

## **Information for Mentors supporting new Ukrainians Arriving in Edmonton**

Questions about the Edmonton Ukrainian Newcomers Mentorship Program coordinated by the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex (LUC, LUCW, CYM) can be directed to:

Irka at [kolom@shaw.ca](mailto:kolom@shaw.ca) (780 232 2832)

Taras at [bulba@telusplanet.net](mailto:bulba@telusplanet.net) (780 938 3114)

Information hub from UCC <https://uatoabinfo.ca/en/>

### **OBTAINING CANADIAN DOCUMENTS**

#### **1. Apply for Your Social Insurance Number**

To work in Canada or access government programs and benefits, you need a Social Insurance Number (SIN). SIN is private, so you should be careful before sharing it with others.

The government issues the SIN card for free. Without this card, you will not be able to work, open a bank account, access government health insurance or apply for financial assistance. You should store your SIN card in a safe place.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

*The information in this section is intended for Ukrainians who arrived here after the war, began on February 24, 2022 using a new program of temporary visas (3 years) with the ability to work.*

Documents you must have to obtain a SIN:

- 1) Temporary Resident Permit** (document that is issued at the airport in Canada)
- 2) Foreign passport or driver's license** (with photo, in English)
- 3) A document confirming your address, if you submit online.** This can be any document issued by government, a private company or a landlord/private individual. Your name must be stated in this document.

#### **PROCESS FOR OBTAINING YOUR SIN**

**1) In person – at a Service Canada Centre** ([to search for a branch](#)). You do not need proof of address in this situation. Due to COVID-19, all centres were transferred to a by-appointment system; however, there is still an opportunity to come in person and wait in line. There is a possibility that you may be seen without an appointment.

Create a request for an appointment [here](#). Someone will call you and select an appointment time with you. The call will be in English or French (there may be an opportunity to request a different language, but this request may delay the call).

Select “Help applying for a SIN” and click “Please select this box to request an appointment for service at a Service Canada Centre.”

Usually, you should receive a call back within two working days, and you can make an appointment for the following week. Your SIN will be issued during the meeting.

**2) Online** – [complete the form online](#), attach scanned copies of documents – work permit, visa, passport, proof of address. The confirmation will be sent to your e-mail address. This can take 10 to 15 days.

**3) By mail (Not recommended)** – This process is similar to the online application process but you need to send your original documents by mail. This process will take longer and there is a risk of your documents getting lost in the mail.

## **2. Open a Bank Account**

You can open a bank account at any bank in Alberta. You can use your bank account details when applying for Alberta Health Care as your proof of address and need credit card to build credit score.

Make sure to ask if they have a special introductory package for new arrivals from Ukraine.

Also, [Servus Credit Union](#) (12809 – 82 Street, Edmonton) offers \$250 to citizens of Ukraine who open an account with them. [Financial supports for members and communities impacted by crises - Servus Credit Union](#)

CIBC Offer for newcomers <https://www.cibc.com/en/journeys/banking-offers-for-newcomers/smart-account-for-newcomers.html>

## **3. Apply for an Alberta Driver’s License**

If you have a driver’s license from Ukraine, it is valid for 90 days after arriving in Canada. After that, you will need to apply for an Alberta driver’s license.

Your previous driving history will be taken into account when you apply for a driver’s license in Alberta. However, whether you’ve had a driver’s license before or not, you will likely have to pass Alberta’s written traffic rules test (\$15) as well as one or two driving exams. Your driver’s license is also your official photo ID card.

Ukrainian version of the driving manual is available from UCSS - digital copy

More information can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/exchange-non-alberta-licences.aspx#jumplinks-2>.

### **OR Alberta Personal ID Card**

If you have a driver's license, you do not need to get an Albert Personal ID Card; however, it is helpful to get one for those who do not have a driver's license as it has your photograph and serves as an official photo identification card. The minimum age to obtain the card is 12 years.

To apply for an Alberta Personal ID Card you will need: passport, visa, proof of address.

## **4. Apply for Alberta Health Care Card**

IMPORTANT! Newcomers are required to undergo a Medical Diagnostic test within 90 days from the date of entry. Failure to meet this requirement may limit the ability to work or prevent access to provincial or federal health coverage.

*Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Alberta after February 24, 2022 will be covered by a new program of temporary benefits. This program will provide temporary health insurance coverage for all Ukrainian immigrants, even if they are not eligible for registration and coverage under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP).*

*Ukrainian immigrants are temporarily entitled to receive medical care even before receiving an Alberta health insurance card (AB Health Care Card). However, all immigrants must still apply for Alberta Health Care. Please see below for more information.*

The Alberta government provides basic health care to residents of the province through the Alberta Health Insurance Plan. The plan pays for basic medical services such as visits to a family doctor and emergency medical services (ambulance, hospitalization). It is important to understand that the government does not cover everything. Information about government [coverage](#) can be found here.

