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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

**Alistair MacGregor**

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March 4, 2016

Honourable John McCallum  
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister McCallum,

Congratulations on your appointment as the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. I would like to take this opportunity offer my support for the plan to reduce the processing times for sponsorship, citizenship and other visa applications.

I encourage you to complete the mandate given to you by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to develop a plan to reduce application processing times for sponsorship, citizenship and other visas, as soon as possible. I have had many constituents contact my office about the lengthy application processing times that have caused difficulty and hardship. Implementing the new performance standards your government promised for federal services, including streamlining applications, reducing wait times and offering money-back guarantees would significantly help in providing timely service.

As you are aware, the current processing time listed on the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship website for permanent resident card renewals is 169 calendar days. This significantly hinders the ability of applicants to travel for work or familial reasons. Furthermore, the wait time to sponsor a spouse or common-law partner living outside Canada is an average of 17 months. This is a lengthy amount of time for families to be separated from one another.

Additionally, I encourage you to consider mandating Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to take into consideration the cultural differences of visitor visa applicants when determining eligibility to prevent discrimination of mostly women who do not own property, have access to a personal bank account or have a travel history. I also encourage you to look at the funds being guaranteed by Canadians when considering visitor visa applications.

I believe that many more applicants would be successful in visiting their loved ones if Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship provided an appeal process for visitor visas. Canada is a warm and welcoming country evidenced by our overwhelming support for Syrian refugees. Many times applicants give up when their application is refused when all that is really needed is additional information or supporting documentation, something that can be fixed with an appeal process.

I request that you take my suggestions in to consideration, and I look forward to a response indicating when your plan to reduce the processing times for sponsorship, citizenship and other visas applications will be employed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alistair MacGregor, MP  
Cowichan – Malahat – Langford

cc: Constituents  
cc : Jenny Kwan MP

AM/jh UFCW 232