

2017

CAPIC Submission on the Parent/Grandparent Program

CAPIC SUBMISSION ON THE PARENT/GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

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Introduction

The Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants (CAPIC) is the national advocacy group for Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs), founded on the pillars of Education, Information, Lobbying and Recognition. CAPIC's mandate includes providing continuing professional education about Canadian immigration matters and programs to their members, ensuring that they are better able to serve their clients and that consumer confidence is maintained. CAPIC Members are offered the best continuing Professional Development Education in the Industry. As the professional association for RCICs, CAPIC leads, connects, protects and develops the profession.

Preamble

The Parent/Grandparent Program was created to enable Canadians to sponsor their parents and/or grandparents living abroad to visit and/or reside in Canada with their relatives. The objective of the amendments made by the newly elected government was to ensure the integrity and accountability of the program by introducing a "lottery system."

Opinion/Input

CAPIC strongly supports and commends the Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for their approach to revitalizing the Parent/Grandparent Program to increase fairness and transparency, and overall to increase peoples ease with accessing and filling out applications. To ensure the amendments are fair and transparent, CAPIC respectfully submits the following comments and suggestions to mutually benefit IRCC, sponsors, and their families.



Recommendations for consideration:

We commend IRCC for initiating a fair and transparent process to increase the ease with which people are able to access and fill out applications. To ensure equitable amendments that are fair and transparent while maintaining program integrity, CAPIC respectfully submits the following recommendations that will be of mutual benefit to IRCC, sponsors, and their families.

The “lottery system” does not ask in the *online interest to sponsor* form for family size or income statistics. It is therefore possible that a significant number of the potential sponsors will not meet LICO requirements. Since the sponsor(s) will be picked as one of the 10,000 who are eligible. CAPIC would kindly urge the government to ensure that the future sponsor(s) be assessed on the basis of family size and income before being deemed eligible to submit an *online interest to sponsor form*. In the meantime, if a sponsor(s) is picked who is found not meet the requirements, CAPIC recommends choosing another prospective sponsor from the online lottery “pool.” This will allow eligible sponsor(s) a fair chance of being chosen in the lottery.

Going forward, CAPIC would kindly urge IRCC to have an online expression of interest as a means of assessing eligibility at the intake level, similar to Express Entry. The online system could check the data that is input to verify that sponsors and would-be immigrants appear to be abiding by the guidelines prior to allowing sponsor(s) into the pool.

In the interests of fairness and traditional Canadian values, CAPIC also suggests that the program have a special sub-category to allow applications to sponsor widowed parents, who may be living a lonely and painful life without their family in Canada. We kindly suggest that parents and grandparents who are in need of support, and who do not have a child or grandchild living in the country where they currently reside, should receive preferential sponsorship (and not have to resort to using the H&C process, which can be very lengthy). CAPIC also suggests that this sub-category be subject to a numerical quota rather than a lottery system. If sponsorship of widowed parents and grandparents is based on the luck of the draw then some families may never be approved to sponsor these family members, which we submit is undesirable.

CAPIC would respectfully suggest also that IRCC provide greater clarification on whether the following sponsors will be eliminated: sponsors that do not follow-up with an application within 90 days of being invited, those sponsors that do not meet the criteria, those sponsors who submit incomplete applications, and instances where multiple applications are submitted for the same applicant overseas by different family members in Canada.

Lastly, CAPIC would like to inquire whether IRCC can commit to having sufficient resources in place for the Parent/Grandparent Program to have a faster processing time than in previous years? CAPIC believes Sponsors and relatives would both benefit significantly should processing times improve to being no longer than 12 months’ time.



Conclusion

CAPIC-ACCPI commends IRCC's proactive approach of revitalizing the Parent/Grandparent Program to yield greater fairness and transparency. We have respectfully provided a few suggestions and comments which we hope IRCC will give due consideration to incorporating in the final policy it decides to adopt.

The Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants (CAPIC-ACCPI) as a stakeholder appreciates IRCC's ongoing collaboration and dialogue/consultation with the stakeholders in an effort to collectively address issues and policies for continued effectiveness of the immigration process and program integrity.

We thank IRCC for the opportunity to provide this input in ensuring the integrity of the programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Donald Igbokwe'.

Donald Igbokwe
President
CAPIC – ACCPI