



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 #237  
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**JUNE 23,**

*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:*

## **Master of Our Own Destiny**

### **Masters of Our Own Destiny**

Recent rumblings among immigration consultants have raised the spectre that Minister Kenney's announcement of June 8th regarding CSIC might mean the end of self-regulation. Perhaps we would no longer be "masters in our own house" as one CSIC speaker put it.

But indeed the opposite is happening. The Minister is insisting that rank and file members of the profession become Masters of their own Destiny. We have been denied the privileges of self-governance under the leadership of CSIC because of the way the Board has chosen to operate. The Minister wants that to change and so do we. \

In every self-governing profession, when it is operating properly, practitioners truly are in charge of the fate of their profession. Their regulatory body is an organization they are proud to belong to, that serves their profession well because it genuinely ensures only the ethical and the competent can take money from the public for services. HOW it fulfils that mandate is up to the members, led by the Board. As the Minister recently reminded us, to earn the respect and confidence of its membership, the Board of the regulatory body must be transparent and accountable to the membership.

Routinely, members in a self-governing profession elect their directors in free and open elections. But that is not, as CSIC members are led to believe, the end of their engagement in the governance affairs of the Society. Members decide what issues they wish to discuss at the AGM, appoint representatives to work on the budgets and finances to ensure the wise use of members' funds,

discuss and approve the financial statements, call Special Meetings when major decisions or concerns arise, and remove any directors who are not unwilling to take direction from the membership.

Such a board has much incentive to welcome input from the membership. It consults. It addresses the members' concerns promptly, rationally and respectfully. It instils confidence in its decision-making processes by acting transparently, fairly, with integrity. It spends responsibly and is prepared to justify its decisions to members. Many boards, very proud of their activities, post their Minutes on line for members to read and understand what their directors are up to - members might want to buttonhole them with better ideas! Directors solicit feedback on issues coming up at the next Board meeting. Their directors generally serve without reward or promise of reward, and are happy to pass on the responsibility to others when the time comes.

In 2003, that is what the Government had in mind for CSIC - a self-governing profession. Immigration consultants were given the keys to their new home - they were in charge. It was theirs to decide HOW to run CSIC it so that consumers would be protected. But a strange thing happened on the road to self-governance. A stop-off was made at the Ivory Tower of Entitlement.

The Board of CSIC did not trust members to be the Masters of their Own Destiny. Only the Board knew best. They held closed door meetings, they did not consult on major decisions, nor get input on finances. They appointed members to committees without publicly saying who did what. They paid themselves hundreds of thousands while refusing to disclose how much each director made from what sources, or their expenses. They had \$29 million of members' money available. Members, far from being masters of their own destiny, were reduced to tenants or worse - subject to all the payments and penalties of being regulated, but without the routine rights and privileges of self-governance.

The Government is now poised to fix this, and install the rightful owners back. They have offered the profession a Fresh Start - a new chance at building the profession. Whereas the first start was a rented Ivory Tower on Bay Street, locked both physically and metaphorically to the membership, we hope the new organization will be more our style - perhaps a modest bungalow on a respectable street with open doors for members and open windows for fresh ideas to blow in. We would own it of course!

Ideas for the Better Regulator are now being collected and will be used by CAPIC to make its submission by July 2 on what our next phase should look like. Please send yours ASAP to: [TBR.ideas@capic.ca](mailto:TBR.ideas@capic.ca).

And please renew your membership in CAPIC or join now. We want to represent all immigration consultants and we need your help in making the Fresh Start a success. Thank you!

**Renew YOUR CAPIC MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY**  
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