



The Honourable Marc Miller P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Avenue West Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

17 September 2024

Minister Miller:

Though we are much belated, on behalf of World Renew and the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue we congratulate you on your appointment to cabinet. We wish you the blessings of wisdom and discernment as you continue in your responsibilities as Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC), and we look forward to ongoing discussion with you.

We write today both to encourage you in your work but also to articulate our continued hopes – which we also expressed to Ministers Mendicino and Fraser, previously in your post – that Canada will remain committed to strengthening its refugee protection and resettlement systems. At this time of year, we particularly hope to see this reflected in the upcoming immigration levels announcement.

World Renew, as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) and a member of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), sees firsthand the positive impact of refugee resettlement but also the detrimental impact of ongoing backlogs, some of which can be alleviated by raising immigration levels as they pertain to refugees.

Therefore, we join with CCR in specifically calling on you to:

- Increase resettled refugees (Government-Assisted and Privately Sponsored Refugees) to at least 15% of total immigration admissions.
- As a special initiative, increase the 2025 immigration targets for resettled refugees to a level that will allow the large, accumulated backlog to be absorbed. As a matter of equity, Canada should ensure that refugees are not waiting longer for processing than economic immigrants.

The Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue is a place of conversation, learning and action on God's call to justice, peace and reconciliation. We are a ministry of the Christian Reformed Churches in Canada, a denomination of 250 churches and ministries and across the country. We collaborate deeply with ecumenical justice organizations in Canada.

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Minister Miller, along with our SAH colleagues and others involved in refugee resettlement, we appreciate the Department's efforts over the last several years to improve processing times. However, we share in their concern that without increased immigration levels, the backlog cannot be adequately addressed.

Safety, welcome and justice for vulnerable displaced persons is a vital humanitarian responsibility that we consider to be sacred. We also recognize that immigration is vital for the health of the Canadian economy. It is our hope that these important priorities for justice and the wellbeing of all will be held in wise balance as you continue the work of levels planning. We wish you and your colleagues God's blessings of wisdom and discernment for this essential work of welcome and justice.

Respectfully,

Albert Postma
Executive Director, Canada
Christian Reformed Church

Rebecca Walker
Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement
Program Manager
World Renew Canada

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