

SEEKING REFUGE

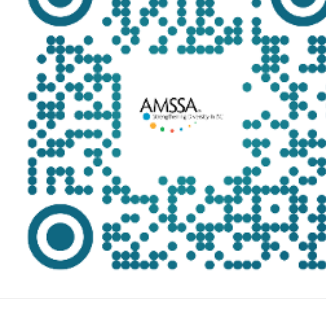
AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network Bulletin

Edition 31, March 2024

Last edition of Seeking Refuge Bulletin and conclusion of the B.C. Refugee Resource Network initiative

With the BC Refugee Resource Network initiative wrapping up at the end of March 2024, this edition of the Seeking Refuge Bulletin will be the last one.

Settlement Net is a website and database that provides reliable and timely information and resources, with a Weekly Update e-mail is sent that includes links to the latest settlement-related news, updates, initiatives, and resources.



You can sign-up for Settlement Net by clicking here SettlementNet - AMSSA or scan this QR Code:

The BC Refugee Resource Network (BCRRN) initiative was made possible through the Government of B.C.'s Refugee Readiness Fund (RRF) whose goal was to prepare communities to receive the recent arrival of Afghan refugees and other resettled refugees, and displaced Ukrainians.

- Webinar on Welcoming Newcomer Ukrainian Families - Best Practices for Hosts and Landlords
The Pathways for Resettled Refugees, Refugee Claimants and Displaced Ukrainians info sheet
Regional and Provincial Housing Info Sheets
Settlement Practitioner Introductory Training E-Learning Part 1 and E-Learning Part 2
Webinars on Scams and Frauds and Human Trafficking and Exploitation

The RRF also made possible the formation of Refugee Readiness Teams across the province. Each of these Teams helped improve the coordination of services and resources for resettled refugees and displaced Ukrainians through collaboration, networking and information sharing.

- Cariboo North Refugee Readiness Team
Fraser Valley Refugee Readiness Team
Metro Vancouver Refugee Readiness Team
South Fraser Refugee Readiness Team
Thompson Okanagan & Kootenays Refugee Readiness Team
Vancouver Island Refugee Readiness Team

We'd like to extend a special thanks to all of you not just for subscribing to the Seeking Refuge Bulletin, but for your work supporting resettled refugees and displaced Ukrainians during these recent humanitarian responses.

Extension of special measures for Iranian nationals in Canada as temporary residents

Following the unstable situation in Iran following the crackdown on protestors after the killing of Mahsa Amini, on February 23, 2023, the Government of Canada introduced special measures to support Iranian temporary residents in Canada.

Under these special measures, Iranian nationals in Canada with valid temporary resident status can continue to study, work or visit family by applying for an extension of their status.

In addition, Canadian citizens and permanent residents living in Iran can apply for a limited validity Canadian passport, Canadian citizenship certificate and a permanent resident travel document for free.

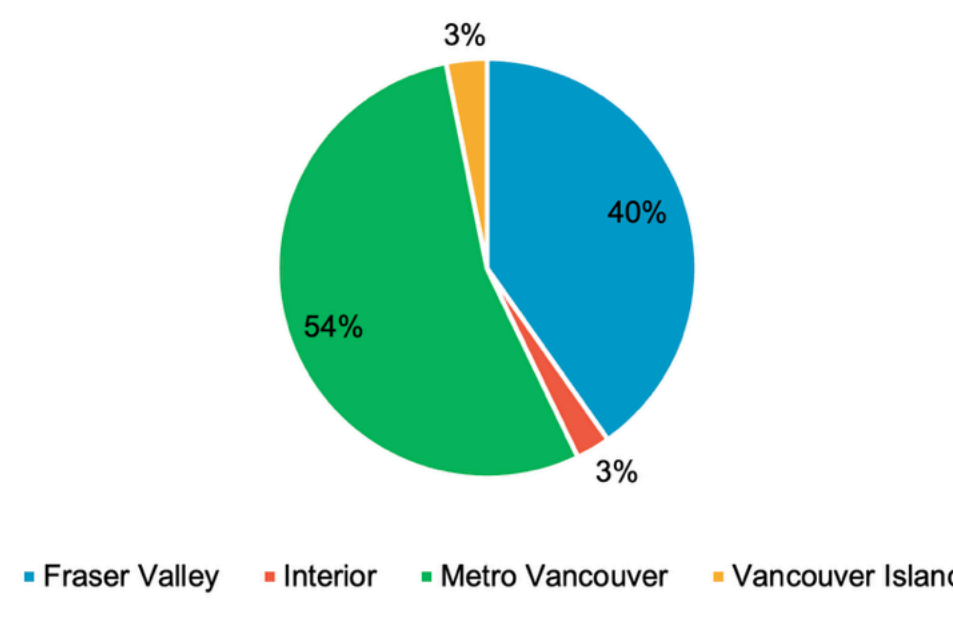
More information on how one can apply for these temporary special measures can be found on this webpage: Situation in Iran: Temporary immigration, passport and citizenship measures - Canada.ca