There are options for non-government/private insurance plans that can cover other medical expenses.

As a Canadian citizen or permanent resident/work-visa holder, you pay for this program through income tax.

To join the Alberta Health Insurance Plan, you must obtain an Alberta Health Care Card (often referred to as your health card) and present it every time you use medical

services. The card confirms that you are entitled to medical services in Alberta. The whole family should apply for Alberta Health Care at the same time.

REQUIREMENTS (Documents needed for Alberta Health Care Plan):

**1) Document confirming your address** – this can be any document issued by the government, a private company or a landlord/private individual.

**2) Passport**

**3) A document from the Government of Canada** confirming that you have the right to live or work in Canada (a document that will be issued at the airport in Canada)

**4) Completed questionnaire** – the whole family should apply at the same time.

PROCESS FOR APPLYING FOR AHCIP:

**1) In Person at an Alberta Registry branch** (this is something similar to the Ukrainian «MREO»). You can find your nearest/most convenient location at this [Where to apply for Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan \(AHCIP\) | Alberta.ca](#)

**2) By mail at the following address:**

Ukrainian Evacuee Temporary Health Benefits Program (UETHBP)  
Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan  
PO Box 1360, Station M  
Edmonton, AB T5J 2N3

It will be necessary to send original documents by mail. This process will take longer and there is a risk of your documents getting lost in the mail.

It usually takes up to 5 days for review of your application. It will also take an additional five days to receive the card in the mail at the address indicated in the questionnaire.

About Alberta Health in Ukrainian [here](#)

*Other similar information sources for newly arriving Ukrainians:*

- 1) Government of Alberta package <https://www.alberta.ca/support-for-ukrainians.aspx> (Ukrainian and English)
- 2) Canadian Red Cross (in both Ukrainian and English) [Conflict in Ukraine – International and in Canada - Canadian Red Cross](#)
- 3) Find a doctor website: [Find A Doctor \(albertafindadoctor.ca\)](#)

## **LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO LIVE**

Temporary living space:

Ukrainian Canadian Social Services - [Home - UKRAINIAN CANADIAN SOCIAL SERVICES \(EDMONTON\) \(ucssedmonton.ca\)](#)

Catholic Social Services - [Settlement Supports for Ukrainians Arriving in Alberta | Catholic Social Services, Newcomers \(cssalberta.ca\)](#)

Mainstreet Equity – offers apartments with 3 months free for 1 year lease  
Call Olha at 780 918 3698 or Vilalii 780 266 0505

## **JOB SEARCH**

[Jobs for Ukraine - Job Bank](#)

Ukrainian Canadian Social services at 780 471 4477

Bredin Centre for Career Advancement at [1-Step Employment for Newcomers - Bredin](#)

## **EDUCATION – SCHOOLS, PLAYSCHOOLS AND DAYCARE**

Edmonton and area have two school systems: Public and Catholic. The difference is that religion is taught as a subject in Catholic schools. Both school systems will accept students regardless of their faith.

### **1) Districts with Ukrainian Bilingual Programs:**

Edmonton Catholic School District: <https://www.ecsd.net/> (Contact One World One Centre) (780-944-2001) Lidia Simcisin

Elk Island Catholic School District (Sherwood Park and surrounding rural communities)  
780-467-8896

Elk Island Public School District (serves Vegreville, Sherwood Park) - Vegreville

### **2) Other School Districts:**

Edmonton Public School Board: <https://www.epsb.ca/> 780-429-8000

Contact: Support for Student services, Bonnie Stone – 780-417-8220

St. Albert Catholic School Division - [\(780\) 459-7711](#)

St. Albert Public School Division - [\(780\) 460-3712](#)

Education is free in both Public and Catholic school systems. Most schools have a school bus service that transports children from home to school and back. Some charges apply (between \$30 and \$60/ month).

There are several elementary schools within a city including in nearly every neighborhood.

All schools have been told to accept Ukrainian Nationals. You will need to bring both your and your child's passport, any information you might have from their education in Ukraine, your entry Visa, and proof of address (even if it is temporary), and contact information. Formal paperwork can be completed at a later date.

