



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Mike Morrice

Member of Parliament
Kitchener Centre

The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

September 19, 2022

Dear Minister Fraser,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share concerns about the delayed processing of Canadian travel documents for refugees and permanent residents, which is impacting my constituents and their families.

We understand that travel document processing has been effectively paused by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, resulting in a large backlog of applications. We continue to receive many travel document inquiries from our constituents, and we are not able to give them any time frame for processing.

Our constituency team is currently working on over 20 cases of travel document applications, including some that were submitted as early as August 2021. Among the difficult stories we hear daily are those requesting urgent processing to travel to visit close family members who are ill or dying. Even urgent requests are waiting months for processing and updates from IRCC.

Many of these applicants feel they are being given less consideration and attention than Canadians awaiting passports, and have even mentioned feeling "imprisoned" in Canada, without the ability to travel. In June, our constituency team was in touch with the Director of Case Management and the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to share these concerns and request updates on processing times.

I welcome any insights your office can share to help us inform and guide constituents. I sincerely hope travel document processing can resume quickly. I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you in the upcoming parliamentary session to discuss this ongoing issue, and offer any support I can provide toward its resolution.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Morrice'.

Mike Morrice,
MP for Kitchener Centre