

The current provisions of section 19(1) of the Immigration Act outline the some of the bases on which people are deemed ineligible to immigrate to Canada.

a) persons who are suffering from any disease, disorder, disability or other health impairment as a rule of the nature, severity or probably duration of which, in the opinion of a medical officer concurred in by at least one other medical officer,

i) they are or are likely to be a danger to public health or to public safety, or;

ii) their admission would cause or might reasonably be expected to cause excessive demand on health or social services;

b) persons where there are reasonable grounds to believe are or will be unable or unwilling to support themselves and those persons dependent on them for care and support, except persons who have satisfied an immigration officer that adequate arrangements, other than those that involve social assistance, have been made for their care and support.

Several changes have been proposed to these sections of the Act, but have not yet been made. In 1992, amendments were made to section 19 (1) which were never proclaimed and therefore did not become law. The changes delete the descriptions of which persons can be excluded to read:

a) persons who in the opinion of a medical officer concurred in by at least one other medical officer, are persons

i) who, for medical reasons, are likely or are likely to be a danger to public health or to public safety, or