



SEP 14 2017

MR. KIERON TESTART  
MLA, KAM LAKE

**Oral Question 804-18(2) Territorial Immigration Policies and Programs**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on June 01, 2017 regarding Territorial Immigration Policies and Programs.

During our discussion, I committed to providing information on the process utilized for the family sponsorship class, as well as committed to raising the family sponsorship issue and concerns with the Federal Minister responsible for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

The Federal Government family sponsorship class application intake process has different approaches that are specific to the type of family member. The application intake to sponsor a spouse, partner or child is an open process where an application can be submitted throughout the year. The application intake for parents and grandparents is currently closed, and was only open for a short time period in 2017. The different approaches reflect the administration of applications accepted on a yearly basis.

IRCC provides a yearly levels plan that outlines how many immigrants under the three main immigration classes, Family Class, the Refugee Class and Economic Immigration, will be admitted into Canada. For 2017, Canada will welcome 280,000 to 305,000 new permanent residents. The family class will admit up to 80,000 permanent residents, however only 20,000 of those admissions are for parents and grandparents.

The levels plan is developed in consultation with provinces and territories based on competing pressures such as commitments to family reunification, refugee resettlement and selecting immigrants to support economic growth. The levels plan considers the different settlement needs amongst the three immigration classes.

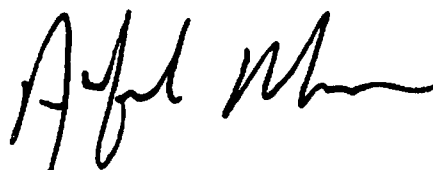
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In June 2017, the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) and Industry, Tourism and Investment released the Northwest Territories Immigration Strategy. Goal 3 of this strategy is to support and be responsive to settlement and integration needs. This goal includes an objective to improve partnerships with the Federal Government and Territorial stakeholders to ensure the Northwest Territories is responsive to the needs of foreign nationals and Northern employers.

As the family sponsorship class is the full responsibility of IRCC I can confirm that senior ECE officials have raised this issue with senior federal officials. I can also commit to bringing this issue forward at the upcoming Federal/Provincial/Territorial Immigration Ministers meeting taking place this week.

I assure you that the Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to working on this issue, in partnership with the Federal Government.

Thank you for your questions and interest in this matter.



Alfred Moses  
Minister, Education, Culture  
and Employment

- c. Minister, Industry, Tourism and Investment  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator  
Deputy Minister, Education, Culture and Employment  
Deputy Minister, Industry, Tourism and Investment