

**Memorandum Presented by the Quebec Immigration Lawyers  
Association**

**AQAADI**

*On the Recognition of the experience and abilities acquired abroad by  
immigrants, within the scope of the revised pan Canadian hearings of the  
permanent Committee on Citizenship and Immigration of the House of  
Commons*

**April 2005**

## **PREFACE**

AQAADI is a non profitable organisation founded in 1992 and formed of Lawyers, members in good standing of the Quebec Bar and experts in immigration matters; whether in business immigration or refugee protection. The scope of our mandate is to represent our members' best interests, but also to make sure that the Federal and Provincial immigration programs are strong, equitable and reach the Canadians' goals.

## **Recognition of the experience and abilities acquired abroad by immigrants.**

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AQAADI submits that the problem gravitates mainly at the level of the openness of professional associations to the insertion of foreigners in light of the standards applicable to individuals with training that meets the provincial criteria established by the given professional association.

AQAADI postulates that it is imperative, at the Federal level, to see to it that candidates for permanent residence in Canada are duly informed of the practical realities specific to their project of immigration to Canada.

It is thus essential to inform potential candidates of the conditions accruing to the labour market at the pan Canadian level – with the potentiality of counselling in this matter.

AQAADI also proposes setting up a list of professions in demand in order to enhance the value of professions that should by nature immediately benefit the whole nation in order to meet the crying needs at the level of qualified manpower. ADAADI postulates and recommends the processing by priority of the cases coming from the category of professions in demand to be set up, in order to favour immigration that is often discouraged by the delays specific to the processing of requests.

Taking into account and considering the particular problems related to the integration of the qualified newcomers in the Canadian labour market, AQAADI recommends to the Government to set up work programs allowing newly admitted candidates, who cannot work in their area of abilities because of constraints specific to standards of provincial jurisdictions accruing to professional associations, in a way to allow the candidates to work in an area related to the one in which they were trained during the period of the proficiency internship required of the candidate by a given professional association.

Then would take place the setting up of a work subsidy program motivating the companies desiring to hire a foreign candidate during the required period of training allowing the said candidate to obtain the necessary equivalencies to his or her admission within a given professional or trade association while maintaining a decent quality of life.

The situation of the qualified newcomers is a great preoccupation for AQAADI, who recognises otherwise the limited character of Federal authorities in the matter of access to professions governed by a professional association.

The first step of the human management of the Canadian immigration program implies that the pertinent information for making an enlightened decision by any qualified person that could be governed by a professional association of provincial jurisdiction be conveyed. The measures that are now in place are insufficient in so far as practice reveals that, too often, qualified candidates admitted to Canada come face to face with the impossibility of working in their area of specialisation in this country and must content themselves with jobs of lesser scale denying all recognition of past experiences.

An awareness campaign should therefore be launched, which should allow candidates to evaluate the extent of the processes to accomplish before being able to exercise their profession or trade in Canada.

**BY : ASSOCIATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES AVOCATES ET AVOCATS EN DROIT DE L'IMMIGRATION**

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