

An ICCAR Atlantic approach



NB/N-B



NL/Y-N-L

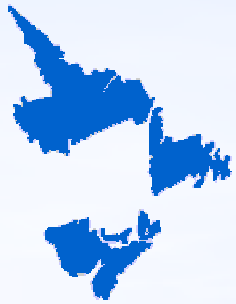


NS/N-E



PEI/I-P-E

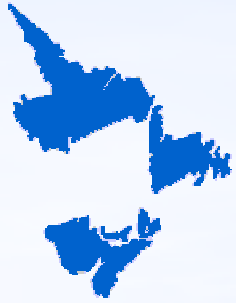




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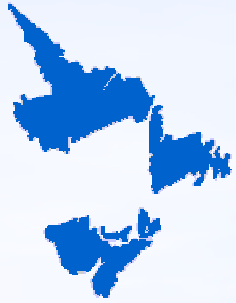
Considering the changing demographics in Atlantic Canada, leading to a population decline, resulting in anticipated major labour shortages, the current and future role of immigrants in Atlantic Canada's economy is an essential component of our repopulation challenges.



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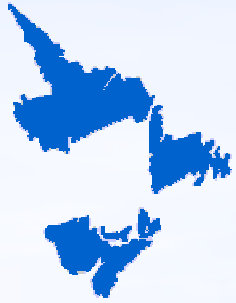
Having an effective International Credential and Competency Assessment and Recognition (ICCAR) service is critical to the integration of immigrants so that they can make the greatest possible contribution to our respective province's economic prosperity.



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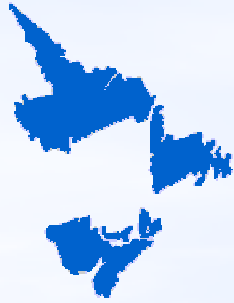
The recognition of credentials and competencies lies under the authority of regulatory bodies, academic institutions, apprenticeships, sector councils and employers, according to each provincial jurisdiction, referred to as the “**End Users**”.



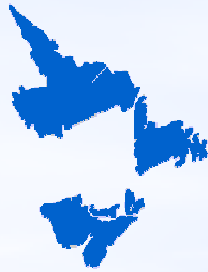
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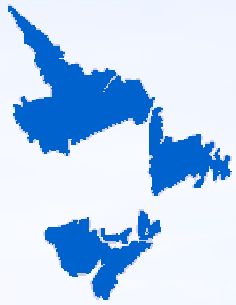
To date, there has been little coordination or transparency for consistency of credential and competency assessment in the Atlantic provinces. Within a province, different organizations may assess the same credentials differently. The Atlantic is the only Canadian region that does not currently have a government mandated Foreign Credential Assessment Service.



Acknowledging that no one province appears to have the resources to engage in this initiative on its own, in June of 2005, the Council of Atlantic Deputy Ministers of Education (CADMET) established a steering committee to look into the possibility of an Atlantic approach for Foreign Credential and Competency Assessment and Recognition (FCCAR).



Based on research in other Canadian regions, consultations and environmental scans, the steering committee assessed, three (3) potential options for an Atlantic approach and it was concluded that a Hybrid model for an Atlantic International Credential and Competency Assessment and Recognition (ICCAR) would be the best approach. A proposal was developed and submitted by CADMET to the Federal Government (HRSDC) for funding in April 2006.



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The purpose of an International Credential and Competency Assessment and Recognition Atlantic approach is to facilitate the recognition of credentials and competencies for the **End Users**, in agreement with the **End Users**, by providing an assessment service that is acknowledged to meet their expectations.



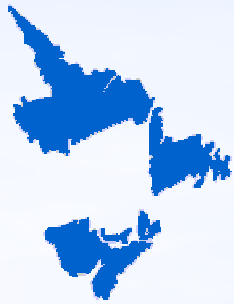
A Participative Model



A participative model will be used in the establishment of an Atlantic approach for ICCAR. The most important good practice of this model is that all stakeholders, including End Users and Immigrant Serving Agencies, will work together with a sense of respective ownership.



This model respects that there are multiple organizations with a vested interest / engagement in or potential to be engaged in foreign credential and prior learning assessment and recognition and related activities. The Atlantic Canada ICCAR approach is wholly based on collaborative partnerships that enable all related stakeholders to play a significant role in establishing a common standard approach and portability in the assessment and recognition of foreign credentials and competencies.



Mission

Atlantic Canada ICCAR Leadership
(Project coordination)

Establish an efficient and effective ICCAR service in
Atlantic Canada through:
Leadership, Collaboration and Shared resources

Collaboration

Government of Canada, Provincial/ Territorial/ Municipal Governments	Business Industry & Labour	Professional and Occupational Regulatory Bodies	Academic Institutions	Settlement Service Providers / NGO/ Community organizations	External Channel Partners
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Incentives
for all
stakeholders

Immigrants

Assessed as
needed

Assessment
Services

Collaborate to develop
standards to ensure
appropriate evaluation tools
and consistent methodologies
and mobility

Recognition by the End-Users

Benefit of Skills in the Canadian Labour Force



PROJECT MISSION, GOAL AND OBJECTIVES



Mission

To provide a coordinated leadership for an efficient and effective service for assessments and recognitions of international credentials and competencies in Atlantic Canada.

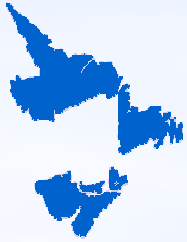


PROJECT MISSION, GOAL AND OBJECTIVES



Goal

Establish a consistent approach and portability in the assessment and recognition of foreign credentials and competencies.



