

This crisis of illegal immigration along the Canada - U.S. border has reached a new pinnacle. According to Customs and Immigration Union President Jean-Pierre Fortin, who represents Canada's border guards, as many as 500 people are illegally crossing into Quebec every day. More than ten thousand migrants have walked across the border this year, choosing deliberately to cross at unofficial crossings to avoid the Safe Third Country Agreement between Canada and the U.S. This bilateral agreement requires that asylum seekers make their refugee claims in the first safe country they arrive in, and not pass through one safe country to get to another. Far from stopping asylum claimants coming into Canada via the U.S., this agreement has simply led aspiring refugees to cross into Canada illegally and circumvent our immigration rules. And rather than cracking down on this dangerous and illegal activity, the Trudeau government has looked the other way. Worse, they've pounded the drum of their own generosity and given many the impression that Canada will welcome all refugees. Trudeau has ignored this problem for so long, he's lost control of it. The sheer logistics of dealing with the latest surge of border-jumpers is overwhelming the limited resources of the CBSA. When a migrant arrives in Canada to make a refugee claim - whether they've crossed into Canada illegally or if they've arrived unannounced at an official border crossing or airport - Canada follows a rigid procedure. Initial security screening and vetting, which takes about 8 hours, is typically done within the first 72 hours. The recent explosion in illegal crossings, however, has significantly shifted these standards. According to media reports, there are simply too many applications to process as they come in. Asylum seekers are, therefore, being sent to Montreal until this initial screening can be completed. But according to Richard Goldman of the Committee to Aid Refugees, rather than the typical 72 hours to complete initial vetting, these appointments are being scheduled "one or two months later." One or two months later! Migrants arriving unannounced after entering illegally are being sent to Montreal and told to come back one or two months later to receive "initial" screening and vetting. Before the Canadian government has determined if a person poses a national security risk to Canada if they're a terrorist, a war criminal, a fugitive or a drug dealer - they're sent to live freely in Montreal. Before we know if they're even eligible for refugee status in Canada, if they have health problems that would make them inadmissible or if they're had a previous history in Canada, we release them and hope for the best. We simply trust they bother to show up to their "initial" admissibility hearing some two months later. In other words, the Trudeau government has lost all control over the situation. They're putting an astonishing amount of trust in people whose very first act in Canada was to break our laws. And the problem is only expected to get worse. Donald Trump is considering removing the U.S.'s temporary protected status for Haitians who were displaced after the 2010 earthquake. Rather than returning to the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, as many as 60,000 could be making their way north. Trudeau is responding to this crisis, not surprisingly, by doing



nothing to stop the flow of illegal immigration. Trudeau is refusing to stand up for Canadians. He's putting his own reputation – as the most generous and progressive leader in the world – ahead of Canada's national security. Read the original at the <u>Toronto Sun</u>.