



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-01604**

BY: **MRS. STUBBS (LAKELAND)**

DATE: **JUNE 21, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HON. AHMED HUSSEN**

Response by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Immigration

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The decision to relocate the Case Processing Centre (CPC) was difficult, recognizing the relocation will have an impact on employees and the community. The announcement was made as far in advance as possible to give stakeholders time to prepare for the transition.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) intends to expand its operations in Alberta in the coming years, and this relocation will permit the Department to recruit and retain new employees. It is recognized that the staff in Vegreville are doing great work. However, business requirements must be met to sustain current operations and enable future growth in order to meet growing demand, and achieve the goal of lowering processing times.

The office location has posed significant challenges to recruitment.

To date, IRCC has undertaken significant recruitment efforts, including student recruitment, national publicly advertised opportunities, and casual employment. These efforts have been unsuccessful. Currently, about 20% of the positions are vacant.

In order to retain these valued employees, all indeterminate staff will be offered their jobs in Edmonton, as will those who are term staff at the time of the move. Indeterminate employees will be offered the opportunity to relocate their households, but may choose to commute from their current residence (approximately 33 employees currently live in Edmonton and commute to Vegreville).

In addition to meeting with the Mayor of Vegreville, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship has held meetings with union officials, as well as the local Member of Parliament. The Department is in regular contact with stakeholders and is committed to supporting employees during the transition and minimize the impact.