Looking back on Canada's #WelcomeAfghans program

In August of 2021, the Taliban's seizure of power in Afghanistan created an environment of fear and extreme danger for Afghans who had worked to advance freedom and safety within their country.

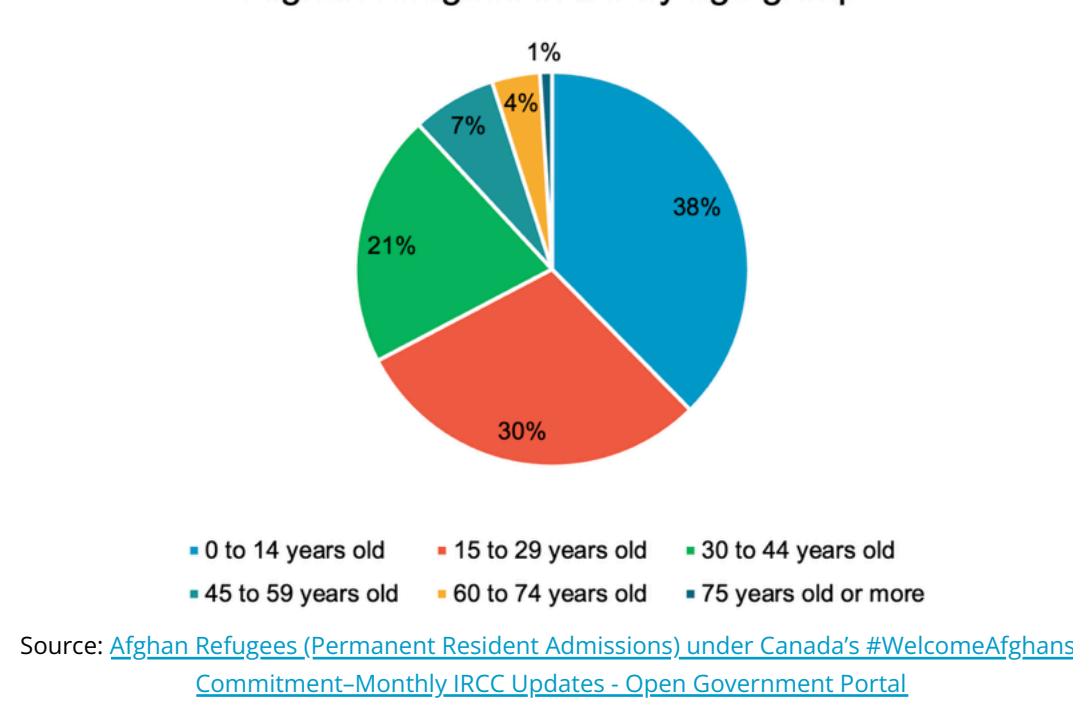
By March of 2022, 10,000 Afghan refugees had arrived to safety in Canada. By October of 2023, Canada met its commitment to welcome 40,000 refugees through the special immigration measures.

Destinations of Afghan refugees in BC



Afghan refugees arriving during Canada's #WelcomeAfghans commitment to B.C. are a diverse group. When they arrived, 38% were under the age of 15 and only 5% were aged 60 or older.

Afghan refugees in BC by age group



Refugees receive support from settlement provider organizations with language learning, employment, information and orientation, and connecting to their new communities. It can be difficult to balance needs such as language acquisition, employment, and housing, and many struggle to find adequate and affordable housing in B.C.'s difficult market.

