



Citizenship and
Immigration Canada

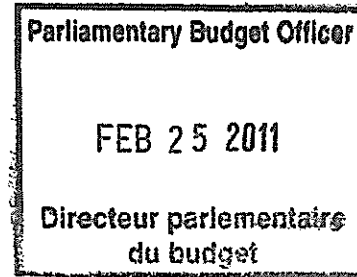
Citoyenneté et
Immigration Canada

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 1L1

FEB 25 2011



Mr. Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer
919 – 50 O'Connor Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A9

Dear Mr. Page:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 2011, requesting data or information held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) on Bill C-604: *An Act to Amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. I apologize for the delay in responding.

CIC has not undertaken a costing exercise in relation to Bill C-604, which would introduce an appeal process for Temporary Resident Visas (TRVs). However, I am pleased to share some considerations which would be required for a costing of this Bill.

As Bill C-604 proposes to extend the mandate of the Immigration Appeal Division (IAD) of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) to include appeals against the decision of a CIC officer abroad or in Canada not to issue an applicant a TRV or extension of that visa, the IRB would be the most impacted federal body. The IRB would need to be engaged in a costing exercise to estimate the human and financial resources required to process these appeals.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), which serves as the representative of the Minister in cases before the IRB, and the Department of Justice would also be impacted by the Bill and should be contacted regarding the human and financial resources required to support a TRV appeal process.

Should Bill C-604 come into force, CIC would face departmental costs for the human and financial resources involved in the preparation and transportation of the record of decision from TRV applications and extensions refused at CIC offices abroad and in Canada for the appeal at the IRB.

Canada

The maximum volume of appeal cases would need to be determined based on the total number of refused TRV applications abroad plus applications refused inland. In addition, depending upon clarification of the intent of the bill and its scope, applicants from refused study and work permit applications may also need to be considered in establishing an upper limit to the volume of appeals to the IAD.

However, as an appeal process is likely to be lengthy, and the applicant's need to travel to Canada may be overtaken by time, it would only be a percentage of applicants who would seek to appeal their decisions and not all.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of considerations relating to the costing of this Bill and is provided only to give an idea of the impact such a change would have. You may want to verify directly with the IRB and the CBSA the impact it would have on their operations.

I hope that this information is of assistance in responding to the request you have received from a parliamentarian. Should further information be required from CIC, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Yeates

- cc: Rick Stewart, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Liaison Secretary for Macroeconomic Policy, Privy Council Office
- cc: Luc Portelance, President, Canada Border Services Agency
- cc: Brian Goodman, Chairperson, Immigration and Refugee Board