

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

3 December 2024

RE: Differentiating Unauthorized Practitioners from Immigration Consultants

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I write to you with concerns about an issue that may unintentionally benefit unauthorized practitioners (UAPs). The significant rise in temporary residents in Canada and the exponential increase in asylum claims have prompted discussions on reforming immigration and refugee policies. While reforms may be necessary, a balanced approach is essential—one that includes a clear distinction between unauthorized practitioners (UAPs) and authorized representatives, such as immigration consultants, lawyers, and members of the *Chambre des notaires du Québec*.

CAPIC, as the recognized voice for immigration consultants, has consistently worked with government departments and stakeholders to develop solutions that enhance and uphold the integrity of Canada's immigration system. However, in recent weeks, we have observed concerning rhetoric where “bad actor” comments have unfairly targeted the immigration consultant community, inaccurately blaming immigration consultants for issues affecting the system's integrity.

For decades, immigration consultants have been instrumental in guiding individuals through Canada's complex immigration pathways, enabling them to join and contribute to Canadian society. These professionals are trained, educated, and regulated, serving as a vital force in safeguarding the integrity of the immigration system.

Unfortunately, unauthorized practitioners (UAPs) continue to undermine this system, causing harm to vulnerable applicants and damaging its credibility. Despite their illegal actions, UAPs are often inadequately prosecuted. Heightening this issue, the public, media, and even government bodies frequently fail to distinguish between UAPs and immigration consultants in their reports, perpetuating confusion and misinformation.

Stakeholders must clearly distinguish authorized representatives from unauthorized practitioners (UAPs) in public comments and news reporting. This distinction is essential to raise public awareness and ensure better protection for vulnerable individuals.

While no profession, including immigration consulting, is entirely free of bad actors, this is true across all professions, no matter how established or reputable. The entire immigration consultant profession should not be unfairly judged or treated based on the actions of a few bad actors or the presence of unauthorized practitioners (UAPs).

Protecting the immigration consultant profession and safeguarding the integrity of Canada's immigration system go hand in hand. I implore you to take decisive action against unauthorized practitioners (UAPs) by allocating resources to establish a specialized CBSA unit dedicated to investigating and prosecuting UAPs. Additionally, clear public messaging on how to report UAPs is essential. We recently shared [recommendations](#) on this matter with Minister Marc Miller, and encourage further collaboration to address this critical issue.

By December 2025, over one million temporary resident visas are expected to expire for individuals currently in Canada. Addressing this significant challenge requires a fundamental shift in approach. CAPIC, whose members have represented tens of thousands of applicants, is well-positioned to collaborate and provide valuable assistance in navigating these challenges.

We are fully prepared to collaborate with government departments and other stakeholders to implement effective measures against unauthorized practitioners (UAPs) and support the development of a balanced and fair immigration system.

Sincerely,



Dory Jade, CEO
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