



CAPIC'S BRIEF SUBMISSION TO THE CHAIRPERSON

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE BOARD OF CANADA

ON

**MODERNIZING THE IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE BOARD RULES
THROUGH THE USE OF THE SECURE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM IN IRB
PROCESSES.**

OCTOBER 22, 2015



INTRODUCTION

CAPIC-ACCPI, is founded on the four pillars of Education, Information, Lobbying and Recognition, and is the largest non-profit, professional association for Canadian immigration consultants.

CAPIC, the Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants, leads, connects, protects and develops the profession, serving the best interest of its members. As the leading association for immigration consultant interests and their major voice in any representation, CAPIC-ACCPI is committed to promoting and protecting the practice of all Canadian immigration consultants.

CAPIC-ACCPI supports continuous professional development and improvement in all areas of immigration practice increasing our members' ability to deliver highly competent and ethical services deserving of the public trust.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The use of technology and electronic systems, and other Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in business processes, streamlines the operational aspect of any enterprise and enhances both productivity and efficiency. By moving from a paper-based exchange of business documents to an electronic one, companies greatly benefit from a reduced cost, increased processing speed, decreased processing errors and improved relationships with business partners and stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION FOR EDI PROCESS IMPLEMENTATION

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is the computer-to-computer exchange of business documents in a standard electronic format between business partners, stakeholders and public interests.

EDI replaces postal mail, fax and email. Although email is considered to be an electronic approach, the documents exchanged via email must still be processed by people rather than computers. Having individuals involved, slows down the processing of the documents and also introduces errors. Instead, EDI documents can flow straight to the appropriate application on the receiver's end and processing can begin instantaneously.

CAPIC members appearing before IRB as immigration practitioners have observed through their interaction, that the use of EDI in IRB operations would greatly enhance the operational aspect and promote IRB efficiency. As a stakeholder and active professional Association, CAPIC is focused on improving our members' ability of delivering highly competent in representing mutual clients appearing before IRB. We respectfully recommend that IRB explore the benefits of implementing EDI to enhance its operational efficiency and cost saving benefits. Introducing of the use of electronic communication, electronic filing procedures by parties appearing and



interacting with IRB will not only be of great benefit to IRB, but also to other stakeholders and parties involved.

The Federal court has already adopted this system and benefits from the use of EDI through electronic communications, e-filing and roster management. Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has also adopted this system and is promoting the use of EDI through online applications filing, email communication with counsel and clients, among others.

CURRENT IRB PROCEDURAL PRACTICE

The current procedural practice at IRB includes paper based communications, fax, applications scheduling and telephone calls etc. While the current IRB procedural practice works, its efficiency can be greatly enhanced through the use of:

1. Electronic email communication with parties, Counsel and their clients
2. Online scheduling
3. Online Applications/appeals
4. E-filing of documents

REDEFINING OF IRB TERMINOLOGIES FOR MODERNIZATION.

CAPIC is aware that implementing the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system for the purpose of electronic procedures will require updating the definition of IRB terms and including the electronic format in its various definitions, in order to successfully implement and gain benefits from EDI.

The submission above is provided to IRB for promoting the modernization and the procedural process for implementing the EDI system. CAPIC would be happy to contribute to the consultation process and provide further submissions on this subject as required.

Respectfully submitted,



Dory Jade, President
CAPIC-ACCPI