

Welcome to the Immigration Education Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1, April 6, 2018

News



Welcome to the first edition of the Immigration Education Newsletter. This has been something I've been working on for a while now, as a project to centralize all immigration education opportunities.

Everything in this issue is new, but this spot is where you will find highlights of what is new in the immigration education world.

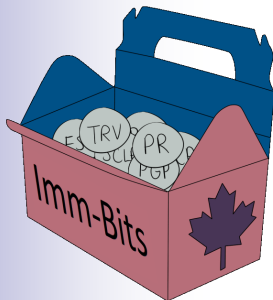
I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I enjoyed creating it.

If someone passed this link on to you and you wish to receive notification of this email, please sign up here:

~Robyn Jones, Editor

[Sign Up Here](#)

Introducing Imm-Bits



Have you ever wanted to know what the Immigration medical codes mean? How about determining which Designated Learning Institutions are eligible for Post Graduate Work Permits?

Join me daily at 3 PM Pacific time, beginning on April 9, 2018 to find out these answers and more.

You can join me by joining the Imm-Bits Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/567623386947838/>

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Name the Newsletter Contest

We need a super cool name for our newsletter. If you have an awesome idea for a name, email us at

newsletter@atpeducation.ca

Contest closes on April 30, 2018





Identity Theft: when the flattery of imitation fades to fraud

How to protect your good name from copycat fraudsters

Hopefully, this is a story you will never wake up to. You open your email, and someone in Nigeria or the Philippines is asking you where their work visa is. They sent you \$3000 and haven't heard from you in weeks. This is the first time you have ever heard from them, and you know they are not your client. You ask what they are talking about, and they send you emails of ads that show your name, your company name, and even a website that looks eerily like yours ... except the contact information is not yours. This is our story for the past several years, as the body count of the scammers victims rise daily!

This is a warning that we have posted on our website now, on the Home Page of our website, with a link to the article.

" Immigration Fraud Victim Alert! A copycat fake company is using our name in Nigeria and elsewhere. They have stolen our identity – company name posing as us. They are selling programs that do not exist, and worthless paper visas, as we have seen in the many complaints from their victims.

Check their emails and address, compared to our contact details listed on our website

www.immigrationservices.ca They have altered address and phone numbers ever so slightly, and are using WhatsApp which we do not use. They have copied everything except our good name.

One scammer even registered <http://ferreirawells.com> has copied the main part of our company name, and registered this domain.

One man even told us in tears he sold his car, and gave the money to the local person ... never to be seen again.

We urge you to report this to the local police and authorities, and to the local Canadian Immigration officials at the Canadian Embassy, and strongly consider referring the matter to a lawyer near you as well to demand they return all monies paid to you. Tell ALL of your friends not to deal with these fraud scammers. You have been cheated!

Immigration Fraud Alert related to Job Offers, Work Permits and LMIA's: if you were looking for a Work Permit, job offers, proceed with extreme caution – this is where the highest amount of fraud happens worldwide.

Beware of immigration firms that say they can find you employment and get you a job offer, Work Permit and LMIA. Virtually none of the offers are genuine. There is an extremely high degree of fraud in this area of immigration practice, you may be taken advantage of and lose all your money."

What steps can you take to prevent your good name and brand from being damaged? The **first step** is to make a regular practice of doing Google Searches on your own personal name, and on your company name. You will also see reviews of your company, and any articles that you are quoted in, including news press releases. Go deep many pages until you see there is no related

references to you. In one of these reviews, we discovered an immigration lawyer in Toronto had copied all of our website! The entire site! How did we discover this? He copied our client testimonial letters as well, and forgot to remove the Ferreira-Wells references in the thank you reviews!

Secondly, you need to post a similar fraud warning as we have on your website, citing the examples of the copycat culprits. Have a template letter ready to send to any victims who contact you. Urge them to take the matter up with local authorities. While you will be indignant, it is beyond your reach to do anything helpful to rescue them.

