

**Bill C-4 Key Quotes from the House of Commons
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Mr. Mike Wallace (Burlington, CPC)

As well, illegal immigration by sea is not new to Canada. In 1999, close to 600 immigrants from China's Fujian province arrived on Canada's west coast in four different vessels. What has changed is that **Canadians are aware now of the direct impact this criminal activity is having on our nation**. Canadians have received a wake-up call that Canada is being increasingly targeted by organized human smugglers based out of Southeast Asia who view our immigration system as a very generous system to be exploited for profit.

Further, **human smuggling is fundamentally unfair to those who follow the rules and wait their turn to come to Canada**, which we all see in our offices. We all sympathize with those who are following the rules and are trying to become Canadian immigrants by following the legal procedure.

We want to **enhance the opportunity to rescind the refugee status** and remove from Canada those who return to their country of origin for a vacation or who demonstrate in any other way that they are not legitimately in need of Canada's protection. We must prevent individuals who come to Canada as part of a designated human smuggling operation from sponsoring family members for a period of up to five years.

No nation can solve illegal smuggling by acting purely on its own. That is why **we have appointed a special adviser on human smuggling and illegal migration, Mr. Ward Alcock**, to coordinate a whole-of-government approach to this issue. Mr. Alcock's role allows us to engage other international partners with a common voice to find ways to prevent these vessels from departing from their home country in the first place.

Those who are active in illegal activity, whether human smuggling or other illegal activity, need customers to be able to provide this illegal activity. In this case, the human smugglers look at Canada as a place where they can bypass all the rules. [...] With this legislation we would make Canada's borders less like a doormat.

We have a system that treats legal refugee claimants fairly. **Why would we bend the rules of our legal system for those who come here illegally and turn a blind eye to it?** Do we say, "They got here illegally. So what?" That is not fair to the thousands and thousands of immigrants who come here through legal channels and the legal refugee process. That is what fairness is. That is why this legislation brings fairness to our system, continues to treat refugees fairly and goes after human smugglers who are trying to use Canada as a doormat.

Brian Storseth (Westlock—St. Paul, CPC)

Canadians are proud of our welcoming and diverse multicultural society. What Canadians are telling us, however, is that they are outraged that human smuggling syndicates are exploiting Canada's fair and generous immigration system to make a quick profit. **They share our government's grave concerns that Canada will continue to be a magnet for these irregular arrivals unless we do something now**. These concerns are not unfounded.

Scott Armstrong (Cumberland—Colchester—Musquodoboit Valley, CPC)

We have heard a lot of opposition members complain that Bill C-4 discriminates, that it puts children in detention and that it denies asylum seekers due process, but when we drill down

into the bill, that is not the case at all. It currently takes 48 hours to review someone's detention, and there would be reviews in 7 days, 30 days and 30 days after that. **In Bill C-4 there is an advantage for people seeking asylum. There is ongoing review. As soon as people can establish they are legitimate refugees, they are released from detention, from wherever they are held.** That is an advantage in this bill.

Kevin Sorenson (Crowfoot, CPC)

I would remind that party [NDP] [...] that until these individuals are deemed refugees they are not refugees. They are asylum seekers until the IRB deems them to be refugees. Even if they are deemed to be refugees, they still may be inadmissible to Canada if they are found to have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity or many of those other things. I urge the member to be cautious in her blanket statement that we are treating refugees wrong. Canada is warm and open to refugees, but many of the people who come here are deemed to be asylum seekers who do not meet the criteria for refugees. For that, I would ask her to be cautious.

Jinny Jogindera Sims (Newton—North Delta, NDP)

The Canadian Council for Refugees is opposed to this legislation, as is **Amnesty International**. **The Canadian Civil Liberties Association** has taken a position, as have the **Canadian Bar Association and the Centre for Refugee Studies**. What keeps coming up over and over again is that this bill is a draconian piece of legislation.

Hon. Bob Rae (Toronto Centre, Lib.)

I have the advantage of having been around for quite a while and I was present in the House during the debate on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. [...] That debate focused on the question of what we should do to protect to minorities even when it is unpopular [...]. We were reflecting on the fact that if a poll were taken on the decision of the government of the day [...] to intern Japanese Canadians without trial, without right of appeal, simply on the basis of their race and on the basis of the minister having designated someone as a person of Japanese origin and who, therefore, would be incarcerated. If we had taken a poll that would have been very popular. **Is this something where we hold a finger in our mouth and hold up the finger to see which way the wind is blowing?** [...] This is an issue about the substance of Canadian law, the process that we must follow as a country in order to uphold our obligations to ourselves under the charter and our obligations to other countries.

Justin Trudeau (Papineau, Lib.) (former Liberal Immigration Critic)

Refugees are willing to risk spending a little more time in prison in Canada where they will not be persecuted, killed or tortured. As well, although it is against Canadian law and principles, the possibility that they may not be able to bring their families over for five years is not a particularly powerful disincentive.

The bill does not work. It will not prevent people who are legitimate refugees from taking risks to come to Canada. On the other side of the equation, imposing mandatory minimums of 10 years and harsher penalties on the smugglers who already face life imprisonment and millions of dollars in fines will not make a big difference to what is a multi-billion dollar industry.

Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP):

Madam Speaker, this issue of having a Canadian law that will require jailing children of potential refugee claimants in Canada, the entire family, man, woman and child to be kept in detention for a full year, with only one review by the minister, is one of the most egregious parts of this so-called human smuggling legislation, which I now refer to as the “anti-refugee law”. **As long as we keep calling it human smuggling legislation, we allow it to continue under disguise. It is actually anti-refugee legislation.**