

SEEKING REFUGE

AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

Edition 22, October 2023

IRCC re-opens Parents and Grandparents Program

Under the [Parents and Grandparents Program](#), Canadian citizens and permanent residents can sponsor their parents and grandparents to come to Canada. IRCC recently announced the opening of the 2023 intake and the issuance of invitations to apply to selected potential sponsors who submitted an interest to sponsor form in 2020. They plan to accept as many as 15,000 complete applications; because of the volume of applications still outstanding from 2020, IRCC will not be opening a new interest to sponsor form at this time. Invitations will be issued by email.

For those still awaiting an invitation, or who have not been able to submit an interest to sponsor form, the Parents and Grandparents Super Visa remains a temporary alternative. The Super Visa allows [eligible parents and grandparents](#) of Canadian citizens or permanent residents to remain in Canada for 5 years; this visa allows multiple entries and can be renewed up to a maximum stay of 10 years. Interested families can find information about the Super Visa, including eligibility, requirements, and process [on the IRCC website](#).

Survey for private sponsors of refugees forthcoming from IRCC

Since the introduction of the private sponsorship program in 1979, [more than 327,000 refugees](#) have come to Canada via private sponsorship. This program is a key pathway for thousands of refugees every year, with targets for the [2023-2025 immigration levels](#) higher for privately sponsored refugees than for government-sponsored. Private sponsors provide invaluable support for the refugees they sponsor that go far beyond financial obligations, connecting newly-arrived refugees with their new communities.

In order to strengthen and sustain this program, IRCC is [conducting a survey of sponsors](#). Selected sponsors will receive an email from IRCC with a link to the survey, which will be available online through September and October 2023 in both English and French. Participation is voluntary and confidential and responses will inform improvements to this vital program.

If you are a sponsor under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program and/or the Blended Visa Office Referred Program, please be on the look-out for a possible invitation. We recognize the incredible work done by sponsors and encourage you to complete the survey because your input may help shape the program as it evolves in the coming years.

Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training Part 2 E-Learning now available

To support the many resettled refugees and displaced Ukrainians recently arrived in B.C., AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network initiative consulted with service providers across the province to determine that an introductory foundational functional training would aid in the orientation of new practitioners entering the field of settlement work.

The Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training Part 2 E-learning is the second 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 general program eligibility criteria; supporting clients in accessing health and mental health services; appropriate interventions, referrals, and service bridging; and service quality in settlement work. This e-learning is intended for people who attended the Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training Part 1 webinar or have completed [the associated Part 1 e-learning](#).

The Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training Part 2 E-learning is now available on [AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network webpage](#).

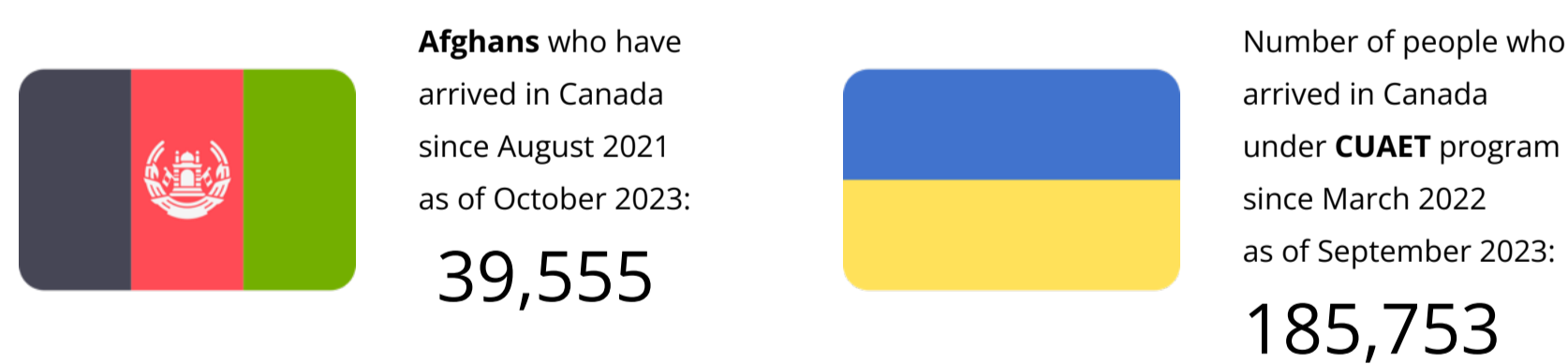
Invitation to complete survey on Occupational Health and Safety for CUAET visa holders

Professionals and agencies serving displaced Ukrainians in Canada under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel program are invited to complete a survey from AMSSA's WorkSafeBC project.

The Occupational Health and Safety Assessment of CUAET Visa Holders survey seeks to assess the needs for individuals and organizations supporting Ukrainian nationals who arrived through the CUAET program. Your responses are important as they will inform future resources and programming at AMSSA – specifically, the development of WorkSafeBC occupational health and safety resources in support of service provision to CUAET visa holders.

Over 80% of CUAET visa-holders nationwide hold a work permit. There are more than [15,000 CUAET visa-holders](#) residing in British Columbia, indicating that there may be thousands of displaced Ukrainians with the potential to work in BC. All workers in BC are entitled to access WorkSafeBC resources, but some populations face unique challenges and barriers. AMSSA's WorkSafeBC Project supports individuals and organizations serving marginalized and underserved workers in B.C. Project activities include [service mapping](#) and the development of [capacity-building resources](#) focused on Occupational Health and Safety.

[The Occupational Health and Safety Assessment of CUAET Visa Holders survey is available here](#) and will be open until November 3, 2023. It is open to all service providers whose organizations work with CUAET visa holders, so we encourage readers to share with your colleagues and professional networks.



Source: [Government of Canada - #WelcomeAfghans: Key Figures](#)
[Government of Canada - Ukraine Immigration Measures: Key Figures](#)

[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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