Date

Your Name

Your Address

The Honourable John McCallum P.C., M.P.

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

As a proud Canadian and supporter of refugee sponsorship, I believe that the Canadian Government must do even more to help refugees by expanding access to refugee sponsorship programs. Private sponsorship of refugees is unique to Canada. Unmatched anywhere else in the world, it allows average Canadians to make a direct and positive difference in the lives of refugees.

After September 2nd, 2015 when the heart breaking image of three-year-old refugee Alan Kurdi’s lifeless body made headlines around the world, Canadians answered the call to help. Tens of thousands of people have spent countless hours raising millions of dollars and doing everything possible to prepare to welcome some of the world’s most vulnerable people. Now they cannot do anything but wait, and time is just one thing refugees do not have to spare.

We appreciate the Government has already increased targets, but with thousands of groups still wanting to help and the extraordinary need for help, so much more can be done. By further increasing the number of Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) cases available and reinstituting Visa Office Referred (VOR) cases this can be accomplished quickly and safely. Both the BVOR and VOR programs directly help those most in need and most likely to excel in Canadian society as they rely on the expertise of Visa Officers.

This is a time when we can show the world Canadian’s capacity for compassion and care. The people are ready. The money is set aside. The need for help is extreme. This is an opportunity to create a lasting legacy for all Canadians, and a safe future for more of our world’s refugees. Let’s not miss it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,