

**Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO)**  
**Study on Federal Government Consulting Contracts Awarded to McKinsey & Company**  
**March 6, 2023**

**QUESTION #1**

**Mr. Pierre Paul-Hus:** I am told that there are 51,988 people who have been refused asylum. What is CBSA doing to deport them? In fact, at this time there are only 1,400 who have been deported.

**Hon. Marco Mendicino:** There is, in fact, a process...

**The Chair:** I'm sorry. Perhaps we can get back to the committee, because we don't have time.

**RESPONSE #1**

The decision to remove someone from Canada is not taken lightly. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has a legal obligation to remove all foreign nationals who are inadmissible under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Everyone ordered to be removed from Canada is entitled to due process before the law and all removal orders are subject to appeal and procedural fairness.

The CBSA has a statutory obligation to remove any foreign national that has been issued a removal order for violating the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA). Immigration removal is an integral part of the CBSA's security mandate.

The IRPA specifies that individuals may be inadmissible for any of the following reasons: security; crimes against humanity and war crimes; criminality; organized crime; risk to health of Canadians or excessive demand on health services; misrepresentation; inability to financially support yourself or your dependents; and non-compliance with the IRPA (e.g. overstaying the time you are permitted to remain in Canada).

The CBSA prioritizes its removals based on a risk management regime:

- Priority 1: Security organized crime crimes against humanity serious criminals and criminals and Irregular migrants failed refugee claimants
- Priority 2: Failed refugee claimants
- Priority 3: All other inadmissible persons

The CBSA takes action to remove foreign nationals subject to removal only once all legal avenues and administrative steps are exhausted and all other impediments are addressed. Administrative processes to be addressed in the removal process include: pre-removal risk assessments; applications for permanent residence on humanitarian and compassionate grounds; in-Canada spousal sponsorship applications; requests to defer removal; and, administrative deferrals of removal and temporary suspension of removals. The decisions rendered in administrative processes prior to removal are all subject to judicial review. If removal is imminent while an individual is seeking judicial review, they may also request a stay of removal. If the Federal Court grants a stay, removal may not proceed.

Impediments to removal include: individuals or foreign governments who refuse to cooperate with the travel document acquisition process; individuals who have serious health issues, impacting either their ability to get on a plane or longer term availability, affordability and/or accessibility of medical treatment in a country of destination; airlines that place significant restrictions on the number of deportees on flights; and, cases involving Canadian-born children or inadmissible family members. These impediments, whether legal or not, can prevent the CBSA from removing inadmissible persons from Canada as soon as possible.

As of March 13, 2023, the CBSA removed 38,792 failed refugee claimants since January 1, 2017, of which 2,012 were irregular migrants failed refugee claimants.

Calendar Year Removal	Failed Refugee Claimant	Irregular Failed Refugee Claimant	Total Failed Refugee Claimant	Total Removals (including Refugee Claimants)
2017	4,542	85	4,627	8,731
2018	3,750	353	4,103	8,379
2019	5,834	537	6,371	11,265
2020	10,287	315	10,602	12,837
2021	5,323	252	5,575	7,500
2022	5,503	362	5,865	8,167
2023*	1,541	108	1,649	2,121
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,780</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>38,792</b>	<b>59,000</b>

*up to March 13, 2023\**

## **QUESTION #2**

**Mr. Michael Barrett:** There was an app pitched by McKinsey, based on other models, that could have been deployed and used by Canadian travellers and the travelling public. What was McKinsey's estimate of the cost of that app?

**Ms. Erin O'Gorman:** I don't have that information. I can endeavour to get back if they provided us a cost.

## **RESPONSE #2**

From the available documentation, McKinsey & Company does not explicitly recommend an application, but rather refers to enhancements to the CBSA's existing and now decommissioned eDeclaration app. The rationale being to help increase voluntary compliance, reduce inadvertent non-compliance and minimize interactions with the Border Services Officers. There is no mention of any costs associated with eDeclaration or increasing its functionalities.

**QUESTION #3**

**Mr. Michael Barrett:** Was the use of that technology, or any other facial recognition technology, advised by McKinsey or any other outside consultant?

**Ms. Erin O'Gorman:** I'll have to get back with that answer.

**RESPONSE #3**

From the available documentation, McKinsey & Company refers to recognition technology under the initiative to automate and optimize processes where they identify the use of a number of recognition technologies, including facial identification. McKinsey & Company did not advise on a specific technology or software and identified recognition technology as an option to help optimize CBSA Renewal initiatives. We are not aware of advice provided by any other outside consultant.

#### **QUESTION #4**

**Mr. Michael Barrett:** I have the same question with respect to artificial intelligence. Are any AI systems deployed at our ports of entry or borders? If yes, what is the name of the program? If so, were those programs advised by or recommended by McKinsey?

**Ms. Erin O’Gorman:** I’ll come back with that answer.

#### **RESPONSE #4**

There are no artificial intelligence systems deployed at our ports of entry or borders.