

April 27, 2021

Dear Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration,

I write to you as a current in-land applicant for permanent residency under the express entry program qualifying under both the CEC and FSW streams. My application processing time has now surpassed 14 months with no known timeline for completion. As you can imagine, this wait has been agonizing and has resulted in the delay of many significant life decisions. Not to mention, this also delays the ability for me to start recognizing time spent residing in Canada to apply for citizenship, should my permanent residency application be approved.

Whilst my application, along with many others in a similar situation to me, has been so significantly delayed, I have seen numerous applicants being approved within 3 or 4 months from their Acknowledgement of Receipt date. Whilst I am happy for these applicants, it beggars the question as to why there are applications delayed for so long when these applications can be processed so quickly. I am aware that 'more complex applications' will take a greater time to process. However, through conversations on online communities consisting of other applicants, a trend has clearly been identified relating to applicants that applied between February and April of 2020 being delayed, regardless of 'complexity'.

In addition, while more recent applications are being processed and approved, permanent residency rounds of invitation continue to be made frequently, further adding to the backlog of applicants.

I acknowledge that recent events related to the pandemic played a part in delaying applications being approved however more recent applications being approved in very short periods and continued offering of invitations to apply indicate that the IRCC has no issue with accepting and processing more applicants. Despite this, review of notes on my file obtained through the access to information act showed no progress on my application for a period of more than 6 months. How is it equitable that someone who applied so long before more recent applicants can have their application ignored for such a long period of time?

In consideration of the above, I respectfully offer 2 recommendations below for consideration related to the processing of permanent residency applications:

- 1) All applications that have passed a full 12 months from application receipt be revisited by officers as a matter of priority to ensure any progress towards final approval can be made. This review is to be performed before any new applications are accepted and processed.
- 2) Time spent waiting for the approval of permanent residency applications for in-land applicants be included as a full day towards the 3 of 5 years residing in Canada rule for eligibility to apply for citizenship.

Sincerely,

Paul Harman