



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

s.21(1)(a)

s.21(1)(b)

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

Ottawa K1A 1L1

F-1267783

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MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER

DIRECTION ON THE PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM

FOR DECISION

SUMMARY

- The purpose of this memorandum is to seek your decision on [redacted] for the Parents and Grandparents Program.
- [redacted]
- Following your direction (F-1226778), the Department is advancing client-focused program improvements over the next year and officials continue to explore more fundamental program changes.

BACKGROUND:

- Since demand for sponsoring parents and grandparents significantly exceeds available admission targets, the Department conducts periodic intakes of new applications. Before the onset of the pandemic, the Department typically received interest to sponsor submissions each year, randomized the submissions, and then selected a limited number to apply based on an application target.
- In 2022, a decision was taken to receive 15,000 complete applications by selecting prospective sponsors from the pool of interest to sponsor forms submitted in the fall of 2020 and to bring forward program improvements in 2023 (F-1226778). The Department has successfully delivered the 2022 intake and is advancing client-centred initiatives that could be delivered in 2023 (see Annex A for more details), including publication of the first ever Parents and Grandparents Intake Report on the Department's website.

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- Inventory levels and processing times for parent and grandparent applications have grown every year since 2019. Recent intake volumes have been significantly larger than admission targets resulting in a current inventory of nearly 100,000 persons. The recently tabled 2023-2025 levels plan allocates 28,500 admissions for parents and grandparents in 2023, growing to 34,000 in 2024, and 36,000 in 2025. Despite these admission level increases, given the existing inventory, no new applications are needed in 2023 to meet these levels. Therefore, any new applications received in 2023 will wait approximately two to three years to be finalized — one of the longest of any immigration program.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Your mandate letter committed to strengthen family reunification and reduce processing times. Processing times for overseas spousal and partner sponsorship applications have returned to a 12-month service standard for new applications outside of Quebec. However, as a result of conducting large application intakes year after year relative to the admission targets, published processing times for parent and grandparent applications have nearly doubled over the last several years from 19 months in 2019 to over 39 months in 2023.

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LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS:

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TECHNOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

- While media coverage of the Parents and Grandparents Program has been very light over the last year,
- All messaging would highlight ongoing admissions for the parent and grandparent at its highest volume ever, and promote the Super Visa as a viable alternative for parents and grandparents who want to reunite with their family members in Canada.

RECOMMENDATION:

NEXT STEPS:

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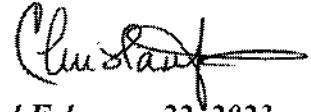
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DMA e-approved
Scott Harris
Associate Deputy Minister



DM e-approved February 22, 2023
Christiane Fox
Deputy Minister

I concur

I do not concur



The Hon. Sean Fraser, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Annexes:

Annex A: Opportunity for Program Improvements

Annex B: Inventory and Processing Time Considerations

ANNEX A: CLIENT-CENTRED PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Context

- The Department will bring forward program improvements to the Parents and Grandparents Program in 2023 (F-01226778).
- While more fundamental program changes require time and resources, there are opportunities to deliver on this commitment and advance incremental, client-centred program improvements in 2023.

Improving Messaging

1 - Publish Periodical Intake Reports (Possible delivery: Winter 2023): Develop an online report with detailed statistics on the intake selection process. A similar report is published regularly for Express Entry.

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ANNEX B: INVENTORY AND PROCESSING TIME CONSIDERATIONS

Illustrative Examples of Multiyear Intake Scenarios (2023-2025) for all Options Presented

- Processing times for parent and grandparent applications are a result of intake management. If the **input** of applications received is greater than the **output** of finalized applications (based on admission targets), the inventory grows resulting in longer processing times. The current inventory of nearly 100,000 persons is sufficient to meet admission targets in the Multiyear Levels Plan for at least the next two years.

Multiyear Levels Plan	2023	
Admission Targets in Persons	28,500	

Maintaining a Processing Time Target

- While modernization efforts contribute to processing efficiency, a meaningful reduction and stability in processing times can only be achieved through intake management and the alignment of inputs with outputs.
- Once the Department has taken steps to curb processing times for parent and grandparent applications, in order to maintain processing time target, the Department **must** align the input of applications with output of applications (finalization based on admission targets) going forward.
- While intakes are at the discretion of the Minister, to ensure stable processing times, annual volumes should be an operational calculation directly based on the Cabinet approved Levels Plan. A Multi-year Intake Plan could be established in parallel with the Multi-year Levels Plan, subject to annual adjustments, to ensure intake alignment with admission targets. This approach would be similar to what is done in Express Entry.