



THE CANADIAN
BAR ASSOCIATION
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BARREAU CANADIEN

December 2, 2021

Via email: sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C. M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
2A - 115 MacLean Street
New Glasgow, NS B2H 4M5

Dear Minister Fraser:

On behalf of the Immigration Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA Section), we congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. We look forward to working with you and your department.

The Canadian Bar Association is a national association of 36,000 members, including lawyers, notaries, academics and students across Canada, with a mandate to seek improvements in the law and the administration of justice. The CBA Section is comprised of over 1,200 lawyers, practicing in all aspects of immigration, refugee and citizenship law and rendering professional advice and representation in the Canadian immigration system to clients in Canada and abroad.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought sweeping changes to Canada's immigration system, many of which have raised serious concerns for our members and the people we represent. We believe there is now a significant opportunity to improve a system that is vital to Canada.

We remain encouraged and hopeful that your government has committed to address many issues of mutual concern. We look forward to working with you and your officials to convey the perspective of the legal profession. We wish to bring to your attention the CBA Section's specific priorities:

- IT infrastructure, Global Case Management System (GCMS) replacement and portal modernization;
- Regulation of consultants under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*;
- COVID response and recovery in immigration services, including processing times for new permanent resident cards, citizenship grants and certificates, and long-suffering permanent resident categories including federal Self-Employed and Quebec Skilled Workers.
- Timely response to the situation in Afghanistan;
- The right to (and respect for) counsel in application processing.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues and find common solutions.

Yours truly,

(original letter signed by Véronique Morissette for Kyle Hyndman)

Kyle Hyndman
Chair, CBA Immigration Law Section