

PRESS RELEASE

- For immediate release -

IMMIGRATION CONSULTING REGULATOR RESPONDS TO SENTENCING OF UNAUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Burlington (ON) – June 10, 2014 – The Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC) notes the one-year jail sentence and three years' probation imposed on Sergiy Gedeonov of Ottawa for violations of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)*. IRPA requires anyone providing immigration advice for compensation to be a member of the ICCRC or other authorized representative. The ICCRC hopes that this significant sentence serves notice to others that such illegal business operations will not be tolerated by the Canadian judicial system. In the sentencing, the judge referred to a Community Impact Statement submitted by ICCRC which highlighted how conduct like Mr. Gedeonov's harms consumers.

The ICCRC is the national regulatory authority designated by the government of Canada to safeguard consumers who seek and retain the services of immigration consultants. Prior to entering the immigration consulting profession, candidates for membership in the ICCRC must complete an ICCRC-accredited education program at a designated post-secondary institution, pass an entry-to-practice exam, and show good character and conduct. Once admitted to membership of the ICCRC and so licensed to be a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC), ICCRC members must complete a series of mandatory Practice Management Education courses and a minimum 16 hours of Continuing Professional Development each year. RCICs must also participate in an annual Compliance Audit to ensure that they meet the requirements of ICCRC Regulations and its *Code of Professional Ethics*, and must carry Errors and Omissions insurance. The ICCRC also operates a robust complaints and discipline process through which it protects the public from practices of its members that are in violation of its Code. Further information about the ICCRC may be found at www.iccrc-crcic.ca.

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