



Building Bridges not Barriers
Launch of the Foreign Credentials Referral Office
24 May 2007

The Canadian Network of National Associations of Regulators (CNNAR) welcomes this new initiative. The Department of Citizenship and Immigration under the leadership of the Honourable Diane Finley has announced an enlightening policy that will strengthen Canada's economy in years to come.

Internationally educated professionals seeking to achieve their full potential within Canada follow a very complex pathway from their country of origin. By lighting the pathway, those who are guided will be assured of reaching their destination more efficiently. The Canadian economy and its regulated professions will be strengthened. CNNAR is pleased to partner with the Federal Government in the building of bridges and not barriers for internationally educated professionals.

The CNNAR website states: "Regulators must have frameworks in place that maintain public protection. At the same time, people seeking to work in a regulated profession must be provided with the best opportunity to achieve their full potential. That is why it is essential that tools and resources be available to assist with the regulatory process and integration into the Canadian workforce. We all need to make a sustained commitment to support those seeking recognition into the Canadian workforce."

CNNAR is the federation of national organizations whose provincial and territorial members are identified in legislation as responsible for protection of the public through the self-regulation of professions and occupations. CNNAR has developed 6 bridge-building principles related to the recognition of professional qualifications to work in a regulated profession in Canada. They are:

1. Public protection – the needs of the Canadian public are met through a workforce that has the appropriate skills and knowledge while maintaining the protection of the public.
2. Consistency - recognition of qualifications of people who wish to work in a regulated profession in Canada should be consistent and/or substantially equivalent across Canada.
3. Fairness and access – the process of recognition should be fair, timely, predictable and transparent.
4. Competencies and credentials – Recognition of qualifications should include recognition of competencies and relevant experience as well as educational credentials.
5. Disclosure – People are entitled to information on Canada's employment policies and applicable regulatory requirements. This information should be available to them prior to coming to Canada.
6. Multiple responsibilities and collaboration – Successful integration requires collaboration amongst numerous parties, such as, governments, employers, immigrant agencies, regulatory bodies and educators.

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