

ii) whose admission would cause or might reasonably be expected to cause excessive demands, within the meaning assigned to that expression by the regulations, on health or prescribed social service.

Excessive demand was also detailed as exceeding five times the average annual per capita costs in Canada of health and social services in the five years following their medical examination.

These sections of the Act, even with the unproclaimed revisions, create a system of insiders and outsiders, based in part on the understanding of their disability by a medical officer, or the perceived burden they might place on the Canadian health care or social services. The Immigration Act controls who gets to be an insider and who has to remain outside the benefits of what Canada has to offer.

More recent changes have addressed the exclusion of family members with disabilities. The 1997 framework for immigration, *Not Just Numbers*, recommended that spouses and dependent children be excluded from the excessive costs component of the medical admission restrictions. In 1999, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration announced a major review of the immigration policy based on the White Paper *Building on a Strong Foundation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: New Directions for Immigration and Refugee Policy*. From this review, Bill C-31 was introduced in 2000, although the bill was abandoned with the 2000 federal election. In 2001, Bill C-11 introducing a new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act was under debate.

These two bills make one significant change to section 19(1). The most recent version exempts spouses (common-law and married) and children of immigrants and refugees who may have disabilities from rejection on the basis that they would create an excessive demand on the