



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance – Alliance Canadienne du Secteur de L'établissement des Immigrants (CISSA-ACSEI) Calls on the Government of Canada to Provide More Support to Displaced Ukrainians Arriving in Canada

Many Displaced Ukrainians had to leave everything behind due to the ongoing war. The need for comprehensive post arrival support is critical to ensure they have a helping hand to adjust to life in Canada.

CISSA-ACSEI members are calling on the Government of Canada to exempt and/or extend eligibility on federal requirements/benefits to displaced Ukrainians including:

- Waiving the cost of the medical examinations as is in the case for refugee claimants. The medical examination when conducted in Canada can cost up to \$450 for an adult, less for children and is necessary to activate the open work permit process.
- Allowing displaced Ukrainians who are arriving with their children to have immediate access to the Canada Child Tax Benefit program as is the case with other refugee populations.
- Providing, where needed, 12 month of federal income support to displaced Ukrainians, similar to financial support provided to government assisted refugees which mirrors provincial-territorial income support rates.

Additionally, we are calling on the Government of Canada to introduce a cap to the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) stream. As of today, 195,000 Ukrainians have applied to the CUAET program stream while over 85,000 have been approved. Unlike other temporary residents, displaced Ukrainians are a refugee like humanitarian movement that will require much more support to secure housing, employment, etc. As such, given the current settlement sector infrastructure and service capacity plus growing challenges in securing affordable low-cost housing in this country, we feel the responsible decision is that CUAET program stream should not remain open ended.



QUOTES

“Displaced Ukrainians not unlike other refugee/humanitarian movements to this country will need additional support to succeed in Canada. Building upon benefits and systems that Canada uses for government assisted refugees including the recent Afghan Special Initiative, the Government of Canada needs to ensure adequate support and access to federal benefits are available to Ukrainians in need under the CUAET program stream”

Chris Friesen, Interim Co-Executive Director, Canadian Immigrant Settlement Sector Alliance – Alliance canadienne du secteur de l'établissement des immigrants (CISSA-ACSEI)

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