

**Progress Reports to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts' Fifth Report, titled: *Immigration Removals***

**Recommendation 2 – On incentives for voluntary returns**

**That, by 31 December 2021, the Canada Border Services Agency provide the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts with a report describing its pilot project to encourage voluntary compliance with removals and the initial results achieved through this initiative.**

The CBSA is committed to encouraging and promoting voluntary compliance, and will continue to advance related initiatives.

The CBSA is continuing to develop the Assisted Voluntary Return Program Pilot (AVRPP). The CBSA designed the pilot after:

- re-examining the 2012-2015 CBSA *Assisted Voluntary Returns and Repatriation* program pilot;
- engaging like-minded international partners who are administering voluntary removal programs; and
- looking at existing removal challenges.

The pilot will provide incentive funding and social services, including personalized return plans, to help returnees better re-establish themselves in the long term. The pilot will provide financial incentives and social services to eligible failed refugee claimants who are returning to destinations that have been identified as uncooperative. If these failed refugee claimants are subject to an outstanding warrant of three years or more, they will still be eligible for the program. The two-year pilot will be administered within the Greater Toronto Area, and focus on Greater Toronto Area Region (GTAR) case inventories. A third-party service provider will help deliver the pilot in Canada and overseas.

The CBSA has been working collaboratively with the Department of Public Services and Procurement Canada in order to solicit bids from parties interested in helping deliver the pilot. These contracting activities were stalled when the federal election was called in August 2021, but have since resumed and a Request for Proposals from interested providers was posted on the GoC Buy/Sell website in January 2022.

CBSA is also advancing the staffing and operationalization of the GTAR pilot team. Following the completion of the request for proposals, the pilot team and the contracted provider will start on-boarding activities that include training provider staff, establishing the required program reporting processes and identifying incentive funding distribution procedures, followed by a client program intake.

### **Recommendation 3 – On data integrity and case management**

**That the Canada Border Services Agency present to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts: (1) by 31 May 2021, a report on the results of implementing its data quality assurance process and its new approach to triaging and assigning cases in its working inventory; and (2) by 31 December 2021, a report on the implementation of its new reporting and oversight mechanism to ensure data entry by Department of Justice officials.**

The Government accepts the third recommendation. The CBSA fulfilled the first part of this recommendation by providing the Committee with a report in May 2021. That report also stated that the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) would report to the Committee on the second part of the recommendation by December 31, 2021, as it is responsible for implementing the reporting and oversight mechanism with the Department of Justice. The following information has been communicated through ongoing discussions between IRCC and the CBSA.

#### Implementation of Reporting and Oversight Mechanism with the Department of Justice

IRCC has confirmed that a change to the Global Case Management System (GCMS) will be completed, with a target of fall 2022, to improve the timeliness of litigation details being entered into the system.

As an interim solution, IRCC reviews entries in system using a report produced by the Department of Justice to ensure litigation decisions impacting removals are completed promptly.

**Recommendation 4 – On executed removals (CBSA)**

**That, by 30 June 2021, and every three months thereafter until 30 June 2023, the Canada Border Services Agency provide the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts with a report including statistics on executed removals in the most recent quarter and the number of cases in the monitoring, wanted, and stay inventories at the end of the most recent quarter.**

Progress Reports

The CBSA submitted the first progress report June 18, 2021. The second, third, and fourth progress reports are provided below and quarterly reports will be provided until June 30, 2023.

The CBSA closely tracks both the statistics on executed removals as well as remaining cases contained in the removal inventory and will continue to do so on an ongoing basis.

