

Brian Hill and Jeff Semple, Global News 299 Queen St W, Toronto, ON M5V 2Z5

Re: "Arrest of immigration consultant sparks questions about why regulator didn't act sooner"

February 26, 2020

Dear Messrs. Hill and Semple,

This letter is regarding your article "Arrest of immigration consultant sparks questions about why regulator didn't act sooner" from February 25.

Please note that asking lawyers to comment on this issue introduces bias into the article, given the incorrect negative perception toward immigration consultants held by some lawyers. As competitors in the immigration field, I expect you would understand such comments may be directed. CAPIC is the professional association representing over 2,750 Canadian immigration consultants and as such, it behooves your organization to seek comment from CAPIC on immigration news articles especially those about immigration consultants.

CAPIC has urged the Minister of Immigration to proclaim the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants Act which extends enhanced power to the regulator for stronger consumer protection. A vote by immigration consultants held at their Special General meeting with the regulatory body, ICCRC, showed that over 80 percent were in favour of the continuance of the ICCRC under the College Act for improved regulation of the profession.

ICCRC does not have the necessary powers available as the provincial Law Societies to act promptly. However, the College Act empowers the immigration consulting regulator with similar powers.

Please amend your article with the information above to more accurately reflect the situation at hand.

Please see attached our letter to the Immigration Minister urging him to proclaim the College Act. You may also see the following link for an example of disciplinary action against a lawyer: https://www.canlii.org/en/on/onlst/doc/2020/2020onlsth24/2020onlsth24.html

For reference, immigration consultants are regulated like all professions in Canada. The College Act received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019 strengthening this regulation. Please see ICCRC's website for more information.

CAPIC condemns unethical immigration practices and malpractice. As before, we continue to support ethical conduct, consumer protection and increased competency in the immigration consulting industry.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. CAPIC is happy to provide comments for future articles. I can be reached at capic.ca

Sincerely,

Dory Jade, C.Dir CEO, CAPIC