



March 7, 2022

Hon. Heather Stefanson
Premier of Manitoba
Room 204 Legislative Building, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Via email: Premier@leg.gov.mb.ca

Dear Premier Stefanson,

On behalf of our respective organizations, we are writing to express our desire to work with the Manitoba government as well as community partners and business leaders to welcome Ukrainians seeking refuge in our province.

Given the devastation and humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Ukraine, more than 2 million Ukrainians have already crossed into neighbouring countries while many are expected to explore new expedited pathways to our country established by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada which will be open for applications in the coming days. In light of Manitoba's large and organized Ukrainian community, we are uniquely positioned to welcome those seeking refuge on a temporary or permanent basis.

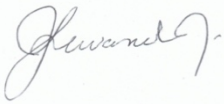
Since these individuals could help fill existing labour gaps and shortages in various sectors essential to Manitoba's economy, the anticipated influx of Ukrainians (est. few thousand) to Manitoba requires swift action to not only support their settlement but also make connections with local businesses eager to attract and employ them.

Ukraine is among the most educated societies in the world and many Ukrainians are specialized in information and communications technology, agri-business, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and transportation and distribution – all key industries here in Manitoba.

Our organizations are prepared to work with the provincial government to ensure any individuals that come to Manitoba are welcomed and provided with opportunities during these challenging times.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to further engagement on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Joan Lewandosky
President, UCC-MPC



Chuck Davidson
President & CEO, MCC



Loren Remillard
President & CEO, WCC



Dayna Spiring
President & CEO

cc: Hon. Cliff Cullen, Minister of Economic Development, Investment and Trade
Hon. Jon Reyes, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration
Hon. Rochelle Squires, Minister of Families and Minister responsible for the Status of Women
Hon. Andrew Smith, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage
Donald Leitch, Clerk of the Executive Council & Cabinet Secretary
Michael Richards, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Deputy Minister Kathryn Gerrard
Deputy Minister Eric Charron
Deputy Minister Michelle Dubik
Deputy Minister Jeff Hnatiuk