



BC MP Responses on the Elimination of Refugee Transportation Loans

June 21, 2010

Canada requires all government assisted refugees to repay the costs of their transportation to this country. Canada is one of only a few countries that requires these costs to be repaid, and is the only one to charge interest on the loans. In most circumstances, refugee families must begin repaying the loans within six months of their arrival in Canada.

Over the past year, First Call has been contacting the offices of all BC Members of Parliament to find out whether or not they would support the elimination of the requirement that refugees pay back the costs of their transportation to the Government of Canada. While a few MPs responded quickly in support of policy changes, many haven't responded to us.

Now we need your help! Has your MP responded to First Call's question? Contact them and tell them why the elimination of refugee transportation loans is so important to help settle refugee families and give them a fair economic start in this country. Ask them to let First Call know where they stand on this issue. See the First Call and Canadian Council for Refugees websites for background information, including our letter to MPs.

www.firstcallbc.org/economicEquality-whatsNew.html
www.ccrweb.ca/transportationloans.htm

Question: Do you support the elimination of the requirement that refugees resettled in Canada pay back to the Government of Canada the costs of their transportation to Canada?

MP	Riding	Yes	No	No response	Comments
Alex Atamanenko	Southern Interior	✓			
Don Davies	Vancouver Kingsway	✓			
Libby Davies	Vancouver East	✓			
Joyce Murray	Vancouver Quadra	✓			
Denise Savoie	Victoria	✓			
Bill Siksay	Burnaby-Douglas	✓			Wrote to the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism and to the Minister of Finance asking them cancel all outstanding refugee loan debts and to cease seeking repayment of transportation costs.
Hon. Hedy Fry	Vancouver Centre		✓		Believes that the government should seek repayment for transportation loans but supports changes to the repayment process.
Jim Abbott	Kootenay Columbia			✓	
Dona Cadman	Surrey North			✓	
Ron Cannan	Kelowna-Lake Country			✓	

MP	Riding	Yes	No	No response	Comments
Jean Crowder	Nanaimo-Cowichan			✓	
Nathan Cullen	Skeena-Bulkley Valley			✓	
John Cummins	Delta-Richmond East			✓	
Hon. Stockwell Day	Okanagan-Coquihalla			✓	
Sukh Dhaliwal	Newton-North Delta			✓	Sent a letter to First Call and to the Liberal Party's Immigration Critic, however no response given to survey question.
Fin Donnelly	New Westminster-Coquitlam			✓	
Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh	Vancouver South			✓	
John Duncan	Vancouver Island North			✓	
Ed Fast	Abbotsford			✓	
Nina Grewal	Fleetwood-Port Kells			✓	
Richard Harris	Cariboo-Prince George			✓	Supports the elimination of the repayment of transportation loans only if it is demonstrated that they are unable to pay. Further, believes that individuals should be required to repay loans if they become able to.
Russ Hiebert	South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale			✓	
Hon. Jay Hill	Prince George-Peace River			✓	
Peter Julian	Burnaby-New Westminster			✓	
Randy Kamp	Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge-Mission			✓	
Hon. Gary Lunn	Saanich-Golf Islands			✓	Must be contacted by a constituent.
James Lunney	Nanaimo-Alberni			✓	
Hon. Keith Martin	Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca			✓	
Colin Mayes	Okanagan-Shuswap			✓	
Cathy McLeod	Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo			✓	
Hon. James Moore	Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam			✓	
Andrew Saxton	North Vancouver			✓	
Hon. Chuck Strahl	Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon			✓	Must be contacted by a constituent.
Mark Warawa	Langley			✓	Must be contacted by a constituent.
John Weston	West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country			✓	Must be contacted by a constituent.