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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Constituency*

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*Matt Jeneroux*

Member of Parliament  
Edmonton Riverbend

EDMONTON

October 25, 2022

Honourable Sean Fraser  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Fraser,

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 for the year of 2023.

Between October 12 and 20, 2022, IRCC invited 23,100 potential sponsors to reach their goal of accepting 15,000 complete applications for 2022. These invitations were picked randomly from the pool of 155,313 remaining *Interest to Sponsor* forms submitted in 2020, and the winning rate is roughly at 1: 7. Of the majority of the remaining 132,213 people who still didn't get picked for the 3rd time since 2020, many have been trying for over five years without luck and some have very urgent compassionate reasons for family reunion. However, the current lottery system didn't take these situations into consideration.

My constituents suffering from lack of luck are all arguing that the current lottery system needs to be improved to ensure fairness and reflect the spirit of humanitarianism as much as it reasonably can. It's a widely shared opinion that different weight should be given to applications in accordance with 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. I've heard heartbreaking stories of older parents passing away during years of wait or left alone in their home country because their only child is working full time and raising young kids in Canada.

The global pandemic made international visits very difficult for a long time and still has lingering impact in many countries. It is particularly important for the Canadian government to listen to and respect the increasing urgency of family reunion. The recently reformed Super Visa program took the idea of a Conservative bill and allows visiting parents and grandparents to stay longer in Canada per visit, but we all know it is no substitute for the Parents and Grandparents Sponsorship program, the only program that can grant permanent residency and allow hardworking immigrant families and their elders to unite and support each other in a barrier-free and worry-free way. It is also noticed that the Super Visa program now has a much higher refusal rate than before the reform.

I agree with my constituents that a completely random lottery process is not the best way to serve these diligent taxpayers trying desperately to take care of their elders. A more reasonably architected program requires more study and technical work, but such efforts are necessary to show the government does value fairness and care about the very real needs of hardworking families that are the backbone of our society.

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

Sincerely,

Matt Jeneroux, MP  
Edmonton Riverbend