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Wild Rose

Wild Rose Report

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CRACKING DOWN ON HUMAN SMUGGLING

The integrity of Canada's immigration system is as vital to its successful operation as its compassion. But over the years, the balance between these guiding principles has tipped and our system has been targeted for abuse by unscrupulous people who seek to profit from it.

Canadians understand this and have demanded change. The strong mandate our Conservative Government received in the May election included a pledge to restore the balance by taking fair, reasonable and tough action to prevent the abuse of Canada's immigration system by human smugglers.

Before Parliament recessed in June, our Government reintroduced legislation that will fulfill our promise to Canadians. The *Preventing Human Smugglers from Abusing Canada's Immigration System Act* that was once held hostage by the Opposition parties in the former minority Parliament can now expect passage into law in the upcoming session.

Our Government has been clear: Canada opens its doors to those who work hard and play by the rules -- including legitimate refugees. But we will crack down on those who abuse and try to circumvent our fair and welcoming immigration system for their personal gain.

In addition to severe legal and financial repercussions for the human smugglers who bring them, the law will also close loopholes and remove incentives for the illegal migrants that use their services.

For example, someone who arrives in such a way will be prevented from applying for permanent resident status for five years should they successfully obtain refugee status. And they will be unable to sponsor family members during that time.

In addition, the law ensures that the health benefits illegal migrants receive will not be more generous than those received by the Canadian public and it will improve our ability to terminate the protected person status of those who return to their country of origin for a vacation, or who demonstrate in other ways that they are not in legitimate need of Canada's protection.

Just this summer, Canadian law enforcement worked with national police in Indonesia to intercept a human smuggling vessel that was heading for our shores. The new measures our Government has outlined will send a clear message to those overseas who are thinking about smuggling people and to those people thinking about using human smugglers – don't do it!

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