



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
OFFICE OF THE HON. HEDY FRY, P.C., M.P.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 14, 2009

## FRY COMMENDS INTRAWEST ON HELMET POLICY

VANCOUVER – The Honourable Hedy Fry, MP for Vancouver Centre, today called on the Conservative government to reverse its unexpected and unwarranted imposition of visa requirements on Czech and Mexican nationals visiting Canada, and provide the resources necessary to support Canada’s humanitarian refugee system.

“Putting up barriers to legitimate travel is not an acceptable means of addressing the increasing demands on our refugee system from these countries,” said Dr. Fry. “This blanket visa requirement will have severe economic consequences for Canada, in terms of tourism, international study and workforce; not to mention family visits. It is an assault on Canada’s reputation as a safe haven to people who have been victims of fear, discrimination and persecution; as I know the Roma are. At a recent OSCE meeting in Lithuania this month the organization deplored the treatment of Roma in many European countries.”

Refugee referrals from Mexico and the Czech Republic have risen quickly over the past two years, with almost all Czech refugee claimants coming from the minority Roma community. This ill advised response from Minister Kenney will have negative, unintended consequences.

-30-

## CONTACTS

OTTAWA  
Katherine Day 613-220-0275

VANCOUVER  
Zachary Mallett 604-762-4386  
Barbara Snelgrove 604-202-1336