

Resolution from Cllr Carol Day Birth Tourism

Resolution:

That Richmond City Council write a letter to the Federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, with copies to the Prime Minister and Richmond's Members of Parliament, requesting permanent changes to the Canadian immigration laws which would end automatic Canadian citizenship being bestowed on babies born in Canada to non-resident parents who are not citizens of Canada.

Rationale:

A recent report on CBC's W5 program documented the abuses relating to Birth Tourism (see attached graphs):

- In 2018/19 – Richmond Hospital delivered 458 newborns (23.1% of all births) to non-resident parents;
- Two doctors at Richmond Hospital delivered a combined 1,300 babies between 2014 to 2019;
- The demand for birthing services has created an unregulated shadow industry that includes food, medical, transportation services, counseling, etc.;
- Richmond Hospital has over \$2.0 million in unpaid bills since 2017;
- There are times that people living Richmond are unable to get the services they need at Richmond Hospital; and
- The current immigration policy is unfair to the citizens of Canada and immigrants who legally navigate the existing system.

From W5 Story on Passport Babies

Passport babies: Secrets behind birth tourism - The Fifth Estate

fiscal year	total number of newborns of non-residents born at RH	percentage of newborns of non-resident parents
2011/12	63	3.9%
2012/13	59	3.0%
2013/14	146	7.4%
2014/15	337	15.4%
2015/16	299	15.5%
2016/17	383	17.2%
2017/18	474	22.1%
2018/19	458	23.1%
Total	1951	18.6%

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January 1, 2014 – August 22, 2019 Discharges

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Jan 1 - Aug 22, 2019	TOTAL
90	86	96	149	132	101	654
		1				1
8	8	17	8	10	7	58
2						2
97	76	115	96	153	109	646
1	1		1	2	1	6
2		3				5
307	304	371	439	453	332	2206

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CBC/Radio-Canada is a Canadian public broadcast service. [Wikipedia](#)

Passport babies: Secrets behind birth tourism - The Fifth Estate

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to let you know that there is a news company, The Fifth Estate with CBC, who is trying to do a story on Birth Tourism. Some of our staff have been contacted directly via social media for interviews and questions and I thought this would be a good opportunity to review the VCH Media Policy in the event you too are contacted.

Some key points from the policy that you should be aware of are:

- All requests for media access to VCH facilities must be coordinated through the VCH Communications and Public Affairs Department.
- All requests for interviews pertaining to VCH patients, services, staff, facilities, or administration are to be referred to Communications, prior to the interview.
- All media inquiries and requests for interviews pertaining to VCH patients, services, staff, facilities, or administration are to be referred to Communications (preferably a Regional Communications Liaison).

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