



Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

Amended letter

July 9, 2010

The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

Dear Minister Kenney:

On April 27, 2010, PSAC Canada Employment and Immigration Union National President Jeannette Meunier-McKay made public her concerns regarding the decision of Citizenship and Immigration to eliminate staff at the Sydney, Nova Scotia Citizenship Office.

The decision in question was to not renew term employees and end contracts with casual employees. This action was not guided by the needs of persons trying to immigrate to Canada and new Canadians; nor was it made in support of the Citizenship Department's mandate to provide quality services. It was certainly not in the interests of good stewardship and management; nor in consideration of the impact of this job loss on rural Nova Scotia. As far as I can tell, this decision was made solely in the name of budget restraint.

At the time of this decision, Citizenship was already backlogged and unable to respond efficiently to the needs of its clients. Since that time, predictably, service has further deteriorated. Unopened mail has increased significantly, thus slowing down the entire process for applicant registration and action.

Citizenship Sydney has been chronically understaffed for two decades, and this current decision only makes this situation worse. Services to those wishing to immigrate to Canada, new Canadians and their families are suffering. It is clear that immediate staffing action is desperately needed to reverse this damage.

I encourage you to investigate the matters raised and take the necessary action to restore these jobs, initiate permanent hirings and provide the level of sustained funding required to ensure a quality Citizenship program; now and into the future. Given our population growth is dependant upon immigration, it behooves the Canadian government to ensure we have the quality services and systems in place to provide efficient immigration to our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gordon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Gordon".

John Gordon
National President

c.c. Jeannie Baldwin
Jeannette Meunier-McKay
Cathy Murphy