Past, present, and future - Ukrainians in British Columbia

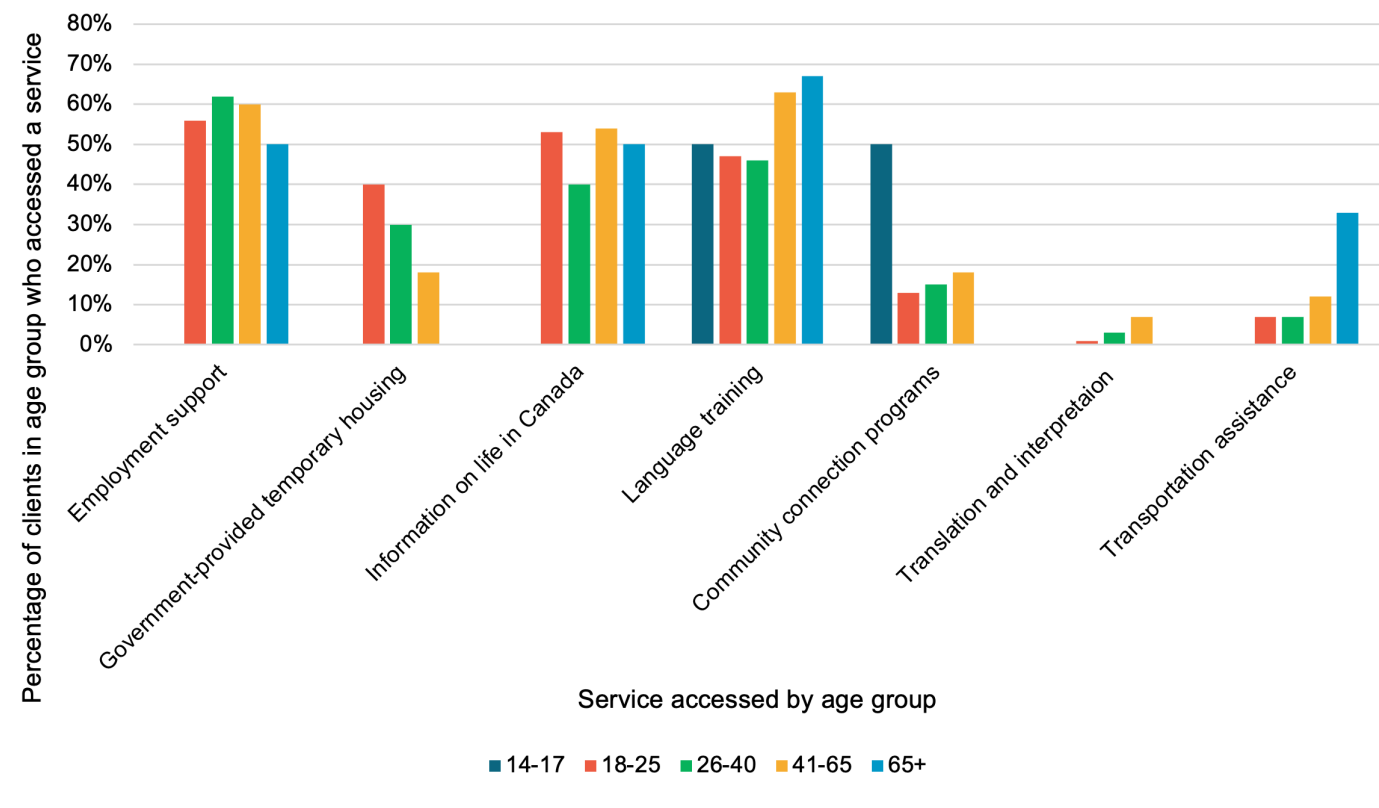
Ukrainians have had a long and sometimes difficult history in Canada. The first wave of Ukrainian immigrants arrived in 1891, after Canada encouraged immigration from Ukraine and other Eastern European countries as part of European settlement primarily in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

The most recent Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 led the Canadian government to open a special temporary resident visa category, the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) in March 2022.

Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven (OUSH-OHPU) was created as part of the humanitarian response. As part of its work, OUSH-OHPU conducted pre- and post-arrival surveys with CUAET visa holders, making survey results available through their data dashboard.

CUAET visa holders accessed a variety of services: employment services were heavily used, with half or more of Ukrainians above the age of 18 accessing employment support programs, while Ukrainians of all ages accessed language training supports.

Services accessed by CUAET clients in BC



With the war in Ukraine entering its third year, many CUAET visa holders still face uncertainty on what the future holds. In October 2023, Canada introduced a pathway to permanent residency for eligible CUAET holders, enabling them to live, work and study in Canada without any time limit on their stay.

Although applications for the CUAET program were closed in July 2023, visa holders have until March 31, 2024 to arrive in order to be eligible for the supports made available through the special program.

Infographic showing Afghans who have arrived in Canada since August 2021 as of March 2024: 49,070 and Number of people who arrived in Canada under CUAET program since March 2022 as of February 2024: 248,726

Buttons for Afghan Resettlement Resources and 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



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.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Connect with us



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