



October 23, 2017

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, P.C, M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON
K1A 1L1

RE: Response to the Citizenship and Immigration Committee Report

Dear Mr. Hussen,

On behalf of CAPIC, I wish to thank you for your thoughtful response to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration Report "Starting Again: Improving Government Oversight of Immigration Consultants." We were pleased to read that you take the issue of unauthorized practitioners, and the need to inform the public of the threat they pose to the immigration system, very seriously, and that are you looking for effective solutions.

As you are aware, CAPIC strives to promote and protect the integrity of the immigration system and the valuable role that Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants play in sewing the fabric of a multicultural Canada. The reputation of the industry is strengthened by distinguishing for the public the difference between unauthorized practitioners and RCICs, and preventing the actions of the former whenever possible.

As we have discussed with your office and officials at IRCC, we believe that self-regulation under federal statute will provide our profession with stability, but also greater accountability and the means to act against unauthorized practitioners.

CAPIC is eager to work with you and your officials to ensure that oversight is strengthened, that public confidence is maintained, and that clients are adequately informed regarding the dangers of unauthorized representation. We strongly believe that now is the time to build on the successful framework previously established by regulated immigration consultants to achieve our shared objectives.

We look forward to holding further discussions with you on this matter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Donald Igbokwe, BA Hons, MA, CIP, RCIC.
President, CAPIC-ACCPI

cc: Kyle Nicholson
Director of Policy, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAPIC Seeks to Address Problems Posed by Unauthorized Immigration Practitioners via Strengthened Regulator

TORONTO, October 20, 2017 --- The Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants (CAPIC) is eager to work closely with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to safeguard consumer protection within the immigration consulting industry, following Citizenship and Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen's vow to address unauthorized practitioners and their threat to the integrity of the immigration system.

On October 16, the Minister officially responded to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration's Report entitled *Starting Again: Improving Government Oversight of Immigration Consultants*, articulating the necessity for a strong system of oversight of authorized immigration and citizenship consultants, the importance of public confidence, and the need to provide more information to clients of authorized representatives so that they do not confuse them with unauthorized representatives.

CAPIC believes that self-regulation under federal statute will allow for appropriate actions to be taken when unauthorized practitioners threaten consumer confidence or operate outside the law. CAPIC will continue to collaborate with the Government of Canada on this issue and will work diligently to inform prospective immigrants of the threat posed by unauthorized representatives, ensuring public confidence is maintained.

"As always, CAPIC will continue to work very closely with both IRCC and the minister to strengthen current regulation of the profession and protect consumers. As president, I call upon all Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs) to volunteer in any capacity, so that we may safeguard our profession against the practices of unscrupulous individuals and organizations and maintain the high ethical standards set by our industry predecessors" – Donald Igbokwe, president of CAPIC.

About CAPIC

Created in December 2004, the Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants (CAPIC) is the national advocacy group for Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs), founded on the pillars of Education, Information, Lobbying and Recognition. Its mission is to lead, connect, protect, and develop the profession, serving the best interest of its members.

SOURCE: Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants
CAPIC web address: <http://www.capic.ca/>