

dian Ethnocultural Council and others are protesting many aspects of this bill.

The bill changes the priorities for immigrants and refugees to settle in Canada. There are very different priorities in these three streams being proposed. Ironically this minister has reversed many of the changes that were made by the last Conservative minister of immigration, which supposedly were supposed to streamline procedures, get rid of the backlogs and prevent fraud. We know of course the last Immigration Act did none of these things.

Bill C-86 is not an improvement. It is restrictive, unjust and inhumane in many aspects. First of all it allows people to buy their way into Canada. That is one of the first priorities. It reflects therefore Conservative and Reform Party values and not the values of fairness and generosity toward immigrants, which have been a Canadian tradition.

Government priorities are reflected in three streams. Just to remind people, the first stream would give priority to and fast-track wealthy investors and families, as well as UN approved refugees.

The second stream would be first come first served. If there is a long waiting list, many people would have a very difficult time making it. That includes extended families, self-employed people who have contributed greatly to our economy and people with confirmed job offers.

The third and last stream would take only limited numbers and this I find very difficult to understand. It includes business entrepreneurs and independent immigrants who have a job confirmed. Why on earth would they be last? These people are surely going to make good settlers, be employed and contribute to Canada.

The priorities of course are geared to the Conservative philosophy. Let us bring in as many wealthy people as possible and leave others much lower down on the list.

In a world where populations are exploding, civil wars are rampant, human rights are being violated, children are starving, and families are being separated for years, surely we in Canada can afford to be more generous and fair in our immigration policy.

We should not approach immigration with corporate values that allow wealthy immigrants to buy their way

into Canada as a first priority. As a multicultural country we should recognize multicultural values and customs. This means we should include grandparents in the primary family group. We should not be imposing the traditional North American concept of family.

The minister must also accept more refugees based on humanitarian appeals. I agree with my colleague for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville. The minister was not here when she spoke but I agree completely, he does not seem to be approving any people on humanitarian grounds through the appeal procedure. I have put through many well-documented appeals based on humanitarian grounds and I doubt he has even seen them, much less really considered them seriously.

It is very important we look at immigration in a much more fair way. Hopefully the minister will look at appeals with more compassion than he has to date.

We must not allow criminals of course to come into Canada or allow organized crime to infiltrate with false documents and so on. However, security measures should surely be implemented by CSIS, not by fingerprinting all refugee applicants as if all were criminals. Indeed, if we are going to do that we might as well do it to all Canadians. I wonder what they would say.

I want to quickly summarize some of the characteristics of this bill. First of all we are told this bill is based on excellence. There will be a new élitist system of quotas to enable the department to select immigrants according to its view of excellence.

The credible basis, which was the first stage of refugee claims process will be eliminated and we are in favour of that. We did not want it in the first place.

A senior immigration officer will be given authority at the border to decide whether or not a person is eligible for a full hearing. The officer can of course decide to refuse a hearing too. We might have some questions about that depending on the immigration officer.

I have already referred to the fingerprinting of refugee claimants, which will be required as if all applicants are criminals.

There is the item of family reunification. When a refugee claimant in Canada is accepted and able to apply for landing, the spouse and children will automatically begin to be processed for landing. We are in favour of speeding up the applications for families. However, as I