

Ukraine Update: Support for Ukrainian Immigrants

Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA)

The CBSA has implemented an administrative deferral of removals (ADR) in place for Ukraine, which will be lifted once the situation in Ukraine stabilizes. This applies to refugee claimants in Canada.

Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

The IRCC is currently urgently processing single-journey travel documents for immediate family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents who do not have valid passports, as well as other travel documents.

They are also renewing work and study permits and extending the policy that allows individuals to apply for a work permit from within Canada. The policy will allow temporary residents with a job offer to begin work while waiting for their work permits to process. The IRCC will also issue open work permits to Ukrainian visitors, workers, and students who are residing in Canada and cannot return to Ukraine.

The following fees, retroactive to February 22, 2022, will be waived: Canadian passports, permanent resident travel documents, proofs of citizenship, visitor visas, and work and study permits. More information will be becoming available in the weeks following the launch.

The IRCC has also increased operational readiness, including relocating staff, moving additional supplies and equipment in anticipation of an increased volume of requests, and adjusting operations in offices across their global network to ensure service continuity for Ukraine. Online options are available for most applications.

The Government of Canada will match up to \$10 million in donations made to the Canadian Red Cross for relief efforts in Ukraine, said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in an announcement about sanctions last week.

The Government of Canada has established a dedicated service channel for Ukraine-specific inquiries available to clients within Canada and abroad. Collect calls will be accepted. Also, clients can add “**Ukraine2022**” to the [IRCC web form](#) with their enquiry and their email will be prioritized.

Number: 613-321-4243

The Government will continue to update the public on immigration measures for people affected by the situation in Ukraine. Click the link below to find out more.

UPDATES

Mennonite Central Committee BC role

1. Ukrainian Refugees and Canada

The government of Canada has announced a new immigration stream for Ukrainian refugees wanting to come to Canada either temporarily or permanently as detailed above and here as well: [opening up a new immigration stream for Ukrainian refugees](#). This new stream likely provides access to a much faster and easier path to temporary residency in Canada.

While MCC is deeply concerned for those fleeing the violence and destruction in Ukraine, MCC is **not** actively involved in this **temporary visa initiative**. Since this is not part of Canada's private refugee resettlement program, which is the area of our work, we are not in a position to assist or provide advice on this new immigration stream. We encourage those wishing to participate in the new program to visit [the IRCC website](#) for more information.

We're pleased that the Canadian Government has pledged its support for those who are fleeing Ukraine. However, we recognize that this is just one group of vulnerable people on the move. Our concern is for all refugee families looking for safe places to live.

2. Support for the displaced and refugees

MCC has worked in Ukraine since the organization's beginnings, opening soup kitchens to provide relief to thousands of starving families. In the early 1990s, MCC renewed efforts to offer humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.

Current MCC work includes projects in relief, peace, health, education, sustainable livelihoods and peacebuilding. Since the beginning of the conflict in east Ukraine, MCC has worked with partners to assist internally displaced people (IDPs) and to build peace.

MCC's response is expected to be a longer-term scale up of existing programs that support vulnerable people and extending those services to internally displaced populations. It will likely include psychosocial support and trauma healing, temporary emergency housing, emergency distributions of locally purchased emergency supplies such as blankets, and distribution of food packages. To learn more and donate to these

efforts you can do so here: <https://donate.mcccanada.ca/cause/ukraine-emergency-response>