Thirdly, be ready to notify the closest Canadian Embassy of what has been going on. We did this with several in Africa, and in London, where someone has been posing as Bruce Ferreira-Wells for years, and has an untraceable satellite cellphone, eliciting payments from his victims via Western Union.

Lastly, if you get any concrete leads on names, addresses, cellphones, physical addresses, links to ads and websites, or bank wire transfer account details, those are invaluable to be able to compile and send on with a victim statement to CBSA and the RCMP Fraud Investigation Units.

David is **Managing Director, Senior Counsel** at **Ferreira-Wells Immigration Services**, a boutique immigration practice in midtown Toronto. David is a High Honors Graduate of Seneca College's Immigration Practitioner Program, and a Member of the Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants. He has been in practice since 2002, having joined an already well-established firm founded by **Bruce Ferreira-Wells**, a former CIC immigration and citizenship officer. In April 2004, they were among the first hundred registrants listed with the former regulatory body Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants – CSIC and is now a member of the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council – ICCRC. He is a specialist in Family, Economic Class, Business applications, refugee and H&C clients, Appeals and Admissibility at immigration tribunals, prepares all of our final submissions, and responds to all challenges from Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada IRCC. A former banker and National Credit – Customer Service Manager with Fortune 500 corporations, David is the firm's Managing Director and senior counsel, and oversees our staff and daily business operations. He has taught classes at Seneca in the Professional Practice Management module and is a founding member of the PeerHelp Immigration Consultant's Listserv, a professional forum established in 2004 dedicated to the advancement of Immigration Consultant's Continuing Professional Development. He has shared his expertise in decades of contract drafting garnered in legal and credit management roles with colleagues as a keynote speaker at CAPIC's annual conference presenting on Retainer Agreements, showing Counsel how they can protect themselves from sharp clients.

Upcoming Continuing Professional Development Courses

Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants



Upcoming Seminars

- April 13: Full Skills Exam Prep Course
- April 18: The POE Workshop
- April 19: Status or No Status: That is the Question. What is the Answer?

Recorded Seminars

- Case Law: How to Find, Read and Use! Valid to April 23.
- Are You Inadmissible? Criminal Inadmissibility, TRPs and Rehab! Valid to April 29
- Prairie PNP Perspective. Valid to May 28
- The C Series Work Permit Toolkit (C10-C13) Valid to June 17
- Owner Operator or Self-Employed Pathways. Valid to June 19

Sign up for CAPIC seminars at
<http://capic.ca/>

ImmSeminars



Upcoming Seminars

- April 9: How Fair Is It? Responding to Procedural Fairness Letters. Review of Federal Court Process
- April 18: What International students need to know, and don't. When can they work? Important Immigration Highlights for International Students Transitioning from Secondary to Post-Secondary Studies

Recorded Seminars

- Just the Basics! Express Entry 101. Valid to May 28
- Temporarily Yours — Work Permit Applications for TFWs. Valid to June 8
- Proclamation of Ontario Immigration Provincial Nominee Program. What's New? Valid to June 10
- Avoid Boomerang Files! Send it right the first time! Valid to June 23
- Inside Out—CPC Vegreville Tips and Tricks. Valid to June 23

Sign up for ImmSeminars at
<http://immseminars.com/>

If you have training or seminars you wish to showcase here, please contact us at
newsletter@atpeducation.ca

Things You Should Know

Robyn Jones, RCIC



The Oft Overlooked ICCRC Regulations

Most of us know that we are regulated by the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council, but a good many of us really have no idea what that means.

I had a vague idea when I started practicing as an RCIC, but it was really only within the last six months that I got any kind of handle on what it means to be a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant.

How many of us took our Practice Management courses, almost as an afterthought, only thinking about those details whenever we are required to do our compliance audits?

I'll be honest here. I almost totally forgot about my PME in my first year, and remembered, probably with a prompting email from ICCRC that I still had to do my first PME within the first 6 months of being licensed. I very quickly registered for the rest of the available courses, took most of them within about a month and a half, and promptly forgot about them.

