December 2, 2021

Via email: marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Marco Mendicino, P.C. M.P.
Minister of Public Safety
511 Lawrence Avenue West
Toronto, ON M6A 1A3

Dear Minister Mendocino:

On behalf of the Immigration Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA Section), we congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Public Safety. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your department in your new portfolio.

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 and rules governing entry to Canada, many of which have raised concerns for our members and the people we represent. We believe there is now a significant opportunity to ensure coordination across Departments in continuing to respond to the pandemic while resuming routine operations.

We remain encouraged and hopeful that your government has committed to address many issues of mutual concern, and we look forward to working with you and your officials to convey the perspective of the legal profession. Among other priority areas previously communicated,[1] the CBA Section members are dedicated to counselling clients in the context of evolving travel restrictions and the just treatment of refugee claimants at ports of entry and along the US border.

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

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[1] See May 15, 2020 letter: "COVID-19 and Irregular Asylum Seekers"