



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 #218
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MAY 24,

*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:

An Open Letter to CSIC Members

Dear CSIC Members,

We are writing to inform all CSIC members of important developments affecting our profession.

This weekend, major news articles have appeared in the national media about pending changes to CSIC. These articles report that the Minister is planning to bring in a package of changes affecting immigration consultants before Parliament breaks for the summer.

You can read the *Canwest* article here: <http://www.capic.ca/index.php>.

The changes identified are very far-reaching. They include making "ghost-consulting" illegal, requiring applicants to identify any person they paid for advice, and strengthening the regulatory body.

Regarding CSIC, the stories report that Minister Kenney is contemplating replacing CSIC with a "more accountable organization with stronger investigative powers" to be modelled along the lines of the provincial law societies.

The short-term future...

We have no crystal ball, and we do not know precisely what will happen next, or when that will be. We do know that any significant change will likely come with both opportunities and anxieties.

CAPIC plans positive efforts to help move the profession through the next phase,

whatever it brings. We deserve a regulatory body that acts with integrity, transparency and accountability to its membership while protecting the consumer. Working together, we can build a profession we are all proud of.

In the coming weeks and months, we also want to insure that, whatever happens, we can keep CSIC members informed and advocate for the rights of the regulated members. Only CAPIC is in a unique position to do this. Indeed, we fear our rights and interests may be overlooked if we do not voice them strongly and consistently, as many other agencies may be involved now.

Time to band together

We need your help to do so. If you are not already a CAPIC member, we ask you to join now. Talk to your friends also about the need for us to pull together at this critical time.

CAPIC is an independent, democratic, transparent, voluntary voice for immigration consultants. Your concerns are our concerns!

With your support and a larger membership base, we can protect the interests of CSIC members more effectively, for example, if we need to hire professional advice. CAPIC believes that, through our actions, we have earned the respect of CSIC members as the voice of the profession.

We have many questions ourselves: If a new regulatory body is coming, how long will it take? What happens in the meantime, e.g. with the July instalment? What about assets of CSIC members: how can they be protected? What about those who paid fees in advance? There is an election coming...what does that mean now? What about CSIC's liabilities, are members possibly at risk??....the list goes on.

If you are not yet a member, now is the time to get on board! Membership is \$360/yr. For only \$1 a day you can be part of the largest independent consultant lobbying association offering practical benefits such as lower courier fees and invaluable professional opportunities including but not limited to local and national seminars. CAPIC is a strong voice for members when you need it most. CAPIC is the force behind consultant recognition, and has established a positive reputation and lines of communication with government at all levels. We can be **your** voice with government officials, the press and CSIC in these uncertain times.

CAPIC needs YOU now! Come and join your peers in the next phase of self-regulation.

We do not know if CSIC and CMI Inc will even continue to exist, but CAPIC is here to stay. Go to: <https://www.capic.ca/index.php?page=application>

Sincerely,
Peter Bernier,
President, CAPIC

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