I would say it's a very good thing I had a friend who passed on to me sample documents that met the regulatory requirements, and the fact that my personal code of ethics is often more strict than the ICCRC Professional Code of Ethics, that I didn't lose my licence within that first year. At the time, I was not connected with any other RCICs except those I'd met through my course at Ashton, and those who I'd met and stayed connected with through the PMEs themselves.



Since joining the forums, becoming an instructor for immigration practitioners, and becoming something of a role model for other consultants, I now find myself frequently referring back to the ICCRC Code of Ethics and the Regulations that surround our ability to practice.

It constantly surprises me now, that some of the simplest things by which we are bound are overlooked. Things like using the proper ICCRC logo on our websites and business cards; the fact that we must be identifiable on our advertising; or that we should be held to the highest standard when dealing with our clients, other RCICs, IRCC, ICCRC, CAPIC etc.

Those things should be second nature to us by the time we've completed our first year of licensing, and yet, they are not always. As such, as part of this newsletter, We will be releasing an article on the last issue of the month that pertains to ICCRC regulation, just as a refresher.

I know this will be of value to all consultants, not just new and student consultants.

ICCRC-CRCIC

Robyn is **Director of Operations and Senior RCIC at Atlantic to Pacific Immigration and Citizenship Consulting, Nanaimo, BC**. Robyn is an Honours graduate of Ashton College Immigration Practitioner Program, a Member of the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council and a Member of the Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants. Robyn has over twenty-five years of immigration experience, as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, and as a former Immigration Officer, and currently provides training opportunities through speaking for Continuing Professional Development seminars with several CPD providers, and as an instructor with the Immigration: Laws, Policies and Procedures program through the University of British Columbia. She freely offers her time when she can in promoting the immigration profession by mentoring and providing training opportunities to other consultants and students of the IPP programs across Canada. Robyn is an expert in all temporary resident applications and sponsorship permanent resident applications, and has considerable experience in several other application types. Robyn is not only, a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, but also acts as a consultant for an American Immigration firm. There are many plans in the works for Robyn this year, including the release of the new Immigrants segments (please see page 1 for details)

Robyn is a founding Circle Director of Heartpreneur® Circles for Vancouver and is a Heartpreneur® Circle Leader for the Nanaimo Chapter. Robyn loves to travel and is a master textile designer in her spare time. She is experienced in computer technical support and is currently learning American Sign Language. Robyn has always thought of herself as a "scientist at heart", having taken numerous science-based University courses for enjoyment, and finds she has a talent for legal issues.

Have an idea for an article? Want to write for us? Please contact us at newsletter@atpeducation.ca

CPC Vegreville Closure

Robyn Jones



The Pros and Cons



Most of us are aware of the impending relocation of the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta to Edmonton, Alberta.

There are many reasons why the relocation of this facility is a very bad idea, and I do recognize that not only is this my opinion, it is also that I have a vested interest in what happens in this community.

Looking at the situation objectively, however, there are a number of reasons to look at why the relocation is not beneficial to anyone involved:

- ⇒ CPCV is the largest employer in the region, and moving that number of jobs (roughly 5.6% of the population), out of that region would be the equivalent of moving 55,000 jobs out of the City of Edmonton or nearly 153,000 jobs from the City of Toronto. The addition of 280 jobs, give or take 20 jobs is negligible for the City of Edmonton.
- ⇒ The Federal Government originally indicated that all employees would be offered jobs and the reason for the relocation was due to a business case that had been presented, and it was due to the government's mandate to be fiscally responsible that the decision would not be rescinded. It was later revealed that not all employees would be offered positions and no business case was presented. It was also revealed that it would cost much more to move the operation than to leave it where it was.
- ⇒ Employees offered transfers face either full relocation or commuting. There is no public transportation between Vegreville and Edmonton. The cost of living in Edmonton is up to three times what it is in Vegreville, and with so many properties for sale in Vegreville with diminishing job opportunities, the values will be reduced. Most people will not have the means to purchase properties in Edmonton, and rental properties are expensive. Commuters face a (roughly) 110 km drive, partly of which is a drive through to the city core during rush hour. During good weather, employees will face roughly three hours of driving daily. During winter, they could be facing up to 5 hours of driving daily. Commuters will also be paying several hundred dollars per month in parking fees if parking downtown, and there will be no salary increases for this situation.
- ⇒ Reduced take-home income, stress of commuting or higher costs of living, will impact processing times and the function of the new office.

