

New Legislation Threatens Immigrants with a Criminal Record

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Citizenship and Immigration Canada announced on June 20, 2013 that The Faster Removal of Foreign Criminals Act (FRFCA) had received Royal Assent and was passed into law. This Act amends the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, which is the primary federal legislation that regulates immigration to Canada.

According to Jason Kenney, the previous Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister, the Act will speed up the removal of dangerous foreign criminals from Canada. **Pardon Services Canada** agrees with this end result, but is concerned that the way the government is going about achieving this goal is overbroad, and will impact negatively on immigrants with minor offences on their criminal record.

The FRFCA makes significant changes to Canadas immigration program, among them being a loss of appeal rights, a limitation of access to humanitarian and compassionate consideration, and a grant of new authority to the Minister to deny temporary resident status.