Objectives



- Coordinate an Atlantic ICCAR leadership approach for a collaborative development of assessment standards with all Atlantic Canada stakeholders to ensure consistency and mobility.
- Increase collaboration among “End Users” with respect to each provincial jurisdiction to develop transparent, fair and accurate credential assessment and competency recognition outcomes that are portable across Canada.



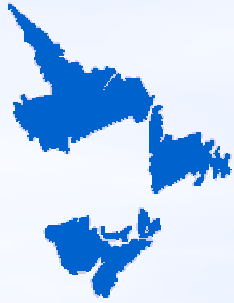


Objectives



- Increased research activities, information sharing and the development of useful tools and methodologies.
- Develop and implement a 3-5 year operational plan to assist immigrants, potential immigrants still overseas, foreign students and Canadian students studying abroad to improve their labour market and academic integration into the Atlantic Provinces.



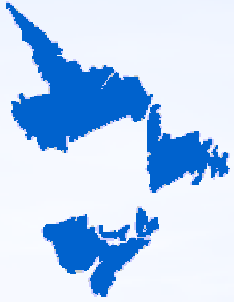


Objectives



- Consult and actively solicit the input of the CICIC, ACESC and other stakeholders throughout the establishment of the centre and participate in the development of national standards for Foreign Credential and Competency assessment and Recognition.





Phase I

Consultation and Research

Consultation

- Establish contacts and develop working relationships in each province (government and various end-users)
- Develop a consultation plan for discussions sessions in every province (to include government and various end-users).

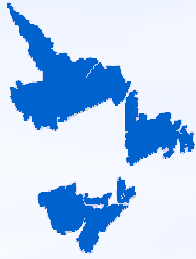




- Conduct consultation sessions in each province.
- Develop a framework identifying the components of an ICCAR centre in preparation of an Atlantic symposium.
- Hold a Symposium on the establishment of an ICCAR centre for Atlantic Canada.



- Prepare a proposed framework and an implementation plan for the establishment of the Atlantic ICCAR centre, including a financial / stakeholder plan for its long-term sustainability.



Research



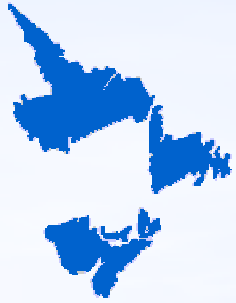
- Identify the priority occupations for each of the Atlantic provinces (based on existing information and additional surveys).
- Compile an inventory of Atlantic End-Users in the identified priority occupations.



Research



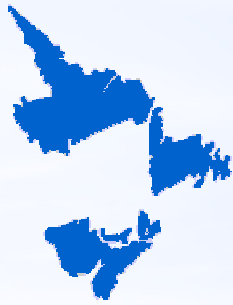
- Compile all existing ICCAR-related information available in Atlantic Canada, across Canada and other countries in cooperation with CICIC, ACESC, CAPLA, Campus Canada and other stakeholders.



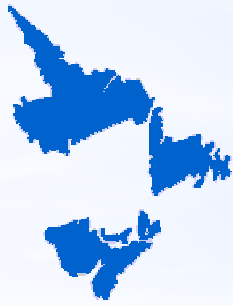
Example of a Step by Step approach



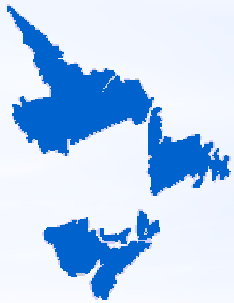
- The client initiates contact through the web site, by calling or by stopping in, and specifies his / her needs.



- If the client is seeking credential recognition, he / she will be provided an explanation of the process and all the appropriate information pertaining to the requirements based on the assessment criteria established in agreement with the End Users in respect to each provincial jurisdiction.



- The Client will complete and submit the required documentation.
- A review and verification of the legitimacy of the documentation provided will be conducted prior to proceeding to the evaluation.



- Once the evaluation is completed the client is provided with a written confirmation to use as a legitimate reference to the End Users.
- If the client is seeking competency recognition, he / she will be provided an explanation of the structure and procedures, including the required documentation and information for a competency assessment in their province of choice.



- Based on the client's chosen province, he / she will be put in contact with the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) service providers.
- Follow ups on clients, End Users and PLA service providers will be conducted to compile data pertaining to the results and for continuous improvement on an on-going basis.
- If a client is seeking information that is not directly related to ICCAR, he / she will be well informed of the appropriate resources available at the Federal, Provincial and Territorial levels.



Co-Promotion of a single window access to ICCAR in Atlantic Canada



- All pertinent information available through a Web site, 1-800 number and brochures.
- The Web site will provide forms to be initially completed and submitted.
- Forms will also be available through fax and regular mail out.



Atlantic Canada ICCAR Service

- ✚ Clients will have the option to access ICCAR services by calling, through its web site or stopping in.
- ✚ Clients from outside the country and the Atlantic Provinces are most likely to access services by calling or through its web site.
- ✚ Clients for the Atlantic Provinces will also mostly be calling or using the web site, but in some cases will prefer presenting themselves in person.
- ✚ Appropriate guidance and adequate information will be provided.



A centralized service is to:

- ✚ Identify Clients needs.
 - ✚ Provide information and refer to appropriate resources for required services other than ICCAR.
 - ✚ Conduct assessments of client's credentials.
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- ✚ Inform clients of the structure and procedures for competency assessment and other integration programs and services provided in each Atlantic Province, based on the client's individual needs.

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Thank You / Merci

*Phil Belanger, Senior Consultant
Immigration and Multiculturalism*