**For September 30, 2021:**

<b>NATIONAL REMOVAL INVENTORIES as of Q2 of 2021-22*</b>		
	<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Monitoring Inventory</b>	The monitoring inventory includes asylum claimants awaiting a final determination from the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) on their asylum claim. Individuals who are awaiting a decision from the IRB are issued conditional departure orders at the time of their claim, which can be enforced only if a negative determination is made on their case. Those individuals conferred refugee protection based on a positive decision by the IRB and who are awaiting their permanent resident status, are also included in this inventory.	<b>133,859</b>
<b>Stay Inventory</b>	The stay inventory includes cases that benefit from a regulatory or legislative stay of removal. This includes, but is not limited to the following: cases where litigation is in process, cases pending a decision on an application for a pre-removal risk assessment (PRRA), cases where there is a temporary suspension of removal or an administrative deferral of removal and cases where an inadmissible foreign national is serving a term of imprisonment.	<b>15,469</b>
<b>Wanted Inventory</b>	The wanted inventory includes cases under review to determine if a warrant is required or cases where a warrant has been issued for the arrest, detention, and removal of a foreign national.	<b>29,980</b>
<b>Working Inventory Total</b>	The working inventory includes all cases being processed for removal, including those who have access to PRRA. Of the total working inventory, 5,574 currently have no listed impediments to removal and can be removed.	<b>19,029</b>

<b>NATIONAL REMOVAL INVENTORIES as of Q2 of 2021-22*</b>		
	<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Total for all Removal Inventories</b>		<b>198,337</b>

*\*Volumes are accurate as of September 27, 2021. Of note, removal volumes may increase over time for data covering the same timeframe, due to delays with data entry (i.e. when a removal is enforced overseas or removed under escort). Due to the amount of recourse mechanisms available, these volumes are fluid and individuals may move in and out of these inventories over a period of time. Individuals who claim refugee protection, for example, are maintained in the monitoring inventory until there is a decision on their asylum claim. Subsequently, if an appeal is initiated on a negative refugee decision, this individual would move to the stay inventory until a decision on the appeal is rendered.*

The CBSA enforced 1,727 removals in Q2 of 2021-22, which represents 37% of the 4,681 enforced removals thus far in fiscal year 2021-2022. The removals inventory provided above, represents foreign nationals subject to a removal order that has not been enforced or voided through a positive permanent resident application. The monitoring inventory, stay inventory and wanted inventories include those cases that are not ready to be processed, due to the availability of legal avenues available to foreign nationals subject to a removal order. The working inventory includes cases that are ready to be processed, with the “actionable removals” subset of this inventory representing those that have no impediments to removal.

**For December 31, 2021:**

<b>NATIONAL REMOVAL INVENTORIES as of Q3 of 2021-22*</b>		
	<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Monitoring Inventory</b>	<p>The monitoring inventory includes asylum claimants awaiting a final determination from the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) on their asylum claim. Individuals who are awaiting a decision from the IRB are issued conditional departure orders at the time of their claim, which can be enforced only if a negative determination is made on their case.</p> <p>Those individuals conferred refugee protection based on a positive decision by the IRB and who are awaiting their permanent resident status, are also included in this inventory.</p>	<b>128,686</b>
<b>Stay Inventory</b>	<p>The stay inventory includes cases that benefit from a regulatory or legislative stay of removal. This includes, but is not limited to the following: cases where litigation is in process, cases pending a decision on an application for a pre-removal risk assessment (PRRA), cases where there is a temporary suspension of removal or an</p>	<b>15,877</b>

<b>NATIONAL REMOVAL INVENTORIES as of Q3 of 2021-22*</b>		
	<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	administrative deferral of removal and cases where an inadmissible foreign national is serving a term of imprisonment.	
<b>Wanted Inventory</b>	The wanted inventory includes cases under review to determine if a warrant is required or cases where a warrant has been issued for the arrest, detention, and removal of a foreign national.	<b>29,541</b>
<b>Working Inventory Total</b>	The working inventory includes all cases being processed for removal, including those who have access to PRRA. Of the total working inventory, 5,925 currently have no listed impediments to removal and can be removed.	<b>18,676</b>
<b>Total for all Removal Inventories</b>		<b>192,780</b>

*\*Volumes are accurate as of December 13, 2021. Of note, removal volumes may increase over time for data covering the same timeframe, due to delays with data entry (i.e. when a removal is enforced overseas or removed under escort). Due to the number of recourse mechanisms available, these volumes are fluid and individuals may move in and out of these inventories over a period of time. Individuals who claim refugee protection, for example, are maintained in the monitoring inventory until there is a decision on their asylum claim. Subsequently, if an appeal is initiated on a negative refugee decision, this individual would move to the stay inventory until a decision on the appeal is rendered.*

