



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIENS-CANADIENS

Briefing note to Minister Sean Fraser

Feb 24, 2022

Recommendations for immediate urgent action re Ukraine

1. **Temporary public policies to relax processing standards of TRV applications by Ukrainian nationals outside of Canada who:**
 - a) have close family members in Canada. Family member in Canada could be a Canadian citizen, permanent or temporary resident who agreed to provide financial support to their relatives' during their stay in Canada (an affidavit may be asked from Canadian relatives that would confirm full financial support to their Ukrainian relatives staying in Canada). Note: definition of a family member must be broader than “immediate family member” to allow more distant relatives, e.g. aunts, uncles, cousins, to provide the necessary support and guarantees. The issue raised here is the avoiding refusals based on lack of funds in applicants’ possession and ties to the home country.
 - b) Are not able to provide biometrics or undergo medical examination due to transportation and other issues. Delaying biometrics requirement as well as medical examination requirement in some cases would significantly speed up processing times.

- c) Are dependents of an individual who has secured a valid job offer (LMIA based or LMIA exempt), regardless of the NOC level. Currently, dependents of job offer (work permit) holder in NOC C and D are not eligible for work or study permits.
 - d) Are applying for a TRV in a country other than Ukraine and cannot demonstrate that they hold an authorization to be in the said country for 12 months. Example: a Ukrainian national currently in Poland on a short-term stay (visa exempt) is applying to get a TRV to visit family in Canada (allow to choose Poland as country of residence).
2. **Shorten processing time for temporary and permanent status applications for Ukrainian nationals in Canada.** Many Ukrainians who are already in Canada are being impacted by the 1.8 application backlog, and, in some cases, are not able to extend their temporary status in Canada while waiting for the decision on their permanent residence applications.
 3. **Develop temporary public policy allowing Ukrainian nationals in Canada to extend and restore their legal status (visitor, worker, student) for additional 12 months.** This temporary public policy may allow Ukrainian nationals who lost temporary status to restore their status beyond the required 90 days application time, similar to COVID related public policy that expired in 2021. Some airlines cancelled flights to/from Ukraine and some individuals would fear to leave Canada at this time due to the fast-developing situation in Ukraine. Allowing those people to stay in Canada legally for a set period of time may help avoiding an increase in refugee applications in the future.
 4. **Dedicate a hotline within the call centre dealing with immigration matters faced by Ukrainians who submitted an application and are currently waiting for the decision on their temporary or permanent resident visa.** This would provide information support to those who experience immigration issues due to the worsening situation in Ukraine, as well as allow them to identify immigration files for priority processing.

5. **Create PR pathways for Ukrainians with temporary status who are otherwise not eligible for existing PR programs:**
 - a) A significant number of parents and grandparents are currently in Canada or hold valid visitor or super visas and will soon be arriving in Canada. Their families would gladly sponsor them for PR; however they have not been successful in obtaining an invitation to apply due to the previous lottery-based system.
 - b) Many Ukrainian nationals on valid work and study permits are not eligible to apply for PR under existing programs. In particular, these are lower-skill workers and some students. Establishing a temporary program similar to TR to PR, Hong Kong pathway will allow such temporary residents to apply under the economic category.

6. **Consider applying H&C considerations to temporary resident visa (TRV) applications of Ukrainian passport holders**, especially those aiming to reunite with Canadian family members, work or study in Canada despite the region they are residing at (Ukraine or occupied Ukrainian territory). Worsening of political and economic situation in Ukraine may result in increased refusal rates on temporary resident visa applications for Ukrainians.

7. **Provide additional PRRA assessment** (Pre-removal risk assessment) for Ukrainian nationals with active removal order, remove 12 months bar for reapplying for PRRA if decision was made before February 21, 2022. Some people may face an increased risk should they return to Ukraine.