

SEEKING REFUGE

AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

Edition 14, April 2023

New Pathway Announced for Refugees and Other Displaced Individuals to Come to Canada

The expansion of the [Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot \(EMPP\)](#) was recently announced to help employers hire and to provide another opportunity for skilled refugees and other displaced individuals to come to Canada. Currently, the EMPP opens some of Canada's economic pathways to refugees. [In British Columbia](#), this is through the Provincial Nominee Program and the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot. [Starting this summer, this program will be expanded to create a new federal pathway](#), with more information to come.

The Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP) provides benefits for both refugees and employers. The EMPP provides another pathway for refugees and other displaced individuals to come to Canada along with the other established [pathways for migration to Canada](#). The pilot program also gives employers access to skilled employees during this time of labour shortage. According to Statistics Canada, the [unemployment-to-job vacancy ratio is at historic lows](#), with British Columbia having one of the lowest ratios in Canada.

Canada provides a few ways in which British Columbians and Canadians who are seeking ways to help provide a safe haven for others through the [Private Sponsorship of Refugees \(PSR\)](#) program. The EMPP is an opportunity to not only support the resettlement of refugees, but also for employers to benefit from the skills that these potential newcomers can contribute to their business. To be participate in this program, businesses can connect to the EMPP partners listed on [the Welcome BC website](#).

Canadian Driver's License in British Columbia for Newcomer Ukrainians

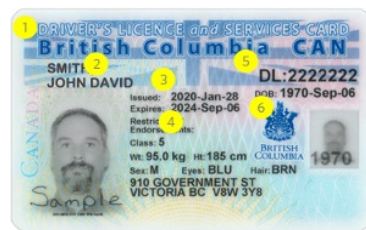
[Getting a driver's license](#) is an important step for many newcomers including Ukrainians and resettled refugees coming to Canada, as it provides them with a sense of independence and mobility. It is a frequently asked question by many Ukrainian newcomers, as having a driver's license provides more possibilities for work, school, or personal needs.

Ukrainian newcomers can drive in B.C. using Ukraine driver's license for up to 90 days. If they wish to exchange Ukraine driver's license for a B.C. driver's license, they will need to complete a **knowledge test** and a **road test**. To schedule the tests, they can contact any ICBC **driver licensing office**. Knowledge tests for Class 5, 6, 7 and 8 are now available in Ukrainian.

To get full-privileged B.C driver's license (Class 5), a newcomer needs to have held a Ukraine driver's license (non-learner, in English) for at least two years and be able to present it at one of the ICBC driver licensing offices. A license that is not in English needs to be translated by an **ICBC approved translator**.

New drivers or those who has less than two years of proven driving experience or can't prove it need to be enrolled in **B.C.'s Graduated Licensing Program** , but can still get a **Class 7** or **Class 8** license with **graduated licensing** restrictions. Newcomers who have a valid Ukraine driver's license and they also have a license from one of the countries B.C. has reciprocal license exchange agreement with, are eligible to exchange license without completing a knowledge and a road test. To see the list of reciprocal license exchange agreement countries, click **here**.

In order to obtain a B.C. driver's license two forms of ID are requested – primary and secondary. Most immigration documents issued by the Government of Canada can be used as a primary identification. For information on secondary identification options, learn more about **Accepted ID**.



Resources on Scams and Fraud, and Human Trafficking and Exploitation

Through AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network (BCRRN) initiative consultations, it was identified that while there are many people who continue to support resettled refugees and displaced Ukrainians in their settlement in Canada, there are also those who prey on these newcomers' vulnerability as they adjust to their new circumstances.

Together with the B.C. Refugee Hub, AMSSA's BCRRN initiative hosted two webinars. The first on **Scams and Fraud** had presentations by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Bank of Canada, exploring the various techniques criminals employ and some of the top scams newcomers are subjected to. According to the **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre** , in 2022 there were over 91,000 reports of fraud in Canada resulting in losses of over \$531 million. The second webinar on **Human Trafficking and Exploitation** had presentations from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canada Border Services Agency providing an introduction to the warning signs and indicators of possible exploitation and trafficking, and strategies for newcomers and their supports to address this.

To view these webinars, please go to **AMSSA's BCRRN Resources page** .



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

30,455



Number of people who arrived in Canada under CUAET program since March 2022 as of April 2023:

148,313

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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