



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Mike Morrice

Member of Parliament
Kitchener Centre

April 15, 2024

The Honourable Marc Miller

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

RE: IRCC National Settlement and Resettlement Funding Applications

Dear Minister Miller,

I am writing to you alongside local community leaders who work incredibly hard to keep up with significant increases in the number of permanent residents they are serving with limited resources. I urge you to give strong consideration to the applications submitted for 2025-2030 funding proposals for settlement services funding through IRCC coming out of Waterloo Region as we are one of the fastest-growing communities in Canada, largely due to immigration. In recent years, our community has attracted a disproportionately large number of new permanent residents who are eligible for settlement-funded services.

Almost 41,500 net new permanent residents moved to Waterloo Region directly or through secondary migration between 2019-2023. Settlement providers in Waterloo Region have seen an almost 80% increase in eligible clients in that time.

Comparing annual permanent resident levels between Canada (2014-2024) and Waterloo Region (2015-2023), you can see the incredible difference. During those times Canada's numbers grew from 285,000 to 471,550 (a 65% increase), while Waterloo Region grew from 3,321 to 9,533 (a 187% increase).

Waterloo Region forecasts continued high arrival levels in the 2025-2030 settlement funding period. Considering historical trends and current immigration levels forecasts, our local Immigration Partnership expects around 64,000 net new permanent residents to move to

Waterloo Region between 2025 and 2030. That is a 54% increase in the IRCC service-eligible population in the 2025-2030 funding period. Service providers forecast a minimum of 38,000 of these people will access IRCC-funded services in Waterloo Region; a more than 60% increase in the number of clients accessing IRCC-funded services in the previous five years.

Based on 2022-23 regional service data, most regional settlement investments have funded needs assessment and referral, information, and orientation services, with significantly smaller amounts invested in language training, employment, and community connections services.

In the 2021 Waterloo Region Immigrant Survey almost 1,700 immigrants shared information on their needs, articulating the need for more service and support in the areas of settlement, language learning, employment, and community connections. Waterloo Region requires substantially higher investment in all IRCC-funded service categories to meet growing direct service demands due to population growth, and proportionately higher investment in language training, employment, and community connections programming to meet the full range of needs shared by immigrants in the community. Waterloo Region also requires increased investment in its local Immigration Partnership which brings partners together across sectors to make systems change and provide responsive services and programs for Waterloo Region's fast-growing and increasingly diverse immigrant population.

Enclosed, please find a selection of briefs on various funding applications currently submitted to support settlement services. These are just a small selection from the more than 70 immigrant and community service, business, municipal, post-secondary, and ethno-cultural organizations working together to create conditions for all newcomers to succeed.

Our community is committed to this work, but these dedicated organizations and their teams need more financial support to catch up with the growing need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this further. Thanks for the work you do in service of Canadians.

Sincerely,

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

Mike Morrice
MP for Kitchener Centre