

André Baril
Director General, Immigration Program Guidance Branch
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Government of Canada

November 19, 2021

Re: November 17, 2021 Roundtable Hosted by Punjab Government

Dear Director Baril,

I am writing to you today to bring to your attention an immigration roundtable that was hosted by the Punjab government on November 17, 2021, to which both CAPIC and other Canadian stakeholders were invited as guest speakers.

CAPIC declined the invitation because the event's purpose did not align with CAPIC's mandate. CAPIC has met with the Government of Punjab officials involved in the planning of this event previously and believes their intention is to open a para-governmental agency to recruit students destined for Canada and collect the corresponding commissions. The officials in question asked CAPIC to directly connect the Punjab government with Canadian designated learning institutions to facilitate international student recruitment and admissions prior to the roundtable.

CAPIC is concerned that these actions by government officials undermine the integrity of Canada's immigration system. Particularly concerning is the fact that the Punjab government has not brought forth any legislation to regulate Indian citizens who are not members of the College but are practicing as unauthorized representatives in Canada's immigration industry. With this context in mind, CAPIC declined to participate in the November 17 event.

CAPIC believes the actions of these government officials threaten both the individual freedoms of potential immigrants and the authorized practice of immigration consultants. Unchecked, this may become one of the largest unauthorized practices outside of Canada.

Sincerely,

Dory Jade, C. Dir.
Chief Executive Officer
CAPIC-ACCPI