

SEEKING REFUGE

AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

Edition 21, September 2023

Deadline approaching for wildfire replacement documents

In response to the wildfires arising across Canada and recognition of the destruction they continue to wreak on the lives of Canadian residents, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is [offering special measures](#) to replace key documents lost to wildfires. The documents eligible for these measures include permanent resident cards, immigration documents, and travel documents (including certificates of identity and refugee travel documents) lost as a direct result of wildfires.

Residents of British Columbia who applied to replace a permanent resident card, citizenship certificate, or travel document (including certificates of identity and refugee travel documents) between May 11, 2023 and June 9, 2023 can [request a refund](#) of their application fee. Temporary residents, including visitors, international students, and foreign nationals with visas expiring between May 6, 2023 and September 30, 2023 can also apply to renew or extend their status.

Affected persons can apply for free, following the [instructions provided by IRCC](#). The deadline to apply for replacement documents or an application fee refund is September 30, 2023.

Operation Ukraine Safe Haven offers new data and resources

[Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven \(OUSH\)](#), working in coordination with the Government of Canada, has been tracking arrival data for CUAET visa-holders. Out of this collaboration, OUSH has made available [visualizations of this data](#). These visualizations provide insights into fluctuations in weekly arrivals and allow identification of trends, including projections showing likely future arrivals. This data is useful for agencies and service providers seeking information about potential shifts in service needs, including the possibility of future surges.

In March of 2023, Operation Ukraine Safe Haven held three webinars showcasing innovative practices developed by organizations and stakeholders across Canada for their work welcoming displaced Ukrainians. Recordings of these webinars are [now available on the OUSH website](#). 69 organizations and stakeholders submitted innovative practices developed for housing, employment, Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs), community building, and smaller centres. These written descriptions can be found and filtered by province on the same page. Submissions came from employers, service providing organizations, provincial governments, cultural organizations, and educational institutions and cover a wide range of services and activities.

OUSH continues to provide a central portal for donations, a service map for providers across Canada, and ways for Canadians to help displaced Ukrainians in their communities. There is also a [compilation of mental health supports](#) available to CUAET visa-holders, both nationally and provincially.

Newcomer Health Hub provides resources for healthcare providers

Created by medical students concerned with challenges faced by newcomers encountering the Canadian healthcare system, the [Newcomer Health Hub](#) provides free resources for both healthcare providers and newcomers.

[For healthcare providers](#), these include information about health needs common to specific regions and communities as well as resources for providing culturally sensitive and trauma-informed care to newcomers, particularly refugees. There are also [infographics](#) summarizing active conflicts with information pertinent to health provision, including languages spoken, religions practiced, and possible health considerations, to support health professionals as they provide care to patients fleeing active conflicts.

[For newcomers](#), resources include basic information about accessing healthcare and free provincial resources. An infographic providing a basic introduction to the complex history and current barriers experienced by indigenous peoples in Canada is also available. Newcomer Health Hub continues to add new resources on an ongoing basis. Upcoming resources include a guide to the Interim Federal Health Program for health care providers. Canadian medical students can also [get involved](#) with the collaborative project through such means as research, outreach, and content creation.



[Afghan Resettlement Resources](#)

[Ukrainian Migration Resources](#)

[Access this edition and past editions of the Seeking Refuge Bulletin](#)

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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AMSSA | 4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby, BC V5G0A7 Canada

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