- ⇒ The physical move to Vegreville took a long time (years) to resolve. The move of physical files, development of work-flow processes and establishment for relocated employees caused processing delays for many of the same reasons the current employees will likely face with the current proposed move.
- ⇒ There are already many officers who will not be moving with the relocation. This means that there will be a shortage of officers. Typically competitions take a very long time—some as long as two years to resolve, so we can't expect the numbers of officers to increase quickly. Additionally, the time it takes to train immigration officers is extensive, so even when officers are offered positions, between training and quality control, it will be even longer before the new officers are up to speed in actual processing.

The neutral factors here are:

- ⇒ Easier recruitment: there has never been a recruitment issue at CPC Vegreville with the exception of one area which I will discuss coming up.
- ⇒ Convenience for clients: As the Centre is and is expected to remain a mail-in Centre, this has little impact on processing for clients, except in the negative aspects that could affect processing times.

There are pros to the move.

- ⇒ The ability to recruit bilingual staff. Vegreville is not a community with large volumes of bilingual residents, and many bilingual staff were put into the position to choose to relocate or commute, and may did commute. The difference, here, is that the percentages of bilingual staff are quite small for the needs of the office. Additionally there were actions that could have been considered that would have accommodated both groups: People who preferred to be in the Edmonton area, mostly bilingual staff, and those who preferred to remain in Vegreville, mostly English only staff. None of these options were ever considered.
- ⇒ The final pro really affects us as immigration professionals. There are going to be around 50 immigration officers who will not be relocating. Many of them have decades of experience and yet, do not wish to undertake an RCIC license. This means that we have a potential market of very experienced talent where we can tap into that experience if we are willing to consider allowing employees to work re-

I will be conducting a job fair in Vegreville in either April or May, 2018 in order to hire for several initiatives, I am planning for the second half of 2018. If anyone is interested in considering employing a former CPC Vegreville employee, I will be pleased to facilitate this. If anyone is interested in considering this as well, please contact me at promotions@atpeducation.ca

Classifieds



In today's economy, businesses require an ecosystem and not simply old networking or lead generation strategies. Heartpreneur® LLC is a community based, chapter driven, networked/ecosystem. It is a business development hybrid Chapter-Based Model, which provides experienced business owners with the only global community dedicated to and exclusively for like-minded heart-based business owners that use the Turbo Charge Heart-centric business model.

Heart-centric is a self and business management practice for running a heart-based, honest,

accountable, transparent, and responsive company. In addition to unparalleled business growth, Heart-repreneurs transform the global business environment, value and respect all aspects of the value matrix from clients to employees, vendors, colleagues and partners.

By empowering individuals, teams, and organizations to make meaningful decisions that drive change the **Heart-centric** practice unleashes an organization's untapped power, turbo charging creativity, and productivity to pursue its purpose and change how business is done in the world while supporting and growing revenues and profits.

Our goal with this model is

to move beyond the marginal networking, lead generator or referral based chapter models and excel into a hybrid chapter model that grows with us and provides a multi-level support system that helps chapter members do more than just generate a lead or prospect.

The chapter model that supports, educates, generates, and creates business opportunities that help business owners thrive... Welcome to Heartpreneur®.

To find out if there is a chapter in your are or to indicate an expression of interest, please email: heartpreneur@atpeducation.ca

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