



THE CANADIAN
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August 8, 2023

Via email: IRB.Engagement.CISR@irb-cisr.gc.ca

Manon Brassard
Chairperson
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Minto Place, Canada Building
344 Slater Street, 12 Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K1

Dear Manon Brassard:

On behalf of the Immigration Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA Section), we congratulate you on your appointment as Chairperson of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB). The CBA Section has collaborated with your predecessors, and looks forward to continuing a constructive working relationship with the IRB. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to continue the dialogue and help find creative solutions to the challenges in Canada's immigration and refugee system.

The Canadian Bar Association is a national association of 37,000 members, including lawyers, judges, notaries, academics and law students, with a 120-year-old 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.

Multiple world crises and the processing backlogs following the COVID-19 pandemic have brought sweeping changes to Canada's immigration and refugee system, many of which have raised serious concerns for our members and clients. Our CBA Section is proud to work with the IRB to improve a system that is vital to Canada.

We applaud the IRB's recent digital modernization efforts, and its commitment to working with stakeholders in reviewing guidelines and policies. We look forward to the steps ahead and remain available to share our members' feedback and perspectives.

We also wish to invite you to the CBA's annual Immigration Law Conference, which will take place in Montreal, May 9-11, 2024. The 600 Immigration lawyers, judges and paralegals in attendance at our last conference deeply appreciated hearing from Deputy Chairperson Roula Eatrides, and we would be pleased to have you join us at the upcoming edition.

Yours truly,

(original letter signed by Véronique Morissette for Lisa Middlemiss)

Lisa Middlemiss
Chair, CBA Immigration Law Section