

**March 17<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Members of Parliament  
Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration  
House of Commons  
Canada

Honorable MPs,

I represent thousands of individuals across the world affected by travel restrictions necessitated by the COVID- 19 pandemic. On behalf of persons with expired Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) documents, I extend our sincere appreciation to all the members of this committee for the unrelenting support provided during the seemingly unending wait on Immigration, Refugees Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to issue Authorization letters (ALs).

I appeared before the Standing Committee on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 as a witness on the Study of the Impact of COVID-19 on the Immigration system and I can confirm that a significant number of persons whose applications were approved before March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 have been issued Authorization letters and are now settled in Canada as Permanent Residents. For this, we express our deepest gratitude.

There are, however, a good number of individuals who are still waiting on IRCC to issue Authorization Letters that will allow them settle in Canada as approved Permanent Residents. The situation continues to pose a challenge to the well-being of these individuals as they are left with limited options as to understanding the progress of their applications.

Once again, on behalf of these individuals, I hereby solicit the kind support of the Standing Committee to prevail on IRCC to fast-track issuance of ALs for approved pre-March 18<sup>th</sup> COPR holders still outside Canada.

Please permit me to provide some context related to the experiences of the affected individuals of whom I write on behalf.

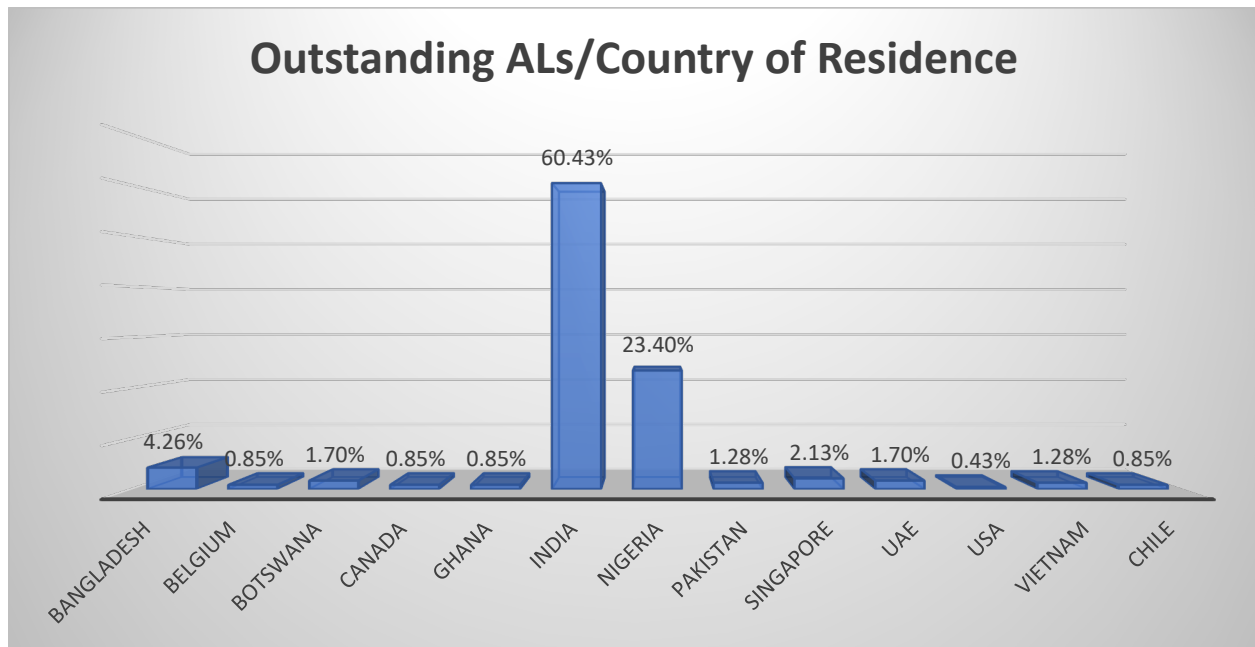
### **Background**

Despite exemptions that allow persons whose applications were approved before March 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 to land in Canada, some individuals are restricted by expired travel documentation and subsequently have experienced delays with the processing of travel authorization letters and CoPR extensions.