The removals inventory provided above represents foreign nationals subject to a removal order that has not been enforced or voided through a positive permanent resident application. The monitoring inventory, stay inventory and wanted inventories include those cases that are not ready to be processed, due to the availability of legal avenues available to foreign nationals subject to a removal order. The working inventory includes cases that are ready to be processed, with the “actionable removals” subset of this inventory representing those that have no impediments to removal.

As of December 13, 2021, the CBSA enforced 1,634 removals in Q3 of fiscal year 2021-22, which represents 32% of the 5,065 enforced removals this fiscal year.

In the pandemic environment, significantly more effort is required by CBSA staff to enforce removals due to country and airline restrictions, such as COVID testing and quarantine requirements. The travel industry has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels and these ever-changing requirements can be especially difficult for officers to navigate when scheduling removals. In addition, enhanced safety measures such as reduced capacity in public waiting areas and interview rooms have also reduced the number of individuals that can be interviewed.

The CBSA continues to find methods to overcome these evolving pandemic challenges. Efforts are underway to develop a national contract for COVID testing that would streamline regional efforts to have individuals tested, when necessary, prior to removal. Furthermore, Liaison

Officers positioned around the world are engaging with local authorities in their areas of responsibility to keep the CBSA informed on emerging requirements.

As a result of these efforts, removals have started to increase through the second quarter of fiscal year 2021-2022. However, the unpredictability of the pandemic and new variants of concern may disrupt the Agency’s ability to maintain this upward momentum. Nevertheless, the CBSA will continue to concentrate its efforts to remove individuals as quickly as possible with a primary focus on cases involving national security, organized crime, and human rights violations and criminals.

**For March 31, 2022:**

<b>NATIONAL REMOVAL INVENTORIES as of Q4 of 2021-22*</b>		
	<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Monitoring Inventory</b>	The monitoring inventory includes asylum claimants awaiting a final determination from the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) on their asylum claim. Individuals who are awaiting a decision from the IRB are issued conditional departure orders at the time of their claim, which can be enforced only if a negative determination is made on their case. Those individuals conferred refugee protection based on a positive decision by the IRB and who are awaiting their permanent resident status, are also included in this inventory.	<b>126,391</b>
<b>Stay Inventory</b>	The stay inventory includes cases that benefit from a regulatory or legislative stay of removal. This includes, but is not limited to the following: cases where litigation is in process, cases pending a decision on an application for a pre-removal risk assessment (PRRA), cases where there is a temporary suspension of removal or an administrative deferral of removal and cases where an inadmissible foreign national is serving a term of imprisonment.	<b>16,277</b>
<b>Wanted Inventory</b>	The wanted inventory includes cases under review to determine if a warrant is required or cases where a warrant has been issued for the arrest, detention, and removal of a foreign national.	<b>28,970</b>
<b>Working Inventory Total</b>	The working inventory includes all cases being processed for removal, including those who have access to PRRA. Of the total working inventory, 6,395 currently have no listed impediments to removal and can be removed.	<b>19,872</b>
<b>Total for all Removal Inventories</b>		<b>191,510</b>

*\*Volumes are accurate as of March 28, 2022. Of note, removal volumes may increase over time for data covering the same timeframe, due to delays with data entry (i.e. when a removal is*

*enforced overseas or removed under escort). Due to the amount of recourse mechanisms available, these volumes are fluid and individuals may move in and out of these inventories over a period of time. Individuals who claim refugee protection, for example, are maintained in the monitoring inventory until there is a decision on their asylum claim. Subsequently, if an appeal is initiated on a negative refugee decision, this individual would move to the stay inventory until a decision on the appeal is rendered.*

The removal inventory provided above represents foreign nationals subject to a removal order that has not been enforced or voided through a positive permanent resident application. The monitoring inventory, stay inventory, and wanted inventories include those cases that are not ready to be processed, due to the availability of legal avenues available to foreign nationals subject to a removal order. The working inventory includes cases that are ready to be processed, with the “actionable removal” subset of this inventory representing those that have no impediments to removal.

