



**PREMIER
OF MANITOBA**

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

Joan Lewandosky, President, UCC-MPC
Chuck Davidson, President & CEO, MCC
Loren Remillard, President & CEO, WCC
Dayna Spiring, President & CEO, EDW

MAR 22 2022

Re: Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

Dear Presidents:

Our government has been actively engaged and supporting the Ukrainian-Canadian Congress for several weeks, but I wanted to provide the most recent update for all of your respective organizations.

The appalling and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine and its courageous people – who are bearing unimaginable loss and suffering as they are forced from their homes and their country – unites us in outrage and common purpose. The outpouring of support from all Manitobans speaks to our principles, our humanity and compassion, and the strength and depth of our extended community.

While one in seven Manitobans are of Ukrainian descent, we are all Ukrainians during this terrible ordeal.

As you know, our government's support for Ukraine and its people has been immediate, sustained and unwavering. We have been partnering with the national and provincial chapters of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and its registered charitable arm, the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. To date, we have committed \$650,000 in direct humanitarian aid.

The tide of displaced Ukrainians want peace, an immediate end to the Putin-ordered occupation, to reunite with loved ones left behind, and to return to their communities and homes. But the sheer pace and scale of this violent displacement – and the ongoing atrocities being committed against the people of Ukraine – means that Canada must fully do its part to offer safe haven. While the federal government's approach continues to unfold (its special Ukraine temporary visa measure just opened for applications last Thursday), I have consistently signalled our desire to welcome as many Ukrainians as possible across our province.

As it has in other humanitarian refugee crises, Manitoba will closely collaborate with the federal government, will do far more than its proportional part within Canada, and will extend a full range of provincial service supports with open arms and hearts, and necessary resources.

This work began immediately, in the days following the Russian invasion on February 24, 2022. A special steering committee of Deputy Ministers was established to plan and prepare government's comprehensive response activities. And a dedicated Ukrainian Refugee Taskforce is staffed and already undertaking detailed operational planning, coordination and liaison.

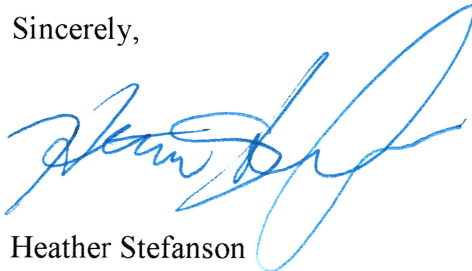
Our planning contemplates all of the care and settlement services required to support the needs of families seeking safety and shelter in Manitoba, victimized and damaged as they are by the ravages of this unprovoked and unjustified war. This includes housing, health and mental health care, education, child care, English language programming, social assistance, and employment and labour market placements.

Pending potentially large-scale refugee arrivals in the future, we have already expediting narrower applications through our existing Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). All PNP fees are being waived, retroactive to February 22, 2022.

The steadfast efforts of the UCC and other Ukrainian-Canadian organizations, other NGOs and settlement agencies, our municipalities, our fully engaged business community, and all other Manitoba partners and stakeholders, will be part of our collective efforts as we address this international crisis. Ongoing and effective coordination will be essential. And I know that all Manitobans are particularly ready, willing and able to meet all of these challenges.

I look forward to working with all of your organizations over the days, weeks and months ahead. Thank you again for your outstanding leadership, and for your ongoing commitment to the very finest Manitoba traditions: caring, compassion and dedication, bound together by an overwhelming desire to help suffering war refugees in need.

Sincerely,



Heather Stefanson

- c. Honourable Cliff Cullen, Minister of Economic Development, Investment and Trade
- Honourable Cameron Friesen, Minister of Finance
- Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister of Municipal Relations
- Honourable Rochelle Squires, Minister of Families
- Honourable Sarah Guillemard, Minister of Mental Health and Community Wellness
- Honourable Wayne Ewasko, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning
- Honourable Audrey Gordon, Minister of Health
- Honourable Jon Reyes, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration
- Honourable Doyle Pivniuk, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Honourable Andrew Smith, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage