



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-02721**

BY: **MR. PESCHISOLDO (STEVESON-RICHMOND EAST)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 5, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **HONOURABLE AHMED HUSSEN**

Response by the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Canadian citizenship

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Canada does not collect information on whether a woman is pregnant when entering Canada. Under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, a person is not inadmissible nor can they be denied a visa solely on the grounds that they are pregnant or that they may give birth in Canada.

Foreign nationals seeking entry to Canada are required to state the purpose of their visit when applying for a visa. Applicants must always be honest about the purpose of their visit. Providing false information or documents when dealing with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) or Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is considered misrepresentation and has significant consequences.

Citizenship acquired through birth on soil has been Canada's long-standing policy. It has been in place since the first *Canadian Citizenship Act* in 1947. With the exception of children of diplomats, consular officers, or other representatives or employees in Canada of a foreign government, any person born in Canada is automatically a Canadian citizen in possession of a birth certificate, which serves as proof of citizenship.

Statistics Canada data from 2016 indicates that approximately 385,000 children are born in Canada each year, with approximately 300 children born to women who do not reside in Canada. This constitutes less than 0.1% of the total number of births in Canada.

While these statistics indicate that this is not a widespread practice, the Government of Canada recognizes the need to better understand the extent of this practice as well as its impacts. IRCC has commissioned research from the Canadian Institute for Health Information, which also show the number of children born to non-residents who were required to pay hospital expenses to be less than 1% of total births in Canada, and will undertake further research in this regard.

The Government of Canada is committed to protecting the public from fraud and unethical consulting practices and protecting the integrity of Canada's immigration and citizenship programs. To this end, IRCC is currently undertaking a comprehensive review with a view to developing additional information and strengthened measures to address the practices of unscrupulous consultants and exploitation of our programs through misrepresentation.