



RUBY SAHOTA

Member of Parliament – Brampton North
Députée - Brampton Nord

News Release

For Immediate Release

MP Sahota Proud to Announce that Spouses are Being Reunited More Quickly in Canada

14/02/2018 – Brampton, Ontario – Over the past year, the Government of Canada has made significant improvements to the spousal sponsorship process, making it faster and easier for Canadians and permanent residents to reunite with their spouses.

In December 2016, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced that it would reduce the backlog of spousal applicants by 80% and shorten processing times to 12 months. It also announced improvements to the spousal sponsorship application process to make it more efficient and easier to navigate.

Today, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced that the government has successfully met these commitments:

- More than 80% of those who were in the global spousal sponsorship backlog on December 7th 2016, have now received final decisions for their applications. We reduced the spousal inventory from 75,000 applications to 15,000 as of December 31st 2017.
- As of December 31st 2017, we met our commitment to process 80% of spousal applications that were received in December 2016.

In addition, after introducing a new spousal sponsorship application package in December 2016, IRCC continued to respond to client and stakeholder feedback to further improve the application process, and make it simpler and easier for sponsors and applicants to understand and navigate. As a result, we made a number of improvements to the application package in June 2017. And today, we introduced further updates to the application kit and process to improve the client experience and make sure we can process applications as quickly as possible.

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Quote

“The Government of Canada is committed to family reunification. We understand how important it is to reunite couples. It also makes for a stronger Canada. Canadians who marry someone from abroad shouldn’t have to wait for years to have them immigrate or be left with uncertainty in terms of their ability to stay.”

- The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

“When I opened my office in Brampton North, I had constituents waiting over two years to be reunited with their spouse. I am proud to have been able to raise this concern in Ottawa and work with the Minister and the Government to improve the process and reunite spouses faster under a more efficient and easier to navigate process.”

- Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North

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