

SEEKING REFUGE

AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

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IRCC transitions private sponsor group applications to online portal

In keeping with the recently released [Immigration System for Canada's Future](#) plan, IRCC continues to work on making application processes more user-friendly through digital technologies. Their most recent step has been to open the Permanent Residence portal to community sponsors and Groups of Five applying to sponsor refugees through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program. According to the recently released [Immigration Levels Plan for 2024-2026](#), by 2025 privately sponsored refugees will comprise more than 60% of the Resettled Refugees welcomed by Canada each year.

Starting January 1, 2024, groups applying to privately sponsor refugees will need to submit applications through the [Permanent Residence Portal](#) or by mail; email applications will no longer be accepted after December 31, 2023. According to IRCC, this change is intended to increase convenience, security, and efficiency for sponsors. It will also reduce submission of incomplete applications and avoid delays and complications that arise during the email submission process.

The [Refugee Sponsorship Training Program](#) is offering support to Groups of Five and Community Sponsors with navigating this transition, including training on how to navigate the updated application forms and procedures. Details on the changes to the application process are [available through the IRCC website](#), as is an updated guide to [refugee sponsorship group responsibilities](#).

Ukrainian Canadian Congress offering series of free Ukrainian language webinars

In September, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress launched a new webinar series. Expert Insights is a series of biweekly webinars held in Ukrainian and designed for relevance to Ukrainians who entered Canada under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) visa program. More than 198,000 Ukrainians have entered Canada under CUAET, with more expected to arrive before the March 31, 2024 travel deadline to maintain eligibility for special supports and exemptions. The Expert Insights series offers a useful tool to disseminate relevant information to displaced Ukrainians seeking employment, housing, and connections in their new communities. Past topics include resume writing and Canadian work culture; planned topics include federal benefits and credits for Ukrainians as well as housing.

While these webinars are directed at CUAET visa-holders, they may also be helpful for Ukrainian-speaking staff supporting displaced Ukrainians. Those interested can view past webinars and register for upcoming ones through the [Expert Insights page](#) on the UCC website.



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

40,415



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

198,642

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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