

*Routine Proceedings**[English]*

Just a year ago, in the great burst of compassion, we expanded our definition of the family for immigration purposes. The minister announced the government's plan on the new family reunification to include all children who had never been married.

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Today, in a drastic stroke, she again closes the door on families. Reduce access to families, that is another tragic aspect to the minister's five-year plan.

[Translation]

In closing, Mr. Speaker, today the Minister, with her plan and her big numbers, will give hope to a lot of people here and throughout the world. But we know very well that she can never stick to her plans. This is why we urge her to look beyond her rhetorical speeches and to give her department the resources it needs to implement the five-year plan.

[English]

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I do commend the minister for several aspects of her report. One is the innovation of the five-year plan which is very necessary, not only for potential immigrants planning to come to Canada, but for immigration staff and Canadian citizens planning or preparing to receive them.

Also, I commend her for undertaking to move toward the level of 250,000 immigrants per year which has a good deal of public support, especially from the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, but also from many others.

I commend the minister, also, for one of her decisions regarding the funding of language training and I will come to that later.

However, there are several matters which I cannot commend and I do not agree with her that she has maintained the proportion of family reunification to independent immigration to refugee immigration. In fact, family immigration has not been sustained by her government for several years at the proportion that it used to have and that most people have intended that it should have. There is nothing here to indicate an increase in proportion to the increase in total immigration.

In fact, there is a memo that was leaked to *The Toronto Star* last month which suggests that immigration posts abroad will process some family members more slowly, last in line. As it is now, it takes two years for many posts to get a family member over here. The new plan makes some wishes but has no provisions for speeding this up.

There is also no attempt to increase the number of government-sponsored refugees selected overseas from the large pool that desperately need resettlement. In fact, the restriction for the last half year on the loan program, in violation of a written agreement with private sponsoring groups, has seriously hindered the bringing in of privately sponsored refugees as well. There is no clear assurance that the loan program will be restored even though several months ago Parliament voted a very generous sum of money for that purpose.

The minister also does not take into account the fact that the Department of External Affairs announced at the beginning of July that it would be reducing the number of visa officers overseas and at home. In other words, the expansion that the minister undertakes is not being matched by staff and is actually going to be hindered by staff if the Department of External Affairs carries out its program of restructuring and cuts.

Within Canada, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission has not announced any increases in staff or money to handle the extra workload that the minister has undertaken. We know from past experience, certainly in Toronto, about the line-ups that start in the small hours of the morning and continue all day long. We know that the minister does not have enough staff to handle the work even as it is now.

The good news about language training is that the minister has undertaken verbally \$200 million over the next four years to teach English or French as a second language to adults. This is what her staff gave us last night.

The bad news is that there is no willingness at all to assist the schools of Canada in teaching English and French as a second language to children and the SLT program of last year has, of course, been cancelled. In Ontario alone, there will be tens of thousands of children in school who are not being served by second-language programs and that will seriously hold back their