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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

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*Elizabeth May*

Member of Parliament / Député(e)  
Saanich — Gulf Islands

*Circonscription*

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The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
House of Commons

January 29, 2024

Dear Minister,

Like many Canadians, I was very disappointed by the government's decision to cap extended family visas to just 1000 people who are living in Gaza. While it was positive that you later stated there isn't a hard cap on the temporary visa program for Palestinians, this decision disturbed many applicants who are fearful that they may not be treated fairly.

I was also surprised by the decision to restrict spousal relationships to marriage. In today's world, more and more people in significant long-term relationships are choosing to not marry. This is an antiquated approach that does not align with the diverse range of familial and spousal relationships that people in Gaza may have.

I am seeking clarification on who is eligible for this program, whether there remains a cap in place and whether these standards are the same as those applied to Ukrainian refugees entering Canada. The scope of this program must be sufficiently broad to ensure the safety of all family members and spouses/partners seeking refuge from the conflict in Gaza.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. I hope the government will consider cases of close relationships for those who are not married as Germany has



done in light of the desperate and horrific conditions in Gaza. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" and the last name "May" clearly distinguishable.

Elizabeth May, O.C.  
Member of Parliament  
Saanich-Gulf Islands  
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