Elementary School – Kindergarten to grade 6 (4 – 12 years of age)

Junior High – Grade 7 to 9 (12 – 14 years of age)

High School – Grade 10 to 12 (15 -18 years of age)

You can review a list of schools offering the [Ukrainian bilingual program](#) and in Alberta here: [Directory of Ukrainian Bilingual Schools](#)

### **3) Edmonton also has several Ukrainian pre-school and Saturday heritage language schools.**

[St. Josaphat's Pre-School Sadochuk & Daycare \(located in St. Matthew School\)](#)

[Kalyna Kids Sadochuk \(located in St. Martin School\)](#)

[Ridna Shkola Ukrainian Heritage School](#) (for children in elementary school)

[Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies](#) ( for children in Jr. High and High School)

### **4) Sadochuk and Before/After school care**

#### **FREE CHILD CARE at Kalyna Kids for Ukrainian evacuees:**

Kalyna Kids is a childcare program in Edmonton that focuses on Ukrainian bilingual language education. We are very pleased to help our new community members by offering childcare for **FREE for three months**. Ages: 3 to 12

Location: 11310-51 Ave NW (inside St. Martin school)

Website: [www.kalynakids.com](http://www.kalynakids.com)

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/KalynaKids>

Bonni Wengreniuk, Manager [sadochokoperations@shaw.ca](mailto:sadochokoperations@shaw.ca)

**St. Josaphat Sadochok** – North Edmonton at St. Matthew School (8735 – 132 Ave.) – for Children aged 3-5.

Call 780 421 1769 for more information.

**More information on other options here:**

<https://www.alberta.ca/about-child-care-in-alberta.aspx> and go to ‘Child Care Lookup’

### **5) Extracurricular activities for children:**

There are many extracurricular activities for children within Alberta: Sports, Arts, Dance, Music, Scouts, etc. You will have to register and pay for most programs; programs vary in price. Some facilities/programs offer discounts to low income and newcomer families.

When school closes for the summer, there are many day camps for children that vary in price.

Some community leagues have Green Shack programs for children during the summer. They usually take place in playgrounds and are free of charge. These are not daycare programs and kids should not be left unattended.

There are a variety of after school programs that families can choose from in the Edmonton area: <https://reachedmonton.ca/child-services-map/>

City of Edmonton has Leisure Access Program (LAP) for displaced Ukrainians  
<https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/CUAETLeisureAccessRideTransitProgramApplicationForm.pdf?cb=1652416806>

Activities for Ukrainian Youth (13-17) – Contact Irena Struk 780 8604190

Ukrainian Youth Association (CYM) - [\(20+\) Ukrainian Youth Association - CYM Edmonton | Facebook](#)

Ukrainian Youth Association Plast - [Як записатися \(Пласт Канада - Plast Canada\)](#)

CYMK – (Ukrainian Orthodox Youth) - [Where's the closest branch? \(cymk.ca\)](#)

## **LEARN ENGLISH**

- 1) There are several forms of English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes that can be free or available at varying costs.

[Sage Seniors Association](#) offers free drop-in classes for seniors to meet one another and practice their English.

The [Edmonton Public Library](#) organizes drop-in conversation circles open to all.

[Metro Continuing Education](#) offers English classes for speakers at various levels of fluency through several programs including the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) program.

Students and professionals may wish to take English as a Second Language for credit at a post-secondary institution such as [MacEwan University](#), [University of Alberta](#), or [NAIT](#). Note that these courses may come at an additional cost.

2) Independent Learning:

[Free Babbel Course](#) You can find the code to activate free classes on the webpage.

You can find English language learning resources at the library.

[Directory of libraries in Alberta](#)

## **TRANSLATION SERVICES OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS**

Valerii Polkovsky [valerii@shaw.ca](mailto:valerii@shaw.ca) 780 278 6166

Marina Kadri-Mediuk [marinamediuk@hotmail.com](mailto:marinamediuk@hotmail.com) 780-920-6828

Ksenia Maryniak [pereklad@shaw.ca](mailto:pereklad@shaw.ca) 780 465 6092

Orbit Ukrainian Store <http://ukrainianorbitstore.com/> 780 422 5693

UCSS (Ukrainian Canadian Social Services) has translation services free of charge

## **UKRAINIAN CHURCHES**

[Catholic Parishes in Alberta | Ukrainian Catholic Churches - Edmonton Eparchy \(eeparchy.com\)](#)

[Parishes - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada \(UOCC\)](#)

Protestant – Millcreek Christian Assembly 8928 83 Ave 780-800-0836

## **PLACES TO OBTAIN DONATED, FOOD, CLOTHES, APPLIANCES OR FURNITURE**

Please connect with our Social Services agencies or UCC – APC for direction:

Catholic Social Services - [Supports for Ukrainians Arriving cssalberta.ca](#)

Ukrainian Canadian Social Services - [ucssedmonton.ca](http://ucssedmonton.ca) (780) 471 4477

Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council at 780-414-1624 or [uccab.ca](http://uccab.ca)

JustServe – is where you can find volunteer opportunities

[https://www.justserve.org/ukrainianrefugeesupportedmontonarea?fbclid=IwAR3hP2018YDoYG43CpYaGNi0jE8da9B6Av2\\_EejtYKY5gz8dRkEL4UqVz-o](https://www.justserve.org/ukrainianrefugeesupportedmontonarea?fbclid=IwAR3hP2018YDoYG43CpYaGNi0jE8da9B6Av2_EejtYKY5gz8dRkEL4UqVz-o)