PETITION TO THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP

Whereas:

- Canadians recognize the extreme violence, conflict and persecution that force displacement and necessitate the resettlement of refugees;
- The Immigration Loans Program requires new immigrants and refugees to repay the costs associated with their travel to Canada;
- Resettled refugees constitute 98% of Immigration Loans Program users;
- The Minister's office has acknowledged that the Immigration Loans Program should be "better aligned with the Government's integration and policy objectives for refugees";
- Refugees require time to establish themselves in Canada, often needing to learn a new language, secure employment, and address the effects of trauma;
- Refugees are disproportionately vulnerable to poverty in Canada;
- Travel loans were fully waived for Government Assisted Refugees from Syria resettled between November 4, 2015 and February 29, 2016;
- It would cost each person in Canada less than 40 cents per year to absorb the travel costs of resettled refugees;
- In principle, it is unjust to require refugees to fund their journeys to safety;
- Removing the requirement of travel loan repayment would allow refugees to begin their lives in Canada without the burden of debt.

We the undersigned, residents of Canada, **call upon** the Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship **to** fully exempt resettled refugees from travel loan repayment.

Signatures *(Sign your own name. Do not print.)*	**Addresses** *(Full home address, **or** city and province, **or** province and postal code.)*
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Your petitioners *call upon the Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship to fully exempt resettled refugees from travel loan repayment.*

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