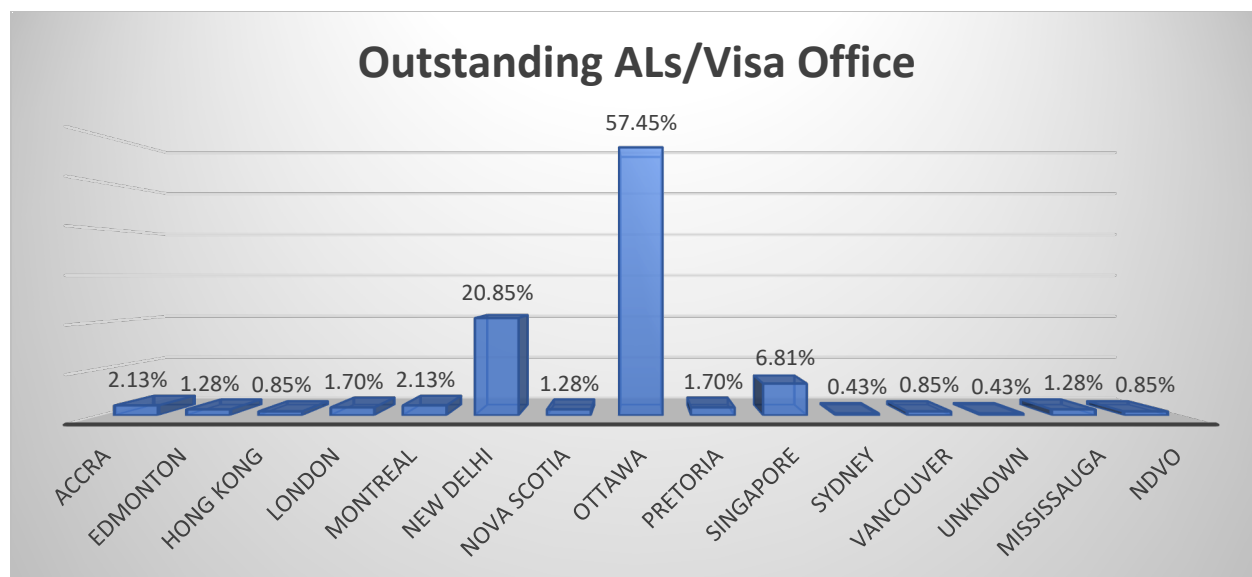
For tracking purposes, we surveyed a total of two hundred and thirty-five (235) IRCC clients across Thirteen (13) countries who are still awaiting travel authorization letters and it is believed that this represents a significant sample size of persons in this category. Please find below the outcome of the survey completed on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**Figure 1 & 2: Composition of persons awaiting Authorization Letters by Country & Visa Office**

Country of Residence	% of Expired CoPRs	Total No. of Expired CoPRs
Bangladesh	4.26%	10
Belgium	0.85%	2
Botswana	1.70%	4
Canada	0.85%	2
Ghana	0.85%	2
India	60.43%	142
Nigeria	23.40%	55
PAKISTAN	1.28%	3
Singapore	2.13%	5
UAE	1.70%	4
USA	0.43%	1
Vietnam	1.28%	3
Chile	0.85%	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>235</b>



**Source: Independent Survey completed on 03/16/2021**

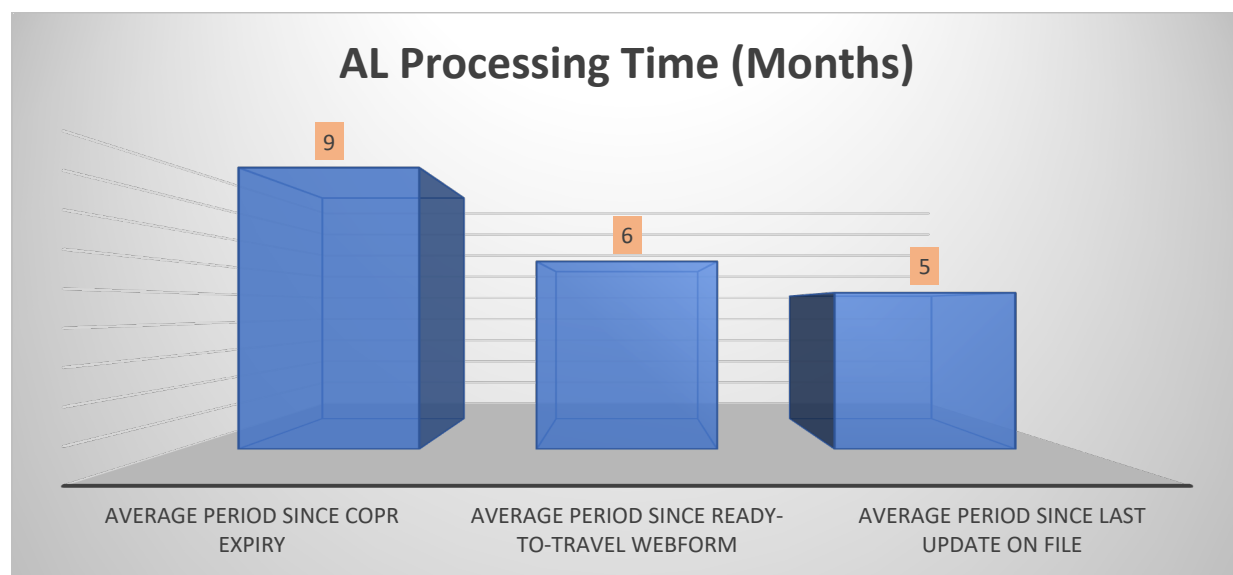


*Source: Independent Survey completed on 03/16/2021*

On January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021, IRCC's new program update advised expired COPR holders not to use the Ready-to-Travel (RTT) webform or processing office emails to contact IRCC despite their readiness to travel; stating that the institution would be in contact with clients once they are approved to come to Canada.

However, analysis of the survey shows that the wait time for clients averages **5 months**, providing insight into the efficiencies of the visa offices in closing out on AL processing.

**Figure 3 & 4: Average Wait Period (Months).**

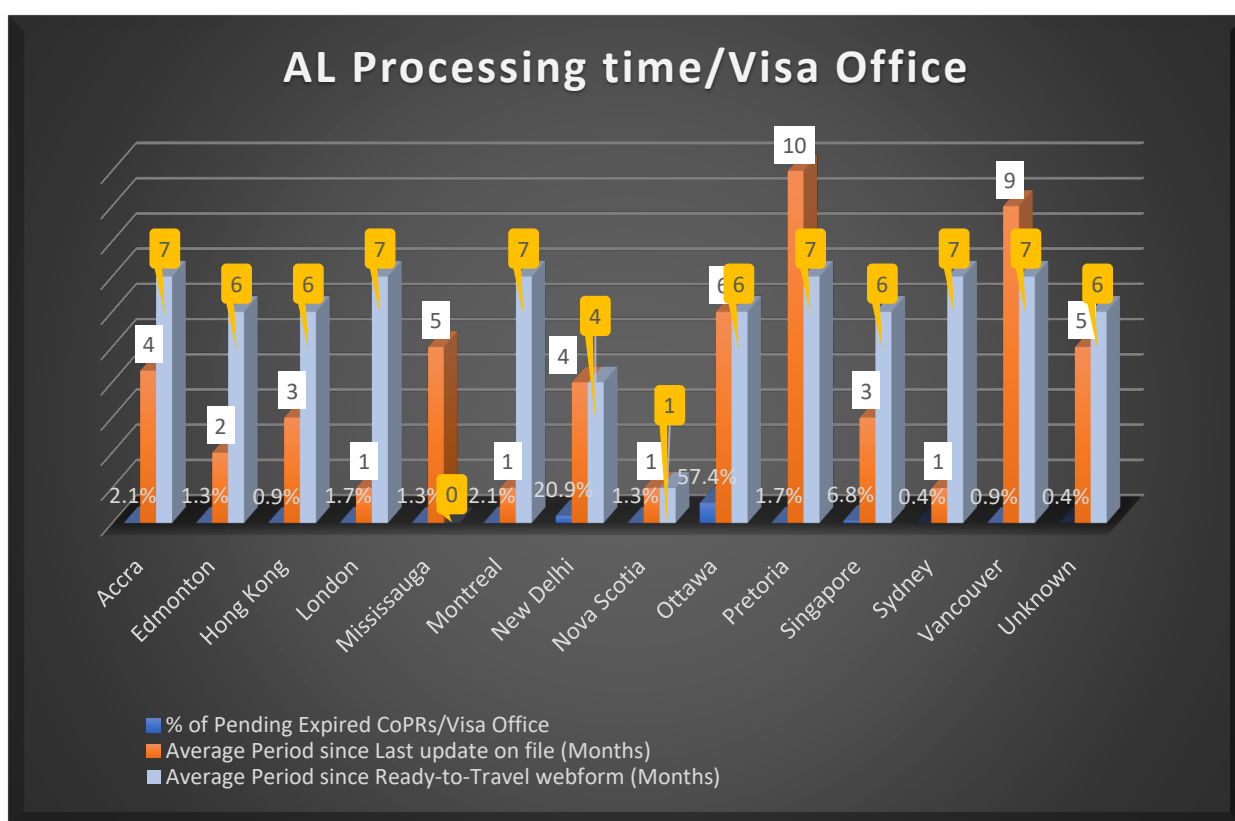


*Source: Independent Survey completed on 03/16/2021*

Based on the survey, the above chart shows that IRCC clients awaiting ALs had their CoPRs expired since an average of **9 months** to date, raised the Ready-to-Travel Web form since an average of **6 months** and it has been an average of **5 months** since their files were last visibly updated.

A deep-dive analysis (see below) on the average wait period per visa office shows that the Ottawa (**57.4%**) and New Delhi Visa offices (**20.9%**) are in charge of processing most of the outstanding authorization letters with **6 & 4 months** average wait period respectively for clients whose files are being processed at these visa offices.

Honorable MPs, going by the outcome of the survey, this shows that a good number of approved PR applicants with expired CoPRs are still stuck in their home countries with little or no hopes of receiving the authorization letter from IRCC. Conversations with different respondents also show that they have updated medical results on file. Should it be required, more details on the survey will be shared with members of the Committee.



**Source: Independent Survey completed on 03/16/2021**

## **Prayer**

Honorable MPs, our prayer which I humbly submit on behalf of the affected individuals include;

1. Prevail on IRCC to fast track issuance of the long-awaited Authorization letter. We are highly skilled economic migrants and we bring wealth of skills and technical know-how that will be valuable to driving economic growth through the pandemic and beyond.
2. Adopt a sustained and uniformed pattern for the issuance of the Authorization letters across all visa offices
3. Deploy resources to aid all the visa offices with the issuance of the authorization letter

Once again, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration for the unwavering support.

Please accept assurances of my highest respect.

David Ojo

***On behalf of Expired CoPR holders awaiting Authorization letters.***