



Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants  
L'Association Canadienne des Conseillers Professionnels en Immigration

## *From the Bottom Up*

*A Newsletter for CSIC members about their issues.*

**Issue #233  
2010**

**JUNE 16,**

*Welcome to our Newsletter **From the Bottom Up**. Our articles and postings will cover immigration matters that affect your business and lives.*

*In this issue:*

## **A Fair Election?**

### **A Fair Election? You Be the Judge**

On Friday, June 11, after the close of business, CSIC posted the names of candidates for the two director positions open in the 2010 Board elections.

Voting starts June 24<sup>th</sup>, leaving eight short business days for candidates to campaign - in an organization of 1750 members spread throughout Canada and abroad. Absolutely no campaigning was permitted before the candidates were announced.

This election sees CSIC at a crossroads. The Minister has initiated the process to replace the organization, citing the lack of respect from its own membership, a lack of accountability and a lack of public confidence.

One would hope the existing Board, having smelled the coffee, would be anxious to find new leaders - perhaps to protect the members' assets during the transition period and ensure that any wind-down, if it eventually comes to that, is responsibly done in keeping with members' wishes.

Is the CSIC Board willing to hold free and fair elections this month? Will it allow members to openly and frankly engage in the critical issues of the Society? You be the Judge.

### **How the June 2010 Election at CSIC will work**

The Senior Elections Officer (SEO) is Mr Imran Qayyum, former Vice-Chair of CSIC who was defeated by the membership in the 2008 election. He remains in numerous appointed positions at CSIC, including Chair of CMI Inc.

Here are some key features of the campaign, summarized from the 47-page Election Policy and messages from Mr Qayyum:

1. Many voluntary leaders of the industry are not eligible to run, despite being in good standing. This is because, contrary to the By-laws, CSIC imposes many arbitrary rules on who can run. Barred are such industry leaders as Phil Mooney, Gerd Damitz, Rhonda Williams, Lynn Gaudet and Jeff Hemlin.
2. No candidate is allowed to address the membership on any member-run forum such as such as the Immigration Consultants' Listserv or the CAPIC website.
3. Candidates are not permitted to attend any meetings of members, unless the meeting is CSIC-approved. No candidate is permitted to attend any all-candidates in-person meetings. No candidate is permitted to attend any educational gathering of members that is not CSIC-approved.
4. Any candidate who is publicly endorsed by any member, or on any private industry forum, will be disqualified. Any candidate who posts a notice on a non-CSIC website will be disqualified.
5. Any candidate who posts messages to the membership without CSIC's pre-approval of the message will be disqualified.
6. CSIC will send three messages by email to the membership from each candidate. The messages must be pre-approved by CSIC. They may not contain any non-CSIC URL.
7. CSIC will organize 3 online forums for members to email questions to CSIC for vetting by the SEO. If CSIC approves, they will put the question to the candidate(s). No live question period will be held.
8. Any candidate who says anything unacceptable to the Board of CSIC may have a complaint brought against them under Rule 16 for "undermining the mandate and principles of the Society."
9. Two incumbents from the current board are running. Their

names are Alfred Wong and Nigel Thomson. On June 11, CSIC announced the names on the ballot will appear in reverse alphabetical order.

10. The two incumbents running, in the last several weeks, have been assigned by CSIC and CMI Inc to conduct education seminars in several locations across the country.

11. CSIC is providing a financial incentive for members to vote. Those who do will receive a 3% reduction in fees for 2010-2011.

There you have it ~ eleven principles on which CSIC will run its election. Perhaps it does not need eight days for such a "campaign" after all.

As can be seen, even while the unfairness of the 2009 election is still before the courts, the Board responded with even more restrictions. Perhaps such disregard for the legal rights of CSIC members guaranteed by s. 2 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to freely associate and freely speak to each other lies at the heart of the utter lack of public confidence in this Board the Minister is now poised to address.

**CAPIC: Lobbying - Information - Education - Recognition: For You!**

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