immigrate to Canada.

In order to become a permanent resident through this new policy, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- LCA's must currently live in Canada and be able to provide a declaration confirming their place of residence.
- LCA's must have worked for the Department of National Defense in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2021.
- The extended family member must successfully complete the security, criminality and medical admissibility requirements to come to Canada

A more detailed breakdown of the application process as well as what qualifies as 'extended family' can be found on the [Government of Canada website](#).

Filing Taxes in Canada – What Newcomers Need to Know

Newcomers, including refugees and displaced Ukrainians, are required to file a tax return with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) once they become a resident of

Canada for income tax purposes and establish residential ties in Canada. The Government of Canada defines newcomers as individuals in their first year as residents of Canada. Usually, newcomers establish residential ties on the day they arrive in Canada. Note that residency status is different from immigration status. There are two main ways to complete and send a tax return – online and by paper. April 30, 2023 is the deadline to file taxes this year.

While the financial supports (monthly and one-time) provided to resettled refugees and displaced Ukrainians are generally considered to be non-taxable income, new Canadian tax residents may be eligible for benefits and credits to support them financially. The [Canada Child Benefit](#) (CCB) provides eligible parents with children under the age of 18 a monthly, tax-free payment to help with the cost of raising a family. Temporary residents must live in Canada for 18 months in a row and have a valid permit on 19th month of living in Canada before they can apply for the Canada Child Benefit and any related provincial and territorial programs. A Social Insurance Number is required to work in Canada and/or receive government benefits and services, such as the Canada Child Benefit, GST/HST credit, Canada Workers Benefit, the Disability tax credit, and the one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit. The Canada Revenue Agency have developed resources to assist understanding of the Canadian tax system, including [Benefits, credits and taxes for newcomers](#), and [Learn about your taxes – Develop an understanding of how the Canadian tax system works](#).

Displaced Ukrainians and resettled refugees may be eligible for [free tax help](#) as part of the CRA community volunteer income tax program across Canada. These clinics are for people who have a low income and a simple tax situation. You can find a volunteer tax preparation clinic online through [Free tax clinics - Canada.ca](#). Support can sometimes be provided in different languages such as Pashto and Ukrainian depending on the Clinic Type selected in the search parameters. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress has also developed a [Tax Guide for Newcomers under CUAET](#) available in both Ukrainian and English.

E-Learning Available for new Settlement Practitioners



To support the many resettled refugees and displaced Ukrainians coming to B.C. recently, AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network initiative consultations with service providers across B.C. indicated that an introductory foundational functional training would aid in the orientation of new practitioners coming into the field.

The Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training E-learning is the first of a two-part e-learning workshop series focused on providing practical training on common settlement work tasks that are not agency specific. This e-learning covers immigration categories, the role of a settlement practitioner, the framework of settlement work and case management of clients. This introductory training is targeted for people who have not received formalized training in the basics of settlement work and are new to

The Settlement Practitioner Introductory E-learning Training Part 1 is now available on [AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network webpage](#).



Afghans who have arrived in Canada since August 2021 as of April 2023:
29,735



Number of people who arrived in Canada under **CUAET** program since March 2022 as of March 2023:
139,056

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](#).

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