

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Pastor Tim welcomed everyone, stated that the purpose of the meeting is to share information/resources so that we are all on the 'same page' as we prepare for the arrival of Ukrainian immigrants and welcome them to the area.
- Everyone introduced themselves; Pastor Tim introduced those who joined via Zoom. *Note: Pastor Tim will send out updated attendees list.*
- Thank you, Pastor Tim and team, for providing us with such a lovely lunch!

2. Ukrainians Coming to Sarnia/Lambton Country

How are they coming?

Bethel has identified individuals, are paying for their airfare, and arranging host homes.

St. George's have identified individuals, are paying for airfare, and arranging host homes

All others, whether hosted by churches, such as Trinity Anglican, Sovereign Grace, etc., will be co-ordinated by Carolyn Kennedy from MP Gladu's office to match host homes and determine how airfare will be arranged.

- Marilyn explained about her FB page and how people can sign up to volunteer for various tasks as well as donate:
www.mpmarilyngladu.ca/ukrainianaidssurvey
- Some of the churches have this capability on their website as well.
- Dr. Cassandra Taylor has also created a FB page where folks can go to find information and donate:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1150159255797647/about>
- Luda Kolesnichendo (see list of resources from outside Sarnia), and Jonathan Verroen (on the ground in Ukraine) possible sources of info in this area.

3. Openers/Host Homes

- Over 40 host homes currently; list is growing; Carolyn Kennedy (MP Gladu's office) is maintaining the list and working on matching host families with immigrant families; some of the churches are doing this themselves with specific family groups that they are helping come to Canada.
- Screening process discussed: require police check for host homes; homes will be vetted by host churches in co-operation with Carolyn; need to determine host response to vaccinated/unvaccinated status of immigrants, use of 'Memo of Understanding'. MP Gladu's office to send template.
- Questions regarding possible quarantine for unvaccinated arrivals, or just if they have a positive covid test, or if they are randomly selected, can be answered by MP Gladu's office.
- Michelle, Bob Bailey's office, has updates and information regarding immigrants application for OHIP and driver's license

- Financial support for host families and Ukrainian once they arrive - Pastor Tim explained what Bethel is doing for their hosts and sponsored families; possibly other churches may think of doing something similar.
- Temporary funding is available provincially and federally.

4. Community Supports (so many – this is exciting!)

- Provincial level: have removed barriers for skilled workers – contact Bob Bailey’s office (Michele: 519-337-0051)
- Emergency funds through Ontario Works: will provide 48 days of assistance; then a break, then can reapply; can also apply for a drug card
- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/apply-emergency-assistance> (then go to link specifically for Ukrainians coming to Canada under CUAET)
- Province waiving fees for volunteers working with social organizations
- YMCA - Roxanne and Marcela
- <https://www.ymcaswo.ca/programs/education-enrichment/new-canada>
 - Needs and assets interviews
 - ELS adult classes (on-site licensed childcare available for which refugees can apply for subsidy)
 - Settlement services; orientation services; ongoing help with education, employment, and volunteer services (volunteers can apply directly through their website); organization very familiar with virtual service delivery
 - One staffer speaks Russian; have a virtual interpretation service; informal language training, social events
 - Youth Settlement: YMAP program, settlement workers in both elementary and high schools
 - Roxanne suggested that the Ukrainians get settled first; then start to explore the resources
 - Summer Day Camp subsidy available
- Pathways Center for Children <http://www.pathwayscentre.org>

5. Employment Needs for Ukrainians

- Discussion re employment possibilities: hosts; boilermakers; other trades employers
- Cari Meloche/Judy Morris: New Resident Attraction Project Officer for the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (cari@sarnialambton.on.ca); match apprentices with employers; works with Lambton College - programming for short-term studies, micro-credentials; free tuition for Ukrainians
- The WorkPlace Group – Noeleen Tyczynski
 - Increased eligibility for Ukrainians
 - Holistic intake assessments
 - Partners with businesses to match people to jobs
 - Pre-employment support: \$500 start (workbooks, etc); up to \$2500 to employers to help with on-boarding (ie. IEC training)

