

UKRAINIAN IMMIGRATION TO CANADA:

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Session: Fleeing Home, Making Home: How 2022 Changed Everything 2:00PM, April 22, 2023

Welcoming displaced Ukrainians in Canada fleeing the Russian invasion of 2022: Quebec City and Winnipeg in comparative perspective

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Our paper offers an interdisciplinary and preliminary investigation of the trajectories, admission and settlement experience of displaced Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion of 2022 in Canada with a focus on two specific locations: the mid-sized cities of Quebec City in the Province of Quebec and Winnipeg in the Province of Manitoba. Whereas Winnipeg is a very diverse city who has long welcomed a comparatively large Ukrainian population, Quebec City is one of Canada's least diverse cities, and its Ukrainian community is comparatively small. In 2022, Canada created a special permit for Ukrainians fleeing the 2022 Russian invasion, the Canada Ukraine Emergency Travel Authorization (CUAET). Many, but by far not all, Ukrainians admitted to Canada in 2022 came as CUAET recipients. As temporary residents, CUAET recipients are eligible for less federal support than refugees receive in Canada. Yet provincial and municipal government as well as civil society have mobilized in various ways to offer support. The CUAET and these provincial and municipal innovations transform Canada's immigration and refugee governance, yet the modalities of this transformation vary across locations. Drawing on policy analysis as well as a small sample of interviews conducted in both cities with displaced Ukrainians and Ukrainian Canadians supporting the displaced, our paper aims to provide primary insights into trajectories from Ukraine to Winnipeg and Quebec City; settlement experience in the two cities; displaced Ukrainians' perceptions of various migratory status; local supporting networks and structures; and interactions with various government levels and settlement organizations.