

*Ottawa*

Room 1130, The Valour Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Tel.: 613-992-3594  
Fax: 613-992-3616



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Constituency*

596 Riverbend Square, Suite 204  
Edmonton, Alberta T6R 2E3  
Tel.: 780-495-4351  
Fax: 780-495-4485

*Matt Jeneroux*

Member of Parliament  
Edmonton Riverbend

EDMONTON  
October 8, 2021

Honourable Marco Mendicino  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Mendicino,

I am writing on behalf of many of my constituents who have reached out to voice their frustrations at the current Parents and Grandparents Sponsorship program and to share their ideas on how to improve it.

Between September 23 and October 4, 2021, IRCC invited 34,500 potential sponsors to reach their goal of accepting 30,000 complete applications for 2021. This record high number of invitations was picked randomly from the remaining pool of *Interest to Sponsor* forms submitted in 2020, but the winning rate is still slim, roughly at 1: 5.5. Of the majority who didn't get picked this time, many have been trying for more than five years without luck and some have urgent compassionate reasons for family reunion. However, it appears that the current lottery system didn't take any of these situations into consideration.

My constituents who haven't been successful would like to see the current lottery system be improved to ensure fairness as much as it reasonably can. They would like to see a different weight be given to each application based on the number of years those eligible applicants have been trying and waiting. Compassionate reasons like senior parents over 70 and the potential sponsor being the only child should also be taken into consideration.

In the heat of a global pandemic that has made international visits very difficult and might have lingering impact for many years, it is particularly important for the Canadian government to address the increasing urgency of family reunion. I agree with my constituents that a completely random lottery process is not the best way to serve those trying to take care of their elders. A more reasonably architected program requires more study and technical work, but such efforts would show the government does value fairness and cares about the very real needs of hardworking families.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Jeneroux'.

Matt Jeneroux  
MP for Edmonton Riverbend