

November 15, 2021

The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Region Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (ARAISA) and our 26 member agencies, we would like to congratulate you on your new role as Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

ARAISA is an umbrella group for organizations providing immigrant settlement services in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. ARAISA serves as a collective voice and forum for our members who are committed to the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees in the Atlantic region. Our goal is that member organizations are more effective in their work with immigrants because of ARAISA's initiatives to support the sector and our contributions to regional and national forums.

We know that you understand the critical importance of immigration and the successful settlement and integration of immigrants to our region, particularly in a post-pandemic economy. The Atlantic Immigration Program and the Economic Mobility Pathways Project exemplify how regionalization and program customization contributes not only to our economic needs, but also provides solutions for skilled refugees, and adds to the richness of our communities.

Settlement and integration organizations work hard to assist immigrants and refugees to make their home in Atlantic Canada. As the sector prepares for an anticipated overall increase in immigration levels, including the continued arrival of Afghan and other refugees, we are strengthened by the expertise and tremendous collaborative effort of agencies engaged in this work. ARAISA is committed to working together with IRCC and the provinces to support the sector in this significant undertaking.

We look forward to opportunities to engage with you and to our continued collaboration with the Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carolyn Whiteway".

Carolyn Whiteway, Executive Director
Atlantic Region Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (ARAISA)