

March 24, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P. Premier of Ontario Premier's Office Room 281 Legislative Building, Queen's Park Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

## **Dear Premier:**

We understand the current pandemic is presenting a serious challenge to our society. It is clear your government is already taking action to mitigate the pandemic's worst effects. Your continued urgent action to address the COVID-19 pandemic is much appreciated.

This letter is regarding your Government's declaration of the list of essential workplaces. We see that professional services providers, including lawyers and paralegals, have been declared essential. It is crucial to add immigration consultants to this list. Like immigration lawyers, immigration consultants are <u>authorized representatives as per federal law</u>.

Immigration consultants provide immigration services, including advice and authorized representation for individuals seeking genuine immigration to Canada. These individuals are often highly skilled and qualified, and are making positive economic, social and cultural contributions to Canada. Many are also fleeing harsh conditions in their country of origin to create a better life in Canada.

We also wish to draw your attention to the <u>case</u> of immigration consultant Tim Morson. Mr. Morson, a CAPIC member, helped save five French workers in Montreal from deportation to France-currently suffering from a large COVID-19 outbreak. This case shows that immigration consultants are engaged in essential, life-saving work. As such, we respectfully request that immigration consultants be added to the list of essential professions for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For reference, CAPIC is the professional association representing the interests of Canadian immigration consultants. We advocate for ethical conduct, consumer protection and competency in the immigration consulting industry.

Please feel free to reach out to us any time at <a href="mailto:communications@capic.ca">communications@capic.ca</a>.

Yours sincerely,

Dory Jade, CEO

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