

SEEKING REFUGE

AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

Edition 9, March 2023

Government of Canada Increases Sponsorship Opportunities for Sponsorship Agreement Holders

For over 40 years, Canada has offered the [Private Sponsorship of Refugees \(PSR\) Program](#), Canadians and permanent residents have cooperated to provide refugees with safety and a stable home. The success of the program is due in large part to more than 130 sponsorship agreement holders (SAHs), who have been sponsoring refugees.

[Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada recently announced](#) that the number of refugees SAHs can sponsor is increasing to 13,500 in 2023. This marks a 10-fold increase since 2012. This increase will create opportunities for new SAHs to establish themselves and start their operations. These organizations are responsible for managing all aspects of the sponsorship process, including identifying refugees, submitting sponsorship applications, and providing vital support to newly arrived refugees.

The PSR Program complements Canada's other 2 refugee resettlement programs: the [Government-Assisted Refugee Program \(GAR\)](#) and the [Blended Visa Office-Referred \(BVOR\) Program](#), providing a few ways in which organizations and private groups can support refugee resettlement to Canada. To find out more information, click here to go to the Government of Canada's [Sponsor a refugee page](#).

Promoting Access to Health Services for Displaced Ukrainians

Many Ukrainians who arrive to B.C. under the [Canada Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel Visa \(CUAET\)](#) may not know that they are automatically covered by PharmaCare's Plan C for one year. The Plan C provides 100% coverage of eligible prescription costs, medical devices and supplies. It also covers the dispensing fees of eligible prescriptions.

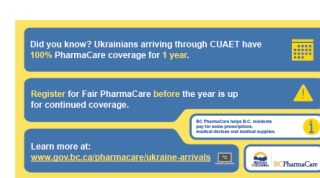
The Government of BC has launched a campaign to promote these medical supports. You can find the images below that can be shared through social media channels:



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

Plan C coverage begins as soon as a person arriving under CUAET is enrolled in the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP). For those who enrolled in MSP before September 23, 2022, Plan C coverage started on September 23. Emergency coverage is also available before enrolment in MSP for urgently needed medications if the prescribers completes the [Emergency BC PharmaCare Coverage for Ukrainian Arrivals](#).

Is it strongly encouraged that any Ukrainian arriving under the CUAET to B.C. enroll in the Province of B.C.'s [Medical Service Plan](#) as soon as possible. This will ensure PharmaCare's Plan C coverage for one year and future health supports as they are made available. As it has been almost one year since CUAET arrivals began arriving to B.C., it is recommended that they register for the Fair PharmaCare plan before their Plan C coverage ends. Fair PharmaCare provides assistance with eligible medication and medical supply costs based on income. The lower a family's income, the more support they can receive. A family in this context could be defined as a single person, a single person with children, a couple, or a couple with children.

You can find more information about PharmaCare Plan C and Emergency Drug Coverage for Ukrainians arriving under the CUAET on the Province of B.C.'s [Ukrainian \(CUAET arrivals\) and BC Pharmacare webpage](#).



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

28,470



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

172,220

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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