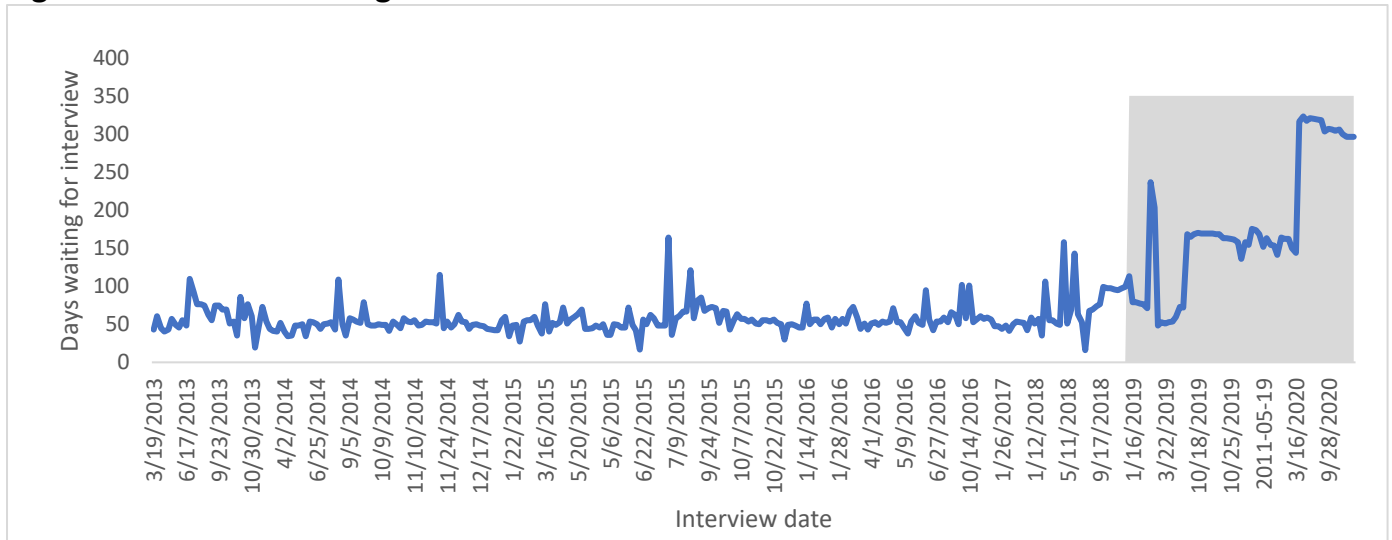


Montreal US Consulate IR1/CR1 Data

The average waiting period for an IR1/CR1 interview since 2013 has been 80 days (2.5 months). However, the average waiting period for an interview at the MTLCG by late 2019 was 6 months and that has increased to over 300 days (10 months) due to the pandemic (shown below in Figure 1). In fact, the MTLCG has only within the last month scheduled interviews for families who were document qualified (DQ) for an interview as of December 2019.

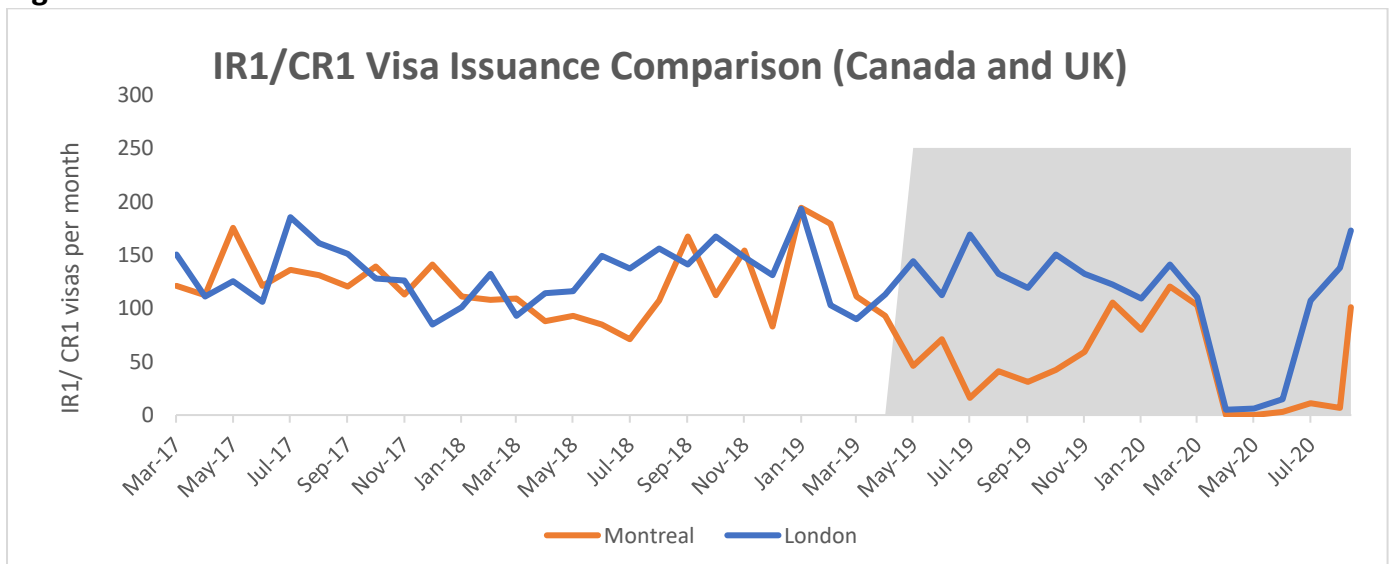
Figure 1: Interview waiting times at the MTLCG have increased no unreasonable levels



Source: Data from visa applicants using visajourney.com

While at first glance it may seem that the current COVID-19 pandemic is the main cause of increased waiting times at the MTLCG, there is more to the story. If you compare the monthly average number of IR1/CR1 immigrant visas issued over time in Canada and a peer group country of the UK (shown in Figure 2) the delays and backlog started to build up in mid-2019 when the MTLCG fell significantly behind in its visa issuance. The situation was made worse when the MTLCG delayed opening by two months relative to London despite similar public health policies in the two countries. As a result, IR1/CR1 applicants in the UK are not currently experiencing a backlog and are waiting the normal 2.5 months on average for an interview. This is a direct result of their consistently well-run operation and earlier restart from the pandemic relative to Montreal.

Figure 2: The MTLCG fell behind in mid-2019 before COVID-19



Source: US government statistics on visa issuance reported on travel.gov