

The Committee therefore recommends that the model of the construction industry employment validation be used to give more people a realistic incentive to choose to depart voluntarily. It is difficult for the Committee to be precise in regard to which particular occupations might be legitimately considered for validation, but the pressing need in Canada for domestic workers and nannies suggests that this might be one fruitful avenue to explore.

Other approaches are certainly possible. For example, the Commission might wish to consider as an incentive changing the regulations so that people in the backlog who have been successful in obtaining a job in Canada would be automatically awarded one point in the employment category should they depart and apply from abroad. The importance of the one point should not be minimized. In numerous cases, it would enable the person's application to be seriously considered, rather than dismissed out of hand as would be the case for all who lack points in the employment categories. Perhaps the incentive could be made greater by adjusting processing priorities temporarily so that backlog applicants could have their cases dealt with in the first priority category.

One further point with regard to the voluntary departure program was brought to the Committee's attention. The pamphlet prepared by the Commission entitled "The Backlog Clearance Process" which explains the program in general terms contains the following information about voluntary departure:

One option for claimants is to leave the country voluntarily to avoid the possibility of removal in the future. Claimants who leave before a removal order is made will be able to apply to immigrate to Canada at posts abroad without the Minister's consent to return. They will also receive a letter of introduction to the Canadian Embassy or Consulate in their home country.

While it is correct that claimants may leave voluntarily at any time before a removal order is made, it is incorrect to say that the letter of introduction will be given on the same basis. Instructions to immigration counsellors are explicit that letters of introduction to the visa office will not be issued after the credible basis panel hearing has opened. The Committee recognizes that all claimants are counselled during the initial interview regarding voluntary departure; nevertheless, the pamphlet might be misleading and the Committee recommends that it be changed to reflect the actual policy.