

Focus on refugee and newcomer families

Reuniting families is a key objective of Canada's immigration program, but too often families are kept apart.



Long delays for refugee family reunification

Refugees in Canada routinely wait years for processing of their spouse and children overseas. At the Nairobi visa office the average wait time is **over 2 years**.

Cutting off family members

The government has proposed changing the definition of dependent children to those under 19 years of age (currently under 22). If this change

goes ahead, young adult children of refugees and immigrants will be left behind, denied reunification or face removal from Canada.



Migrant workers deemed to be "low-skilled" are not allowed to bring family members, even though they may live in Canada for up to four years. "High-skilled" workers can bring their spouse and children. The discrimination between occupations is unfair and the impact of separation can be devastating.



Parents and grandparents

contribute to Canadian society and to the social and economic integration of their families, often taking paying jobs or being caregivers. Recent changes have increased the minimum income requirement for sponsors, so that only people with money are

eligible. Discrimination between newcomers based on income isn't fair.



Narrow definition excluding some children

Some children are not considered part of the family by Canada's restrictive immigration rules. Some are excluded because they were not examined when their parent immigrated to Canada (R. (117(9)(d))); others are found through DNA testing not to be biological children and are separated from the only family they know.



CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES
CONSEIL CANADIEN POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

Lack of flexibility for Syrians with family in Canada

Over two million people have fled the conflict in Syria. A few have family in Canada but no measures have been put in place to allow them to come to safety in Canada, even on a temporary basis.

For more information, see:

reunification.ca

February 2014