

UKRAINIAN IMMIGRATION TO CANADA:

FROM POST
INDEPENDENCE
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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

21 & 22 April 2023
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Canada



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

Not Enough: An Autoethnographic Case Study of Housing Ukrainian Refugees on Vancouver Island in 2022

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This paper provides a case study assessing the ongoing issue of housing Ukrainian refugees, or 'displaced persons' as they are referred to by the Government of Canada (Boisvert, 2022; Marhnouj, 2022; Tumilty, 2022), on Vancouver Island since the onset of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 (Falconer, 2022; Global Affairs Canada, 2022b). The role of community non-governmental organizations, local and national Ukrainian Canadian ethnocultural organizations, and local Canadians and Ukrainian Canadians will be examined. I will utilize an analytic autoethnographic methodology for this assessment, as I have been intimately involved in seeking housing for Ukrainian newcomers on Vancouver Island in my various roles with Ukrainian organizations and in the Ukrainian Canadian community. The paper will offer a brief methodological outline and statement of positionality to this research, followed by a brief contextual overview of the 2022 Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the ensuing migration of Ukrainian refugees to Canada via the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program. This will be followed by an analysis of the case study, employing as a guiding framework the Manitoba Research Alliance publication *A House Divided Cannot Stand: Joining forces to fight housing discrimination of refugees* by Claire P. Reid (2009). The paper will conclude with a series of policy and program recommendations for policymakers and community leaders regarding the provision of housing to Ukrainians in Canada and to refugees in Canada more broadly.