

Minister
of Immigration,
Refugees and Citizenship



Ministre
de l'Immigration,
des Réfugiés et de la Citoyenneté

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

APR 15 2016

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.
Cowichan–Malahat–Langford
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your correspondence of March 4, 2016, concerning processing times for sponsorship, citizenship and other visa applications. I apologize for the delay in replying.

I would like to thank you for your congratulations and good wishes on my appointment as Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. I am honoured by the confidence the Prime Minister has shown in me and I will do my very best to live up to his expectations and those of Canadians.

Immigration is, of course, central to Canada's future. I look forward to continuing our government's efforts to address many of the challenges facing our system. I will also work diligently with our officials and partners to ensure positive integration of newcomers to Canada.

Your comments and suggestions on processing times and application assessment criteria are greatly appreciated. The Government of Canada seeks to ensure that our immigration programs balance family reunification, refugee protection and economic objectives while ensuring effective, efficient processing for all applicants. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) regularly reviews its practices and procedures, and continues to examine ways to improve client service.

The Government of Canada is developing a plan to reduce application processing times for sponsorship, citizenship, and other visas, as a mandate priority. In fact, in the recently announced *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration* - which includes the 2016 immigration levels plan - I outlined the government's commitment to increase levels of family class immigration and address application backlogs. You can find further detail on the 2016 immigration levels plan, on the Canada News Centre Website at:

http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1038729&tp=1&_ga=1.213045652.1613973340.1456421734.

Canada

Canada was built by generations of immigrants and their descendants. Our generous immigration system is the envy of the world, and a key to unlocking our economic potential. I am excited by the challenges that lie ahead and look forward to this task with enthusiasm.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McCallum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "McCallum".

John McCallum, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship