

Yukon



Office of the Minister

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

November 15, 2017

Robert Oliphant, M.P.
Chair, House of Commons Standing
Committee on Citizenship and Immigration
Government of Canada
131 Queen St., Room 6-36
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Oliphant:

Thank you for your letter of October 30, 2017, inviting comments on federal government policies and guidelines regarding medical inadmissibility of immigrants to Canada. I am pleased to provide feedback from the perspective of the Government of Yukon Department of Health and Social Services.

Given the small volume of immigration to Yukon relative to our population, we have not experienced an excessive demand for health care or social services from new immigrants to Canada. In fact, the Government of Yukon amended the *Health Care Insurance Plan Act* to extend health care insurance to Syrian refugees immediately upon their arrival in Yukon through the special program initiated by the Government of Canada in 2015. We did not experience excessive demand from Syrian refugees as a result of this elimination of the usual waiting period for Yukon health care insurance. Finally, I would like to share with the standing committee that we have experienced the benefits of immigration through the contribution of immigrants to our health and social services workforce.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments from Yukon to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration and hope that your findings will help to guide future amendments to federal policies and guidelines on this aspect of immigration.

Mahsi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Pauline Frost', written in a cursive style.

Pauline Frost
Minister of Health and Social Services