

newsletter

ICCRC is the national regulatory body designated by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to regulate the immigration and citizenship consulting as well as the international student advising professions.

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icrcrc
IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS OF
CANADA REGULATORY COUNCIL
CRCIC
CONSEIL DE RÉGLEMENTATION DES
CONSULTANTS EN IMMIGRATION DU CANADA

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IMPORTANT DATES

March 1 – 31	Fraud Prevention Month
April 1	Quarterly fees due
April 29	Deadline to complete the Developing the RCIC and Client Relationship course

ATTRACTING NEWCOMERS TO CANADA'S FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE QUÉBEC

March 17, 2016 – Ottawa, ON – Attracting skilled francophone workers to Canada and encouraging them to settle in communities outside of Québec is the goal of a new International Mobility Program stream that will launch on the first day of June.

“We want francophone minority communities in Canada to continue to be vibrant and growing,” Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum said today. “That’s why we’re going to encourage skilled francophone workers to come to Canada and settle in communities outside of Québec, and we’re going to encourage them to apply for permanent residence if they would like to stay.”

Starting June 1, 2016, the Mobilité Francophone stream will exempt employers from the Labour Market Impact Assessment process when they hire francophone workers in managerial, professional and technical/skilled trades occupations from abroad to work in francophone communities outside Québec.

“Canada’s diversity is enriched by our francophone minority communities all across the country,” said Canadian Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly. “We want to see these communities flourish across Canada and immigration is strategic to preserving their vitality and prosperity.”

EVERY MARCH 20, THE WORLD CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LA FRANCOPHONIE

An estimated 1 billion people on five continents, among them 274 million Francophones, celebrate their shared language and the diversity of La Francophonie through plethora activities including word contests, shows, film festivals, literary encounters, gourmet get-togethers and art exhibits.

Canada’s involvement in La Francophonie highlights the country’s linguistic duality and its attachment to the shared values within La Francophonie. Participation in La Francophonie gives Canadians more opportunities to wield international influence in several areas, in language and culture, economics and new technologies, and international cooperation. It allows the rest of the world to appreciate truly Canada’s unique contribution to modernizing La Francophonie and making it receptive to diversity.

Source: Government of Canada



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA RELEASES ITS PLAN FOR 2016 IMMIGRATION LEVELS

March 8, 2016 – Ottawa, ON – The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, John McCallum, today announced that Canada will welcome a greater number of immigrants in 2016—with a special emphasis on family reunification.

The Government of Canada has an ambitious plan to bring in between 280,000 and 305,000 new permanent residents in 2016. As we continue to show our global leadership, Canada will reunite families, offer a place of refuge to those fleeing persecution, and support Canada’s long-term economic prosperity.

Through the Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration—which includes the 2016 immigration levels plan—the government outlined how it will increase levels of family class immigration, which will address the application backlog and reunite families more quickly.

The government will meet its commitments to welcome more refugees to Canada, and in the process, it will help diversify the Canadian economy and create sustainable growth.

Source: Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada

FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL IMMIGRATION MINISTERS MEET TO DISCUSS FUTURE IMMIGRATION PLANNING

March 14, 2016—Ottawa, ON—Federal, provincial and territorial ministers of immigration met today in Ottawa to talk about the future of immigration in Canada, review the recently tabled immigration levels plan and share experiences resettling and integrating Syrian refugees into their communities.

“The work to resettle and integrate Syrian refugees into our communities has just begun, and the provinces and territories are key partners in ensuring we do it successfully,” said Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum. “The opportunity to come together, hear about what is working and where the challenges are, will help us further improve services for refugees and all newcomers.”

Minister McCallum spoke to the higher levels of immigration in the 2016 levels plan. All ministers present committed to working together on multi-year levels planning going forward to ensure that future immigration levels reflect the importance of immigration to meet labour market and other needs. Ministers discussed a new Vision Action Plan, that will guide the improvement of immigration and settlement outcomes over the next three years.

“Our economies rely on immigration to stay strong and to grow. The initial phase of the Syrian refugee initiative shows what can be accomplished when governments work together. I look forward to continued collaboration as we develop a strategy to boost immigration and support economic growth,” said Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade and the co-chair of today’s meeting.

Ministers also discussed the importance of integrating immigrants in the labour market including the need to recognize foreign credentials. Ministers agreed to meet in the coming months to share best practices on the credential issue.

Under the Canada-Québec Accord relating to immigration and temporary admission of aliens, Québec fully assumes sole responsibility for establishing immigration levels and for the selection, francization and integration of immigrants. In areas under its responsibility, Québec develops its policies and programs, legislates, regulates and sets its own standards.

Saskatchewan attended and participated in the meetings and discussions. The Province is unable to comment publicly due to the current election.

