



IMMIGRATION FRAUD PREVENTION GUIDE:

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

1. Understanding Immigration Fraud

Immigration fraud is a serious issue affecting individuals seeking to move to or stay in Canada. Scammers pose as licensed immigration consultants, employers, or government officials to steal money and personal information. Falling victim to fraud can result in financial loss, legal consequences, and even inadmissibility to Canada.

2. Common Immigration Scams & How to Avoid Them

✓ Unauthorized Practitioners (UAPs)

- **Red Flags:** Unlicensed individuals offering immigration services, no written contract, requests for cash payments.
- **Prevention:** Always verify a consultant's license on the [College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants \(CICC\) website](#).

✓ Job Offer Scams

- **Red Flags:** Fake job offers promising work permits or permanent residence, demands for upfront payments for job placement.
- **Prevention:** Legitimate employers do not charge candidates for job offers. Verify offers through official sources like Provincial Employment Standards offices.

✓ Phishing Emails & Fake IRCC Websites

- **Red Flags:** Emails, calls, or messages pretending to be from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and provincial immigration authorities asking for personal details or payment.
- **Prevention:** Always visit [Canada.ca](#) for official immigration information.

✓ Guaranteed Visa or Fast-Track Promises



- **Red Flags:** Beware of consultants who falsely claim to guarantee visa approval or expedite processing for a fee—this is a clear violation of professional standards. UAPs often make similar promises, putting you at risk. Stay informed and verify that your consultant is a licensed RCIC in good standing.
- **Prevention:** No one can guarantee visa approval. Processing times depend solely on IRCC.

✔ Fake Sponsorship & Family Reunification Scams

- **Red Flags:** Scammers posing as relatives or officials claiming they can speed up sponsorship applications for a fee.
- **Prevention:** Sponsorship applications follow strict IRCC guidelines. Always check the IRCC website for family class requirements and verify a representative's license on the CICC public register before hiring them. Confirm details with IRCC before making any payments.

3. How to Verify a Legitimate Immigration Consultant

Before hiring a consultant, follow these steps:

1. Check their license on the [CICC website](#).
2. Ask for a written contract detailing services and fees.
3. Verify their contact details—legitimate consultants operate through professional channels, not personal email or WhatsApp.
4. Be cautious of high fees and cash-only payments.

4. What to Do If You Encounter Immigration Fraud

📌 Report the scam to:

- Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre: www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca
- College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC) to report unlicensed consultants.
- Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for fraudulent applications.
- Local police if you have lost money or personal information.

5. Protect Yourself: Key Tips



- ✓ Only use registered immigration consultants, lawyers, or notaries for immigration matters.
- ✓ Never sign blank documents or provide false information.
- ✓ Avoid offers that seem too good to be true—they usually are.
- ✓ Stay informed about new immigration scams and fraud tactics.
- ✓ Educate friends and family to prevent them from falling victim.

For more information, visit www.canada.ca or consult a licensed immigration professional.

