



## Greetings from the FRPA Review Office!

As the end of 2017 approaches, we are ready to launch Phase 2 of the FRPA legislative review and program evaluation. In conducting a legislative review of the Act and evaluation of the processes that support its implementation, we aim to: determine whether implementation of the FRPA has fulfilled its intended purpose and is producing effective and efficient results; assess the impact of the FRPA on registration practices; and evaluate behavioral changes stemming from implementation of the FRPA. Through the evaluation, we hope to demonstrate that Nova Scotia's Fair-Access regime is working to improve regulatory bodies' registration and learning recognition practices, support workforce integration and grow the economy. Additionally, ongoing improvements made to the FRPA web application, particularly around the sharing of resources and best practices, will provide us with a platform from which to highlight practices that are both commendable and transferable to other regulated professions and enable regulators to share their own successes.

## FRPA Breakfast Meetings

The next FRPA Breakfast Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018, from 8-10:30am at the Best Western Chocolate Lake Hotel.

At the meeting a presentation will be delivered on Exceptions to Labour Mobility under Article 707 of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement. Our aim is to provide clarity to regulators on what requirements need to be demonstrated for an exception to labour mobility under Chapter 7 of the CFTA, and the Province of Nova Scotia's internal process for the recommendation and approval of exceptions. A review of best practices for non-material requirements will also outline guiding principles for requesting information from labour mobility applicants during the certification process. We will also present a summary of the Emerging and Best Practices Conference which was held in Halifax on October 2, 2017. The key themes and trends around challenges in improving foreign qualification recognition at a Pan-Canadian level will be explored and how jurisdictions are addressing these barriers with the identified emerging and best practices.

**Please RSVP** and communicate dietary concerns to Guifang Liu, FRPA Coordinator: [guifang.liu@novascotia.ca](mailto:guifang.liu@novascotia.ca)

## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Update

The province's 2nd Recognition of Prior Learning Symposium "Making Sense of Today's Labour Force and Framing it for the Future" took place on Nov. 21-22 at the Akerley Campus of NSCC. More than 140 participants explored how RPL can be used to address labour market, human capital and economic development challenges facing Nova Scotia. Keynote speaker Dr. Michael Bloom, formerly with the Conference Board of Canada, shared insights from the *Brain Gain Report: The Economic Benefits of Recognizing Learning and Learning Credentials in Canada*, which concluded that "Canada could gain \$13 to \$17 billion annually through better employed human capital resulting from enhanced learning recognition". The RPL Symposium highlighted how RPL tools and processes are being used in Nova Scotia to address labour shortages and support the entry and advancement of individuals in training/education and in the Nova Scotia labour force. To access the conference proceedings, follow this link: <http://www.rplsymposium.ca/>

For information about upcoming RPL initiatives, or to find out how your organization can benefit from the RPL Funding Program, contact Maggie Hope-Simpson, RPL Coordinator, at [Maggie.Hope-Simpson@novascotia.ca](mailto:Maggie.Hope-Simpson@novascotia.ca).

## Upcoming Events

The tabling of the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region 1997 (commonly known as the Lisbon Recognition Convention LRC) in the House of Commons occurred on Oct. 31, 2017. The instrument of ratification is expected to be sent to UNESCO and the Council of Europe soon. Please visit [cicic.ca](http://cicic.ca) for more information.



The ARUCC Groningen and Student Mobility Project is a game-changer. The project vision is to advance national and international student mobility by creating a national data exchange network for Canada, which supports students by providing their transcripts and credentials in a digitized format. Visit the [Project website](#) for more information.



The Medical Council of Canada is phasing out of the MCCQE. Starting in 2019, MCCQE Part I will be delivered in Canada and internationally. For more information please visit [mcc.ca](http://mcc.ca).

## Multi-stakeholder Work Group Update

This fall has been a busy time with almost all the multi-stakeholder work groups convening for roundtable discussions. There are now work groups in the following professions: Architecture, Dietitians, Dental Professions, Engineering, Finance/Accounting, Law, Medical Lab Technology, Nursing, Medicine, Pharmacy, Respiratory Therapy, Social Work and Teaching.

In between meetings, the work continues as stakeholders follow up on action items. Current highlights include a Bridge to Social Work project, as well as new initiatives in Medicine which promise to provide new opportunities for International Medical Graduates.

At work group tables, we've also heard from national stakeholders. In November, Deborah Wolfe, the Managing Director of the National Committee on Accreditation, delivered a presentation on its recent program review. In addition to this national involvement, several work groups include stakeholders from other provinces, particularly in Atlantic Canada. With our relatively small numbers, we are always exploring opportunities for this kind of regional collaboration.

**For more information, contact: Jan Sheppard Kutcher, at 902-424-4637 or [jan.sheppardkutcher@novascotia.ca](mailto:jan.sheppardkutcher@novascotia.ca).**

## Action Items

- **The 2017 FRPA Annual Data Survey is scheduled to launch in the new year on January 4 and submissions are due by February 15, 2018.** Please follow the link below to access the survey: <http://frpa.novascotia.ca/>.
- **The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Funding Program Call for Proposals remains open for 2017-2018. For more information, contact [Maggie.Hope-Simpson@novascotia.ca](mailto:Maggie.Hope-Simpson@novascotia.ca) or visit: <http://novascotia.ca/lae/RplLabourMobility/>**

## FRPA Ad Hoc Advisory Work Group

### Regulatory Body Representation

- Kara MacGregor, Principal, MAC Interior Design
- Jaqueline Mullenger, Director, Education & Credentials, Nova Scotia Barrister's Society
- Ebenezer Annan, Manager, Programs, Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency
- Jeremy Brown, Registrar/Director, Teacher Certification
- Cathy Rose, College of Registered Nurses, Policy Consultant
- Martin Gillis, Registrar, Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia
- Patti Towler, CEO/Chief Legal Officer, Chartered Professional Accountants of Nova Scotia
- Dana Sharkey, Executive Director, Cosmetology Association of Nova Scotia
- Bruce Holmes, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network
- Frank Richardson, Registrar, Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association

### Government Representation

- Diane Gordon, Manager, RPL & LM Unit, LAE
- Rachel Henderson, Director of Strategic Policy and External Relations, Nova Scotia Office of Immigration
- Michelle MacDonald, Senior Legislative Policy Analyst, Department of Health and Wellness
- Cara Spittal, FRPA Review Officer, LAE

## Learning & Development

The quarterly economic forecast – Canadian Outlook Executive Summary: Autumn 2017 has been published on the Conference Board of Canada website. This document highlights of the Canadian Outlook report which presents the short-term national outlook. For detailed information, please visit [here](#).



The Atlantic Research Group has published new literature on Immigrants in Canada and Atlantic Canada's labour force, which examines employment and wages by skill levels from 2006-2016. Over this ten-year period, the labour force composition of immigrants has increased in Atlantic Canada, but far less than increases made in the rest of Canada. Click [here](#) to read more!

## Links

- [FRPA Review Office](#)
- [RPL and Labour Mobility Unit](#)
- [Forum of Labour Market Ministers \(FLMM\)](#)
- [Multi-stakeholder Work Groups Initiative](#)
- [Nova Scotia Office of Immigration \(NSOI\)](#)
- [Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia \(ISANS\)](#)
- [Nova Scotia START](#)
- [Careers Nova Scotia](#)

## Contact

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