

COMMITTEE RESPONSE

Your Committee recommends that in order to ensure an ongoing and orderly processing of all business immigrants (investors, entrepreneurs and self-employed persons) that there be nothing less than a Business Immigration Branch within the Department of Employment and Immigration created to manage, administer, monitor and enforce the Business Immigration Program. This branch should be headed by an individual at a level not less than an Assistant Deputy Minister whose qualifications should be no less than public service levels EX 3 or EX 4. Under the Assistant Deputy Minister, there should be a full-time Director General heading the Immigrant Investor Program and a full-time Director General heading the Entrepreneur and Self-employed Programs. The former should have the qualifications of a public service level of EX 2 or EX 3 and the latter of an EX 1. The position of the Director General for the Immigrant Investor Program requires such seniority in recognition of the fact that the individual will be required to deal with senior levels of business and other governments whereas the Entrepreneur Program is less complex and is co-administered with provincial personnel. This branch should be staffed with highly qualified personnel and provided with sufficient resources to deliver the Business Immigration Program effectively and efficiently. The proposed Business Immigration Branch, and particularly the Immigrant Investor Program, should be structured and administered in a manner so as to recover effectively all operating costs through appropriate fees.

Your Committee considers that anything less than a branch with such senior and qualified staff is not acceptable. For reasons discussed below, the Business Immigration Branch needs a high degree of autonomy, as it has an economic development and cultural emphasis which is distinct from the rest of the department. The Committee believes that because of the visa component of the Program this option is preferable to a special operating agency or moving the Program to another Department.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION 4

Widen the tier differential by lowering the disparity tier to \$200,000 from the current \$250,000 and maintain the current \$350,000 tier for other provinces.

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Your Committee disagrees with this recommendation and recommends instead a return to existing tier levels of \$150,000 and \$250,000 because, at these levels, the Program functioned reasonably well. It is important to maintain Canada's competitiveness.

Your Committee acknowledges that it did not have available the benefit of much evidence on the economic impact of these levels. On the other hand, the evidence available made it clear that it is unlikely that a \$350,000 offering will sell. As the benefit of the Program goes beyond the direct investment it was felt that the tier levels should not reduce significantly the resources of investors.