

## SEEKING REFUGE

### AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

Edition 30, March 2024

#### New pathway to permanent residency for Sudanese nationals with Canadian family

Since the start of the Darfur crisis in 2003, almost [8 million people in Sudan have been displaced](#) from their homes, making Sudan the largest internal displacement crisis in the world. Since the start of the most recent conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces on April 15, 2023, more than 6 million people have been internally displaced, and those still within Sudan face violence from the civil war, widespread poverty, food insecurity, and a collapsing healthcare system, all exacerbated by extreme weather.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has now opened a [family-based permanent residence pathway for people affected by the conflict in Sudan](#). Eligible applicants are from people or families who:

- Resided in Sudan when the conflict began on April 15, 2023
- Are the child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or sibling living in Canada as a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Whose extended family member in Canada is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and is willing to support the application as the anchor. The anchor is an extended family member who agrees to support the applicant for the first year in Canada that includes basic needs such as housing, food, clothing and other basic necessities of life.

If the application is approved, the Right of Permanent Residence Fee and biometric fees will be waived, and the successful applicants will have access to pre and post arrival settlement services.

At this time, up to 3,250 applications are being accepted. More information about this [new permanent residence pathway can be found under this link](#).

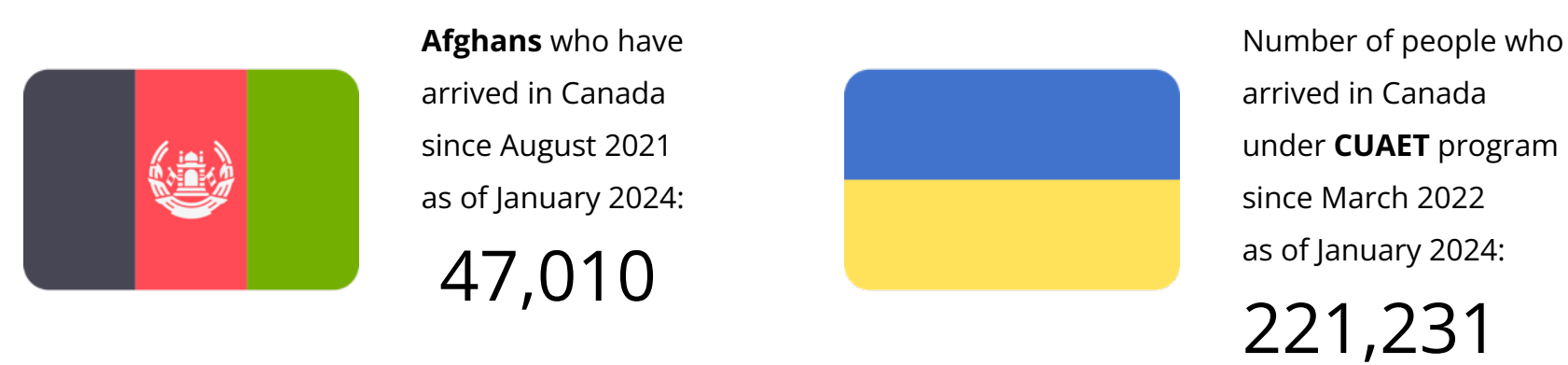
It should also be noted that in July of 2023, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced a temporary measure allowing Sudanese nationals in Canada to [apply for extensions to temporary resident status or to change their status](#) to another category (visitor, worker, or student) for free. The deadline for this temporary measure has been extended to October 27, 2024.

#### Free access to legal information and advice for Ukrainians

As the war in Ukraine enters its third year, many Ukrainians continue to arrive in Canada seeking safe refuge, and in some cases, considering whether to make Canada their permanent home.

The Government of Canada has recently announced funding for Pro Bono Ontario's [Ukrainian Refugee Legal Relief Initiative](#) that among its services, provides [a national telephone hotline to provide assistance to Ukrainians](#). The hotline is currently open Monday to Friday, 9:00am – 2:00pm Pacific Standard Time (for people in B.C.) with legal help available in Ukrainian, English or French. Legal advice is available for free to people from Ukraine or family members of people from Ukraine who are inside or outside of Canada, and focusses on immigration-related issues, including obtaining or extending a work permit or study permit, sponsorship of family or remaining in Canada permanently.

People within the settlement services sector can provide a wealth of supports including information about immigration, but cannot provide immigration advice. As legal advice can be difficult or expensive to obtain, a telephone legal advice hotline that serves B.C. and nationally will be a useful resource to support Ukrainians as they arrive to Canada.



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 B.C. 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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