



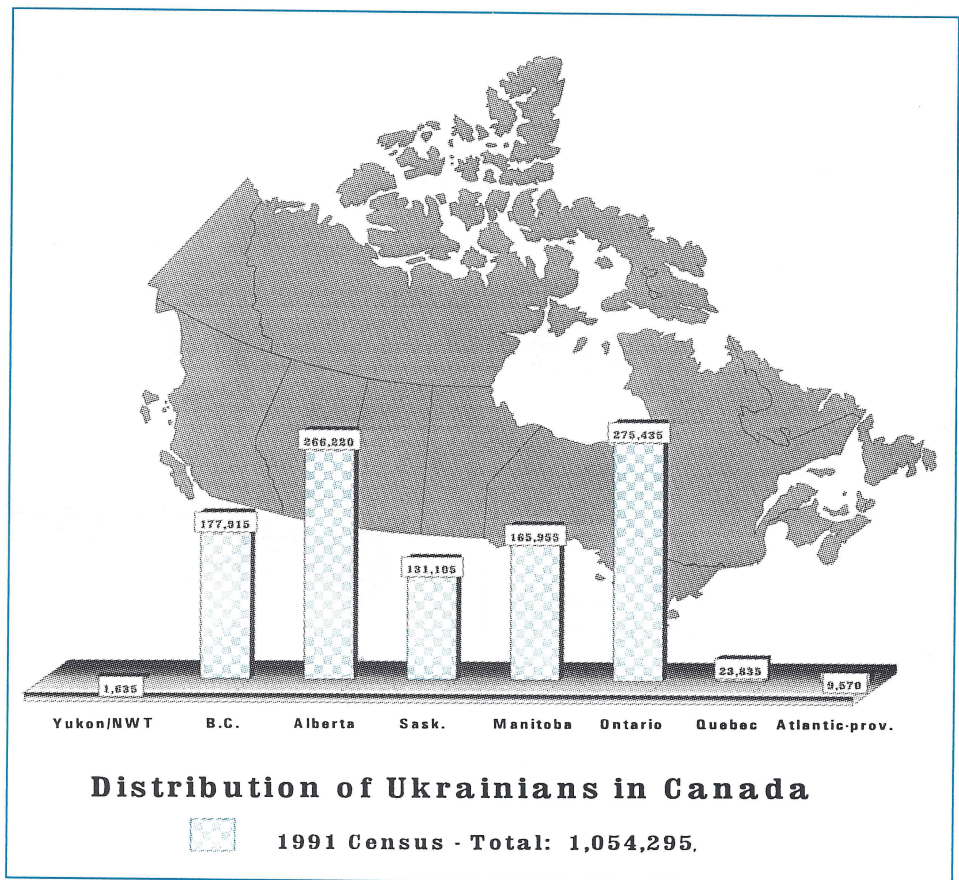
1970's when they realised that the Canadian government was forcibly deporting any Soviet citizen that declared his or her intention of defecting. Defending these individuals' right to present a claim and advocating for a more aggressive family reunification program consumed much of the earlier efforts. Formally incorporated as a non profit community agency in 1977, CUIAS was able to champion a few hard fought cases. This community support and individual representation helped convince Immigration officers to allow the defectors to remain.

A larger and steadier number of Ukrainians began to arrive in the eighties due to an immigration program called the Designated Class Self Exile, a quasi refugee program. This program allowed communities to sponsor for immigration any of the Iron Curtain countries and who had fled to safety to a third country. During the ten years existence of this program CUIAS managed to bring to Canada over 6,000 individuals. Other groups within the Ukrainian Canadian community also participated as sponsors.

The first several years of the 1990's presented few opportunities to promote Ukrainian immigration to Canada. The Immigration sections of both the Moscow and Kyiv Embassies were not mandated to provide full immigration programs. Ukrainians then chose to file refugee claims in Canada. These met with limited success in the Canadian refugee determination program. Community representation on behalf of the applicants seemed to fall on deaf ears as the government of that day worked on "looking tough" with refugee claimants.

Four years ago CUIAS began assisting greater number of immigrants by fully exploiting the Independent Immigrant and Family Class programs. The primary tool was the wide dissemination of information. CUIAS answered inquiries from within Canada and overseas, counselled interested immigrants and assisted in applications. After several years, the organization was able to competently represent numerous cases and guide individuals through the immigration process. Although these individuals were being assessed on their own merits, they benefited from the implied community support. Visa officers felt more comfortable that a larger community network was available for these immigrants.

Refugee sponsorship once again became an area for community involvement in 1993. The tragic break-up of Yugoslavia forced the Ukrainians living in that region to flee and they were eligible to be brought into Canada. The Ukrainian Canadian Social Services of Edmonton has been particularly active in this rescue effort. On the whole, the Ukrainian Canadian community has an



impeccable record of fulfilling its sponsorship commitments and the Canadian Government is willing to accept a larger than usual number of sponsorship from the community.

In addition to assisting people to immigrate to Canada, CUIAS also works with them in adapting and integrating into Canadian society. The organization hosts two English language programs and provides a full range of settlement services. Newcomers want to belong to both the Ukrainian community and Canadian society and CUIAS is a conduit to both. A sympathetic and constructive welcome will serve as another positive pull factor of Ukrainians to Canada.

Admittedly, in all three immigration programs, it is the government that decides what type of immigrant will be accepted. The people that the community or its individual members would like to see in Canada may not fit the selection criteria. CUIAS experience has shown that they may be more favourably disposed towards the exceptional cases if there is some attempt to fit into the criteria and that immigrants' ability to settle is clearly established. If CUIAS and other organizations maintain their reputation as solid pillars of settlement support, then immigration officials will be inclined to consider this as a strong factor in accepting greater numbers of community-supported cases. An attempt to formalize this type of assistance is

being made by the Province of Manitoba and the local Ukrainian Canadian community. If this or similar endeavours succeed, then there is reason to anticipate a more unmistakable wave of immigration.

### The Fourth Wave

Unlike the previous waves of immigrants from Ukraine, the fourth wave will not be a mass movement of people who are needed for their general labour skills. Instead, Canada will employ a much more selective method in admitting new people. If it wishes, the organized Ukrainian community in Canada can work on preparing hopefuls for the selection with pertinent information and individual representation. This can be followed by a concerted effort ensuring that the new immigrant will be fully integrated into the community and Canada. This will create a seed migration of Ukrainians that may undo the forty years of interrupted immigration.

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