- 2nd Career Program – anyone who hasn't worked in the past 6 months is eligible for up to two years training
- need to look at labour market and see where the jobs are; mostly in the trades

Other Helpful Links

- Toll free # for Ontario jobs for Ukrainian workers: 1-888-562-4769; Ukrainians can speak to a customer representative Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 5pm.
- Governments of Canada/Ontario websites for employment for Ukrainians
<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/findajob/resources/jobsforukraine>
- <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001963/province-helping-ukrainians-find-jobs-in-ontario>
- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/coming-ontario-ukraine>

Significant challenge: language barriers – need lots of translators/ interpreters; discussion re needing to create a list of interpreters and how to make them available for different services; caution suggested to be careful not to push Russian language considering the ongoing conflict, although Russian is the first language for many of the immigrants. Rev. Father Winnicki is willing to offer his help with interpretation. MP Gladu's office is accepting offers of help from the community and will make this information available.

6. Community Supports (other)

- Discussion re a variety of other supports that may be needed as the Ukrainians settle into our community.
- Roxanne suggested that donations of furniture and other household goods can be directed to social enterprise businesses such as Goodwill, Value Village, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.; Ukrainian families can be given coupons for specific amounts of money so they can buy what they need. (This will probably be more of a necessity in the future when the process of finding personal housing begins.) This system was implemented when the Syrian refugees arrived. It worked well and then churches, etc., did not have to find a place to stockpile/sort donations. Stephanie committed to restart this program.
- Donations of essential personal hygiene items can be donated on an ongoing basis to Inn of the Good Shepherd; Miles Vanni (Executive Director) is our contact.
- Dr. Cassandra Taylor (check her website), and Maggie Elliott are involved in preparing Welcome Baskets for the refugee families; need to discuss how these will be distributed.

7. Health Care for Ukrainians

- Can apply for OHIP, drug card, and assistive devices upon arrival
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/apply-ohip-and-get-health-card>
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-coverage-prescription-drugs>
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/assistive-devices-program>

- Discussion re \$300 fee for medical checkup and chest x-ray for newcomers planning to work. Can this be waived? Marilyn checking into this.
- Concern expressed that there are no 'dedicated physicians' in Sarnia to perform these tests if they need to be done. Marilyn checking into this as well, trying to get Sarnia location resources approved federally.

8. Schooling/Education – Superintendent Helen Lane, LKDSB

- Once registered, service is provided; can do this online at www.LKDSB.net
- Resources for special needs children, ESL assessments and teachers, social workers, transportation (if qualified – can check with www.schoolbusinfor.com)
- Suggestion: have host/volunteer attend first meeting with family
- Documentation: whatever they currently have
- All fees waived
- Public health services upon registration to check for immunizations
- Settlement workers available for both elementary and high school students
- International Education Department has Ukrainian staffer
- Some schools are designated sites for childcare where the fees are being waived for now for a certain amount of time even if the parents are not working (these childcare centers are not run by the schools)
<https://cklass.ca/services/child-care/licensed-child-care-programs/>
- Note: JK is not a requirement; could be the childcare center might be more beneficial for children of JK – personal call for parent/s at this time.

9. Future Issues

- Housing needs in 6-12 months: we need to be thinking/planning about this long before the time arrives to transition our Ukrainian friends to their own personal housing situation.

10. Other

Town Hall Meeting with Marilyn Gladu
Thursday, May 5th; 10am @ Bethel Church
Public forum to answer questions from community.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Carolyn Kennedy. If I have omitted something that you feel needs to be added, or if I have erred in any information I have recorded here, please let me know as I don't want to disseminate any incorrect/incomplete information. Thank you all so much for attending and for the incredible input and effort you are putting forth to welcome our new Ukrainian friends! CLK April 21/22