As of March 28, 2022, the CBSA enforced 1,642 removals in Q4 of the fiscal year 2021-22, which represents 23% of the 7,180 enforced removals this fiscal year. In the pandemic environment, significantly more effort is required by CBSA staff to enforce removals due to country and airline restrictions, such as COVID-19 testing and quarantine requirements. The air travel industry has also not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels and flight changes and cancellations remain common. This results in limited route availability and frequently having to reschedule removals. The variability of the pandemic through waves and variants has made enforcing removals especially difficult for officers as they are required to confirm COVID-19 requirements for each destination. In addition, enhanced safety measures such as reduced capacity in public waiting areas and interview rooms have also reduced the number of individuals that can be interviewed.

**For June 30, 2022:**

<b>NATIONAL REMOVAL INVENTORIES as of Q1 of 2022-23*</b>		
	<b>DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Monitoring Inventory</b>	The monitoring inventory includes asylum claimants awaiting a final determination from the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) on their asylum claim. Individuals who are awaiting a decision from the IRB are issued conditional departure orders at the time of their claim, which can be enforced only if a negative determination is made on their case. Those individuals conferred refugee protection based on a positive decision by the IRB and who are awaiting their permanent resident status, are also included in this inventory.	<b>129,533</b>
<b>Stay Inventory</b>	The stay inventory includes cases that benefit from a regulatory or legislative stay of removal. This includes, but is not limited to the following: cases where litigation is in process, cases pending a decision on an application for a pre-removal risk assessment (PRRA), cases where there is a temporary suspension of removal or an administrative deferral of removal and cases where an inadmissible foreign national is serving a term of imprisonment.	<b>17,534</b>

<b>Wanted Inventory</b>	The wanted inventory includes cases under review to determine if a warrant is required or cases where a warrant has been issued for the arrest, detention, and removal of a foreign national.	<b>29,237</b>
<b>Working Inventory Total</b>	The working inventory includes all cases being processed for removal, including those who have access to PRRA. Of the total working inventory, 6,395 currently have no listed impediments to removal and can be removed.	<b>19,666</b>
<b>Total for all Removal Inventories</b>		<b>195,970</b>

*\*Volumes are accurate as of June 27, 2022. Of note, removal volumes may increase over time for data covering the same timeframe, due to delays with data entry (i.e. when a removal is enforced overseas or removed under escort). Due to the amount of recourse mechanisms available, these volumes are fluid and individuals may move in and out of these inventories over a period of time. Individuals who claim refugee protection, for example, are maintained in the monitoring inventory until there is a decision on their asylum claim. Subsequently, if an appeal is initiated on a negative refugee decision, this individual would move to the stay inventory until a decision on the appeal is rendered.*

The removal inventory provided above represents foreign nationals subject to a removal order that has not been enforced or voided through a positive permanent resident application. The monitoring inventory, stay inventory, and wanted inventories include those cases that are not ready to be processed, due to the availability of legal avenues available to foreign nationals subject to a removal order. The working inventory includes cases that are ready to be processed, with the “actionable removal” subset of this inventory representing those that have no impediments to removal.

As of July 22, 2022, the CBSA enforced 2,044 removals in Q1 of the fiscal year 2022-23, which represents 84% of the 2,442 enforced removals this fiscal year. In the pandemic environment, significantly more effort is required by CBSA staff to enforce removals due to country and airline restrictions, such as COVID-19 testing and quarantine requirements. The air travel industry has also not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels and flight changes and cancellations remain common. This results in limited route availability and frequently having to reschedule removals. The variability of the pandemic through waves and variants has made enforcing removals especially difficult for officers as they are required to confirm COVID-19 requirements for each destination. In addition, enhanced safety measures such as reduced capacity in public waiting areas and interview rooms have also reduced the number of individuals that can be interviewed.