



November 20, 2025
Our Ref. 148503

Yevhenii Omelchuk
Ukrainian Centre of Canada

Email Address: ukrcentrecanada@gmail.com

Dear Yevhenii Omelchuk:

Thank you for your letter sent to the Honourable David Eby, Premier, regarding your proposal to support Ukrainians in Canada who arrived under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program. As immigration is within the responsibility of the Honourable Jessie Sunner, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, your correspondence has been forwarded to me. I am responding on behalf of Premier Eby and Minister Sunner, and I apologize for the delayed response.

I deeply empathize with the extraordinarily difficult situation faced by many Ukrainians due to events occurring beyond their control. Government is committed to providing essential social and health services to displaced Ukrainians in British Columbia and will continue to work with our partners to ensure that they have access to the supports they need during this challenging time. Since 2022, BC has become a temporary home for nearly 25,000 affected Ukrainians and the Province has provided supports and services where possible to assist them.

Thank you for your proposal to support Ukrainians in Canada by creating a dedicated stream within the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) and easing requirements to create a more accessible pathway to permanent residency for Ukrainians with [Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel](#) permits.

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The federal government is responsible for all humanitarian immigration programs, while the BC Government is responsible for operating the BC Provincial Nominee Program, which is an economic immigration program that allows the Province to select prospective permanent residents based on the province's labour needs. The federal government limits the number of people the program can nominate per year and demand for the program vastly exceeds the number of nominations available.

As outlined in the recently released [Look West: Jobs and Prosperity for a Stronger BC and Canada strategy](#) by the BC Government, BC will continue to focus its Provincial Nominee Program streams on addressing labour needs in priority sectors, such as health care, child care and construction, creating high impact in the province and supporting economic growth and development. More details about the program intake for next year will be made available once the federal government informs the Province of the number of nominations available in 2026. Ukrainians who are employed in priority occupations and meet program criteria are welcome to apply to the program.

I recognize the difficult situation many Ukrainians are facing and that permanent resident pathways are limited and highly competitive. The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills is committed to ensuring that the federal government is aware of the desire of many displaced Ukrainians to stay in Canada.

Thank you again for writing and for your advocacy on behalf of Ukrainians in Canada.

Sincerely,



Carling Helander
Executive Director
Immigration Policy and Integration Branch
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

pc: Honourable David Eby, K.C.
Premier

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Honourable Jessie Sunner
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