



## An Open Letter to Quebec media

The Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants (CAPIC) has been keenly following the political whirlwind surrounding Bill 9. At the time of writing, we still do not know whether Minister Jolin-Barrette will allow us to submit our position before the Parliamentary Committee.

Having already sent a brief to the Committee Secretariat that will be made public if we are not allowed to present it to members of parliament, we wish to let the public know that we support the Ombudsperson's commendations regarding the fair processing of 18,300 applications in the Quebec Skilled Worker Program.

More precisely, we have requested the following:

- That section 20 of Bill 9 be modified to ensure that the first subsection does not apply to applications submitted by individuals living in Quebec;
- That MIDI prioritize applications and process them without delay;
- That Section 20 second subsection of Bill 9 be modified to ensure that:
  1. reimbursement of the required fees paid by the applicant shall bear interest at a statutory rate;
  2. the cost of the linguistic test for those recognized by MIDI be reimbursed to applicants whose file has been deleted; and
  3. MIDI forward a letter to each principal applicant for the purposes of:
    - a. explaining the context of the file deletion;
    - b. giving the ministry the opportunity to apologize;
    - c. describing the process for a new application through ARRIMA, the application management system; and
    - d. returning all paper documents produced by the applicant in support of his or her previous immigration application.

As far as we are concerned, the optimal solution is to ensure that all our clients' applications are processed. This is not, for us, a matter of pecuniary interest, as most of the individuals with pending applications who retained a consultant have already paid the requisite fees.

Rather, our members are acutely aware of how disappointing the alternative is for their clients, who respected—in good faith—the regulations imposed on them by our society and who feel let down by the sudden changes to these regulations mid-course. We do not believe that such a process is exemplary of Quebec's fundamental values.

To this end, CAPIC proposes a series of mitigating measures for individuals whose CSQ applications are being processed at the preliminary review or additional documentation stage, including those who obtained a valid job offer from a Quebec employer.

Our brief also addresses other considerations aimed at improving the performance of the new Declaration of Interest system, the implementation of which we have steadfastly supported. CAPIC is the association that represents Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCICs),



providing them with information and professional development services. As a member association, CAPIC is distinct from the professional regulator, the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC), but collaborates with it when appropriate.

To practise immigration law in Quebec, immigration consultants must be members in good standing of the *Registre des consultants en immigration du Québec*, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministère de l'immigration, de la diversité et de l'inclusion (MIDI).