



Dear provincially-funded settlement service providers,

We are reaching out today to share some information regarding the war in Ukraine and some of the work the Province is doing to prepare for the arrival of displaced Ukrainians.

This message has information that is current as of 4:00pm on Wednesday, March 30th, 2022. This is a dynamic situation and things are subject to change. We hope to provide regular updates as things evolve.

MUNI Initiatives

- MUNI has been facilitating a whole of government approach to plan for the displaced Ukrainians by meeting with other ministries, the Ukrainian community, service providers and stakeholders to ensure concerns, eligibility challenges and emerging needs are communicated in a timely way. More information on this will be communicated when possible.
- MUNI has finalized [printed Farsi and Spanish versions](#) of the Newcomers Guide. We also have begun translating the 2021 BC Newcomers' Guide into three additional languages: Dari, Ukrainian and Russian. These translated versions will be shared as soon as they are ready.
- The Refugee Readiness Fund contracts are now in place with five Refugee Readiness Teams and the Provincial Refugee Resource Network. The action planning process is happening now with a possible expansion to include displaced Ukrainians. Successful proponents can be found at the bottom of this message (Appendix 1).
- MUNI recognizes existing BCSIS capacity challenges articulated by SPOs and by the findings of the evaluation, and are aware of the impact that increased number of temporary residents coming through these new pathways may have. We also recognize the opportunity to leverage the recently launched Refugee Readiness Fund to support communities. We continue to have active discussions internally to explore options to address BCSIS capacity.

Other BC Ministry Initiatives

- The Ministry of Health has announced that the 3-month waiting period for Medical Services Plan (MSP) registration will be waived for new arrivals from Ukraine with a work or study permit, as well as for Canadians and permanent residents arriving from Ukraine.
- MUNI is in discussions with BC211, United Way and Service BC to create a central provincial-wide intake for public offers of support and donations, and to refer and connect people to information and resources they need. We will ensure that any relevant connections with Refugee Readiness Fund and BCSIS contractors occur as required.

Important Service Eligibility Considerations

- Please encourage new arrivals under the CUAET to apply for a work permit. This will ensure that people arriving have a greater access to supports and services than they may as a visitor.

IRCC Initiatives

- On Thursday, March 17th, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser announced the launch of the [Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel](#) (CUAET), an accelerated **temporary residence** pathway for Ukrainians fleeing war. Under this program, Ukrainians and their immediate family members of any nationality may stay in Canada for up to three years.
- As the CUAET arrivals are temporary residents, they would not qualify for Canada's [Refugee Assistance Program](#) (RAP). We encourage you to visit IRCC's website to learn more about the specifics of the [CUAET program](#), as well as [other measures for people affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#).
- On March 28th, the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship [Minister Scott Fraser announced on Twitter](#) an expansion of federal settlement services to displaced Ukrainians. Further details have not been shared to date.
- IRCC is engaging with the Canadian Red Cross to facilitate initial contact with Ukrainians once they have landed in Canada – [including the Vancouver International Airport](#).
- IRCC has funded two organizing tables – one at a national level lead by CISSA-ACSEI (with AMSSA leading the secretariat role) and one at a provincial level led by AMSSA.

Regards,

Immigrant Integration Unit

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Appendix 1: Successful Proponents of the Refugee Readiness Fund

Cities in Region	PRRN/RRT	Organization
All of Province	PRRN	Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC
Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Coquitlam/Port Coquitlam, New Westminister, Port Moody and area	RRT Metro Vancouver	M.O.S.A.I.C. Multi-Lingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities
Surrey, White Rock, Delta (including Tsawwassen), Langley	RRT South Fraser	DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society
Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Hope and area	RRT Fraser Valley	Archway Community Services Society
Victoria, Nanaimo and the rest of the Island	RRT Vancouver Island	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
Kamloops, Kelowna, Nelson and the remainder of the Region	RRT Thompson Okanagan Kootenay	Kelowna Community Resources Society
Prince George and rest of North	Cariboo	TEMPORARY - until further notice M.O.S.A.I.C. Multi-Lingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities