



SEEKING REFUGE

AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

Edition 17, June 2023

World Refugee Day - June 20, 2023

In 2001, 50 years after the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the UN designated June 20th as World Refugee Day in order to recognize and celebrate the courage and resilience of people forced to flee conflict or persecution in their home countries. This day also serves as an opportunity to build empathy, awareness, and increased support throughout the global community. [UNHCR statistics](#) show that there are more than 100 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide, including over 32 million refugees and close to 5 million asylum-seekers.

Canada has resettled over [30,000 refugees in 2019 alone](#), representing 25% of refugees resettled that year. In total, Canada has welcomed more than a million refugees since 1980. Most refugees remain in Canada, integrating into Canadian society by working, volunteering, and pursuing education. [Studies show](#) that through taxes, refugees more than repay the amount of public benefits and services invested in their futures.

Since 2021, more than 3,800 Afghan refugees and 10,000 displaced Ukrainians have come to British Columbia seeking safety. [Between 2015 and 2023](#), 9% of refugees who came to Canada settled in BC, 40% of whom were privately sponsored. British Columbians who want to help can [learn more about private sponsorship](#) and reach out to local organizations to donate, volunteer, or provide temporary accommodations for newly arrived refugees. As new crises arise and old conflicts burn on, the number of refugees and other displaced persons continues to grow. BC's acceptance of refugees and the mobilization of local communities in response to emerging humanitarian crises are essential to helping refugees find safety.

New Measures Announced Supporting Family Reunification

The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced on May 26 that the Government of Canada will be [expediting temporary visas](#) for those with an active family class permanent residency application. As some sponsored spouses, partners, and dependent children can come to Canada as temporary residents and live with their sponsor while their applications for permanent residence are being processed, this will reunite families faster. IRCC is using new analytic technology to process these applications, which the Minister states will result in an approval rate for these temporary visas of over 90%, with the expectation that such applications will be processed within 30 days moving forward.

In addition, spouses and dependent children with active family class permanent residency applications will also be able to apply for open work permits, an option previously available only to applicants applying from within Canada. Those with active family class permanent residency applications whose open work permits expire by the end of 2023 can also submit a free, expedited extension application; this includes spouses and dependents of temporary foreign workers, international students, and permanent residency applicants.

These new provisions will not only reunite family members of resettled refugees faster, they will also enable them to support themselves once in Canada. The full text of this policy, including eligibility criteria, is [available online](#).

Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training Workshop Part 2 webinar – June 27, 2023

Through AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network initiative, consultations were held with service providers across B.C. on resources that could support work being done with resettled refugees and displaced Ukrainians due to recent humanitarian crises. These consultations indicated that an introductory foundational functional training would aid in the orientation of new settlement practitioners coming into the field working with the influx of newcomers.

The Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training Part 2 builds on the foundational knowledge introduced in the Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training Part 1 to provide practical training on common settlement work tasks that are not agency-specific within B.C. It is intended for people who have completed part 1 of this 2-part series.

Target Audience: Registration is limited to people who have either attended the Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training Workshop Part 1 webinar on March 21st or who have completed the E-learning course available on AMSSA's [BCRRN Resources](#) page. A confirmation email will be sent out a few days after submission of your registration details. Please note that this workshop has limited spaces. If you wish to register but have not completed the Part 1 E-learning course, please contact Kieran Davis at kdavis@amssa.org.

Note that this workshop will be made available as an E-learning course later in 2023.

Event details:

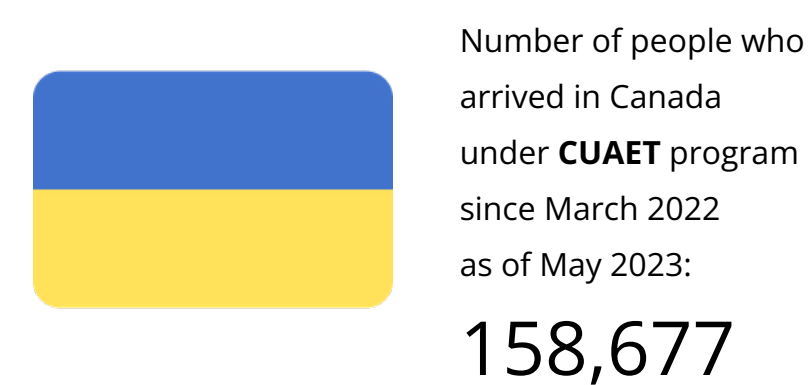
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT](#)

Webinar: Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training Workshop Part 2

Date: June 27, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PST

Location: Online



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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