Source: Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada

CANADA HAS WELCOMED 25,000 SYRIAN REFUGEES

February 29, 2016 – Ottawa, ON – Canada has now welcomed more than 25,000 Syrian refugees as part of the *#WelcomeRefugees* initiative.

The plan to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by the end of February 2016 has met the commitments of a quick and successful resettlement effort while not compromising security or health requirements.



With the arrival of these refugees, attention now turns to helping them successfully integrate into Canadian society. Syrian refugees have gone to communities where there are settlement supports in place, with consideration given to whether they have family members in Canada, as well as the availability of schools, and housing. "We have reached a significant milestone, but the work continues as we begin to integrate Syrian refugees into our communities," said John McCallum, Minister of Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada. "Canadians from coast to coast to coast will have a hand in welcoming, integrating and contributing to the success of our newest community members."

Privately sponsored refugees have gone to the community where their sponsor lives. In both cases, Syrian refugees will begin to access to settlement services over the next few months including language classes; employment services such as help finding jobs; professional mentorship programs and workshops that focus on the requirements for building a successful life in Canada and fully integrating into Canadian society.

This significant achievement was made possible by the efforts of multiple organizations including federal departments and agencies, the United Nations Refugee Agency, the International Organization for Migration, other international partners, the governments of Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, provincial and municipal governments, private sponsors, service provider organizations, donations from Corporate Canada and with broad support and generosity from Canadians. Canadian Minister of Democratic Institutions and Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Refugees, Maryam Monsef hailed the

achievement. "Welcoming 25,000 refugees in such a short period of time is a shining example of the welcoming spirit of Canadians who have taken on this initiative with open arms and open hearts," said the minister, herself a former refugee. "Throughout the country, we have seen communities – large and small – embrace newcomers as only Canadians could. This is making a tangible difference in the lives of so many."

The government's commitment to resettling Syrian refugees to Canada will continue in 2016 as both government-supported and privately sponsored Syrian refugees will continue to arrive on commercial flights in the months ahead. Approximately 8,500 more government-supported refugees are expected to arrive this year.

IRCC SUBMITS 2015 ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON IMMIGRATION

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Minister John McCallum submitted his department's 2015 Annual report to Parliament on Immigration. "I look forward to working with departmental officials, provincial and territorial partners, and stakeholders to build on the work and initiatives that the Government of Canada undertook in 2014–2015," said McCallum, who also outlined plans for the future. "As we look ahead, it is vitally important that immigration continues to be representative of Canada's compassion and humanitarianism. It is by finding a balance between compassion, efficiency and economic opportunity for all, and through diversity and humanitarianism, that immigration will continue to bring both economic and social rewards."

A full copy of the Annual report is viewable on IRCC website by clicking [here](#).

MEET HON. MICHAEL CHAN, ONTARIO'S MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP, IMMIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Michael Chan was first elected to the Ontario legislature as the MPP for Markham in a by-election in 2007. He was then elected as the MPP for Markham-Unionville in 2007, and re-elected in 2011 and 2014.

He is currently serving as Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade.

During his tenure at Queen's Park, Chan has also served as Minister of Revenue and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. In the latter role, he focused on enhancing Ontario's ability to attract jobs and skilled employees and worked to expand the province's bridge training programs that assist newcomers with economic integration.

Prior to embarking on his political career, Chan — who emigrated from Hong Kong more than 40 years ago and has lived in Markham since 1995 — owned and operated an insurance brokerage firm.



MEET HON. KATHLEEN WEIL, QUÉBEC'S MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

Kathleen Weil was admitted to the Québec Bar in 1983 after earning degrees in Civil and Common Law at McGill University in 1982. She also has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from the same university.



After having practiced law for a few years, she worked for numerous organizations both in the public and not-for-profit sectors. More recently, between 2000 and 2008, she held the position of President and CEO of the *Foundation of Greater Montreal*, a community foundation that develops and manages endowment funds to support charitable organizations in the areas of health, social services, education, environment, and arts and culture throughout the Greater Montreal region. Between 2005 and 2008 she directed the publication of *Vital Signs*, an annual report card on the socioeconomic health of Greater Montreal.

In the December 8, 2008 Québec General Election, she was elected Member of the National Assembly for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, becoming the first woman to hold this function in this southwest riding of Montreal. On December 18, 2008, she was appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Québec. In August 2010, she was named Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities. She was also a member of the Cabinet *Committees on social, educational and cultural development* and a member of the Cabinet *Committee on legislation*.

On September 4th, 2012 and on April 7th, 2014, she was re-elected MNA for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Over the years Kathleen Weil has sat on numerous boards working in the area of health and social services at the provincial, regional and national levels. She served as the President of the *Montreal Regional Board of Health and Social Services* (now called the *Montreal Health and Social Services Agency*), board member of this organization; chairperson of the *Conférence des régions régionales de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec*; vice-president of the Board of *Batshaw Youth and Family Centres* and member of the Board of the *Association des centres jeunesse du Québec*. She was also a member of the Board of the *Canadian Institute for Health Information* and a member of the *Advisory Council of the Montreal Children's Hospital*.

CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT ON IMMIGRATION

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce released a report examining why recruiting highly skilled international talent is at risk. Released in January 2016, a full copy can be viewed [here](#).

JOHN MCCALLUM ADDRESSES BOARD OF TRADE OF METROPOLITAN MONTREAL WITH ICCRC IN ATTENDANCE

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum addressed the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal on March 16. With Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, the local business community, and ICCRC in attendance at the luncheon event, McCallum spoke of Canada's renewed commitment to hosting, integration, and the success of Immigrants.

“At a time when the world is going through a major crisis and countries close their doors, Canada opens its doors to refugees,” said McCallum who emphasized that after successfully bringing 25, 000 refugees from Jordan and Lebanon, even bigger tasks exist. “This is why it is important to meet with the business community and make employment a priority.”

The minister stressed that future priorities will include restoring health coverage for refugees, repealing citizenship revocation for dual citizens, studying to restore the Francophone Significant Benefit special program, recognizing foreign credentials, and working on stronger mechanisms to allow international students to become permanent residents.



NOVA SCOTIA'S NEW BUSINESS IMMIGRATION STREAMS

Nova Scotia officially launched its two new business immigration streams on January 1st. The streams will attract international entrepreneurs and retain international graduates from provincial post-secondary institutions.

The Entrepreneur Stream aims to attract those who want to start or buy, and actively manage, a business in Nova Scotia. The International Graduate Entrepreneur Stream provides an immigration opportunity for students who have graduated from a Nova Scotia university or community college and have started their own business.

Once the new streams are fully operational, Nova Scotia expects to nominate 40-50 applicants per year as permanent residents.

ICCRC TO ATTEND MONTREAL'S SALON DE L'IMMIGRATION ET DE L'INTÉGRATION AU QUÉBEC

On May 25 and 26, ICCRC will attend Montreal's annual immigration and settlement fair. ICCRC will be present to further enhance its visibility and inform the public of its mandate and the laws surrounding immigration and citizenship consulting in Canada. Almost 180 organizations, businesses and government departments will welcome an estimated 10,000 visitors and provide advice on issues related to settlement including employment, training, entrepreneurship, and housing.

ICCRC encourages its membership to attend and connect with exhibitors and visitors. More information on the event can be found at www.salonimmigration.com.

ICCRC UPDATES CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

ICCRC's Board of Directors recently approved updates to the Council's *Code of Professional Ethics*, which sets standards of conduct for Members.

The purpose of the Code is also to provide enforcement mechanisms to protect public from unethical or incompetent practice by Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants. "The updates to the *Code of Professional Ethics* further demonstrates ICCRC's commitment to protecting the public through strict yet fair regulation of immigration consultants," said Christopher Barry, interim President and CEO. "Quality of service, advising clients, duty to remain confidential, and other aspects of the Code are in place to further enhance the good work of our immigration consultants and also underscore our resolve to become an even better regulator."

This Code is binding to all Members. Members who fail to comply with this Code will be subject to disciplinary proceedings. A complete copy of the Code is available on ICCRC's website, viewable [here](#).

ICCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFIRMS ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCES

At ICCRC's Annual General Meeting in November 2015, the Board of Directors committed to establishing two task forces. They announced at the last board meeting that the task forces have been struck.

"Members have requested that we look into opportunities to strengthen the profession," said Christopher Barry, interim President and CEO. "We are all collectively committed to building our credibility in the market place and these two studies that we will be undertaking will be invaluable." The first will examine the feasibility of establishing a specialist standard for an RCIC, and the second will determine the feasibility to make practical experience an additional mandatory requirement to becoming a member.

The task forces, comprising of Board members and volunteers, will report their findings to the Board of Directors in 2017.

REMINDERS TO MEMBERS

PLEASE USE "RCIC" DESIGNATION PROPERLY

The Council has noticed that some Members have been using titles other than *Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant*, including *Certified, Accredited, Registered, Licensed Canadian Immigration Consultant or Immigration Counsel*.

In the interest of avoiding confusion for consumers and in safeguarding the profession, we ask that you only use the official title, "Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant", and professional designation, RCIC, on your websites, business cards, email correspondences and any marketing collateral.

Since RCIC is a professional designation, we encourage all Members to include it as a post-nominal after their names. For example, **Jane Doe, RCIC**.

DO NOT POST ICCRC I.D. CARDS AND CERTIFICATES ONLINE

Posting copies of ICCRC membership certificates and identification cards online is strictly prohibited.

ICCRC has witnessed an increase the misuse of certificates and identifications and reminds members to be vigilant of fraud. We recommend that they are removed as soon as possible.

Stay in Touch



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