
ABOUT CAPIC

Background

CAPIC-ACCPI is a voluntary association of professional immigration consultants in Canada. The Association grew out of the joining of the two earlier voluntary non-profit organizations both of whom were instrumental in advocating for a self-regulating body. After CSIC was established in 2004, negotiations commenced and, in 2005, the *Organization of Professional Immigration Consultants (OPIC)*, and the *Association of Immigration Council of Canada (AICC)*, amalgamated into the **Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants (CAPIC)**.

The foundation of the Association is its four pillars of Lobbying, Education, Information and Recognition. Membership has fluctuated between 400 and 600 since CSIC came on stream. The vast majority of its members are Certified Canadian Immigration Consultants and full members of CSIC. Most are also sole practitioners. Other categories of non-voting members are permitted as Associate members.

Activities

Members are spread across Canada and around the world. The national headquarters is in Toronto, with Chapter offices in Vancouver, the Prairies and Montreal. Activities include National and Chapter education activities with a concentration on government speakers, presenting member issues to the governments of Canada at forums such as CICIP, meetings with HRSDC, SC, CBSA and others, and national Annual General Meetings held in person and electronically to ensure all members can attend and participate.

From 2005 – 2008, CAPIC concentrated on education activities for members, lobbying the governments of Canada regarding immigration and refugee issues, providing up to date information on changes to assist members maintain competency, and help achieve recognition for our profession. Since early 2008, member issues related to the regulatory body, CSIC, have dominated the other functions of CAPIC because of their seriousness and effect on the livelihoods of our members. These issues have required an enormous amount of time, effort and CAPIC's resources to lobby CSIC, the Minister, MPs and Department officials about what was taking place. We continuously provided information and analysis to CAPIC and non-CAPIC members as well about CSIC initiatives. In addition, several CAPIC members felt it necessary to commence court proceedings against CSIC to seek remedies for what they believe were unauthorized uses of power by the regulatory body, all of which cases are still before the courts. Basic rights such as freedom of expression, freedom of association, respect for the Society's by-laws and democratic elections are the subject of the litigation.

This is all done on a shoestring budget with only one full-time and one part-time staff at the National office since mid-2009. Thousands of volunteer hours have been devoted to the Association by committed volunteer Directors and members across Canada and around the world. See: www.capic.ca. It is worth noting that we are primarily a member-funded organization, with some

contributions from our sponsors. CAPIC has no additional funds to retain professional legal counsel for this process.

Since June 8, 2010 we have embarked on a series of town hall meetings in various cities across the country to inform CSIC members about these events, and solicit input into this process and for our submission.