

Dear Committee members,

I thank you for the opportunity to write a few words to response to your committee's remit on the subject of medical in-admission for foreign immigrants. I wish to respectfully share with you my family's story in the hope of illuminating significant issues within the current immigration system in the hope that in the future things will change.

My wife and I immigrated to Canada from the UK in 2014 having fallen in love with Canada and it's people on a previous vacation to the country. As a doctor in a recognised area of skills shortage in a province that was encouraging immigrants I was lucky enough to have a permanent full-time position before I arrived in Canada. As the hospital where I worked was very short of skilled professionals the fastest visa to gain access and therefore start working was through the Temporary Foreign Worker Visa (Skilled Stream). After arriving and starting work my wife gave birth to our child who is a Canadian Citizen.

I applied for permanent residency through a Provincial Nominee Program for myself and my wife (who as a professor was also employed in a skills shortage profession.) Myself and my wife passed the medical examination. However, we were rejected for permanent residency due to issues regarding medical in-admissibility. Prior to being married I had a child from a previous relationship. This child was not accompanying me to Canada nor would ever be accompanying me in Canada. I was unable to obtain a medical examination for my child due to having an acrimonious relationship with my previous partner thorough no fault of my own. There is also no reason or incentive for my previous partner to allow the medical examination of my non-accompanying daughter. As a result of my being unable to obtain a medical examination we were rejected for Permanent Residency and remain in a state of legal limbo where we have no ability to become Permanent Residents of Canada. This despite the fact that myself and my wife are both employed, own a home, pay taxes and have a Canadian child. Further due to our temporary status in Canada we have a restricted range of legal rights such as voting privileges and an inability to change employer, restricted access to financial service etc.

It appears to me to be extremely discriminatory and punitive to reject applicants for permanent residency on the sole basis of the medical examination particularly for non-accompanying children (who I would respectfully remind the committee are non accompanying and benefit from an extremely good health service free at the point of delivery.) This seems to be an extremely rigid, discriminatory policy that not only punishes my family but effectively invalidates my Canadian child's right to live in Canada with her family as we could ultimately become deported when our work visa expires. Furthermore should I befall any situation that would not allow me to work I would forfeit my rights to remain in Canada and would be forced to leave the country. I cannot stress to the committee just how hard to journey is to gain Permanent Residency in Canada involving seemingly endless form filling, rigid systems and medical examinations (not to mention the physical stressors of travelling thousands of miles.) It seems unfair that we have been rejected to live permanent in Canada on the basis of a

hypothetically imagined situation that my daughter would accompany me to Canada and would presumably drain much needed public resources from Canadian citizens as opposed to the reality of the situation that my child is non-accompanying and that we as a family are employed, live in Canada, pay taxes, own a home and play an active part in our local community but have been prevented from living in Canada permanently.

A great frustration for our family is that we have been unable to talk to an immigration officer to explain the situation in the hope that an immigration officer would understand our plight. There is however no right to do this and there is no ability to respond to a decision other than simply accept it, spend thousands judicially reviewing a decision or starting the application again only to be faced with exactly the same situation during the processing stage.

I would request that the board take account of the unfair and discriminatory requirements of medical in-admission especially those based on fictional future scenarios centred on a narrative that immigrants will use and drain scarce resources.

Respectfully submitted