

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

October 16, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

We write to you with grave concerns about your ability to handle the impending influx of illegal border crossings at the United States-Canadian border. Your tenure as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has seen the deaths of innocent Americans, the abandonment of migrant children, and the expansion of transitional criminal organizations.¹²

As you know, Canada has pursued policies that have led to a dramatic increase in immigration. This has been the Canadian government's response to plummeting birth rates and skilled labor shortages.³⁴ The spike in immigration has been widely unpopular in Canada and has exacerbated the housing crisis plaguing their economy.⁵⁶ Now, to reverse their current trends in immigration, the Canadian government is rethinking its approach to this issue.

Recently, Canadian Immigration Minister Marc Miller announced that Canada will be reducing the number of its temporary residents, resulting in fewer overall visas for non-permanent

¹ Nelson, Steven . "Shocking Data Shows 15K Illegal Immigrants in US Accused of Murder — As Kamala Harris Visits Border." *New York Post*, 27 Sept. 2024, nypost.com/2024/09/27/us-news/shocking-data-shows-15k-illegal-immigrants-accused-of-murder-as-kamala-harris-visits-border/. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

² "Management Alert - ICE Cannot Monitor All Unaccompanied Migrant Children Released from DHS and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Custody." *United States Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General*, 19 Aug. 2024, www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2024-08/OIG-24-46-Aug24.pdf#:~:text=OFFICE%20OF%20INSPECTOR%20GENERAL.%20U.S.%20Department%20of%20Homeland. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

³ Government of Canada. "Births and Stillbirths, 2023." *Statistic Canada*, 25 Sept. 2024, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240925/dq240925c-eng.htm. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

⁴ Government of Canada. "Analysis on Labour Challenges in Canada, Second Quarter of 2023." *Statistic Canada*, 22 Jun. 2023, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-621-m/11-621-m2023009-eng.htm. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

⁵ Al Mallees , Nojoud . "Three in Four Canadians Say Higher Immigration Is Making the Housing Crisis Worse: Poll." *Canadian Broadcast Corporation*, 29 Nov. 2023, www.cbc.ca/news/politics/immigration-fuelling-housing-crisis-poll-1.7043324#:~:text=A%20large%20majority%20of%20Canadians%20agree%20that%20higher%20immigration. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024

⁶ "Housing Crisis: Feds Stick by Immigration Plan, Rethink International Student Flows." *CTV News*, 16 Aug. 2023, www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canada-must-explore-links-between-immigration-housing-crunch-marc-miller-1.6530349. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

residents.⁷ Consequently, many immigrants with temporary status in Canada will not have their visas renewed.⁸ With their visas expiring, migrants in Canada will face two options: return to their nation of origin or remain in Canada illegally.

Currently, Canada has roughly 3 million non-permanent residents.⁹ Additionally, roughly 70,000 international students in Canada face deportation in the next year alone.¹⁰ If Canada does not execute a plan to combat this influx of illegal residents, we can likely expect these individuals to target our porous northern border.

Your lack of leadership has already compromised our northern border to the manufactured migrant crisis. Traffickers are openly advertising their services to illegally smuggle individuals into the United States on social media.¹¹ Additionally, Canadian smugglers are taking advantage of their own government's inability to interdict their operations.¹² This has resulted in record numbers of illegal crossings and encounters along the northern border.¹³

The current flow of illegal immigration is already overwhelming our northern ports of entry. They are understaffed and under-resourced, leaving our northern border communities

⁷ Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. "Speaking Notes for the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship: Strengthening Canada's Temporary Resident Programs and Migration Pathways." *Government of Canada*, 18 Sept. 2024, www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2024/09/speaking-notes-for-the-honourable-marc-miller-minister-of-immigration-refugees-and-citizenship-strengthening-canadas-temporary-resident-programs-an.html. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

⁸ Tronnes, Jamie, and Michael Barutciski. "Keep an Eye on the Canadian Border." *Wall Street Journal*, 19 Sept. 2024, www.wsj.com/opinion/blame-canada-for-the-other-border-crisis-migrants-immigration-policy-surge-ac6c2ea7?mod=hp_opin_pos_3#cxrecs_s. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

⁹ Government of Canada. "Estimates of the Number of Non-permanent Residents by Type, Quarterly." *Statistic Canada*, 25 Sept. 2024, www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710012101&request_locale=en. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

¹⁰ Pandher, Jaspreet Pandher, and Sumeet Dhami. "Thousands of International Students in Canada Face Deportation, Sparking Protests Nationwide." *Toronto City News*, 26 Aug. 2024, toronto.citynews.ca/2024/08/26/canada-international-students-deportation-protests/#:~:text=Canada%20is%20currently%20witnessing%20countrywide%20protests%20as%20more. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

¹¹ Schué, Romain. "Smugglers Are Advertising Illegal Canada-U.S. Border Crossings on TikTok." *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, 16 Sept. 2024, www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tiktok-canada-us-border-smugglers-1.7325746. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

¹² Thompson, Elizabeth. "U.S. Border Patrol Reports Record Number of Encounters with Migrants at the Canadian Border." *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, 12 Sept. 2024, www.cbc.ca/news/politics/illegal-migration-canada-united-states-1.7320623#:~:text=U.S.%20Customs%20and%20Border%20Protection%20says%20it%20recorded%20a. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

¹³ "Nationwide Encounters." *United States Customs and Border Protection*, 16 Sept. 2024, www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.

vulnerable.¹⁴ Now, with this crisis on the horizon that will overburden our ports of entry even further, our national security is more vulnerable than ever before.

Given the threat to our national security and the Canadian government's unpredictable response to this situation, this issue demands your department's immediate attention. We demand answers to the following questions by November 1st, 2024:

1. How much operational control does the Department of Homeland Security have over the northern border?
2. What steps are you taking to ensure our northern ports of entry are properly staffed?
3. In what ways are you working with the Canadian Border Services Agency and Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada to combat illegal crossings and smuggling along our northern border?
4. What plans do you have in place to combat the concerns of mass migration by illegal immigrants with expired Canadian visas described above?
5. How is the Department of Homeland Security working to counter the use of social media for smuggling and trafficking operations along the northern border?
6. The United States and Canada recently announced the expansion of the Safe Third Country Agreement. Given this announcement, will the Department of Homeland Security be turning back Canadian migrants seeking asylum claims in the United States at official and unofficial ports of entry?

Please send your response to Nicky Hazelbaker at nicky.hazelbaker@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Chris Smith
Member of Congress

¹⁴ Hippensteel, Chris . "For Another Year, Border Crossings Overwhelm New York's Rural North." *Times Union*, 22 Sept. 2024, www.timesunion.com/state/article/another-year-border-crossings-overwhelm-new-19725697.php. Accessed 12 Oct. 2024.



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress