



CICIC.ca/PESC



#Evaluation101

# Assessment and Recognition: A Pan-Canadian Perspective



**Fall 2017 Data Summit**

Toronto, Ontario  
October 26, 2017

Canadian Information Centre  
for International Credentials



cmec

# Outline of presentation



- background information
- assessment and recognition in Canada
- LRC implementation in Canada
- possible next steps

Source: Council of Europe and UNESCO. 1997. [Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region](#) (LRC).

# Background information



- international treaties
- education in Canada
- About CICIC

# International treaties



*UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region (1979)*

- ratified 1990

**Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)**

- signed 1997
- ratification pending

Source: UNESCO. 1979. [\*UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region \(1979\)\*](#).

Council of Europe and UNESCO. 1997. [\*Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region\*](#) (LRC).



# International treaties (cont'd)

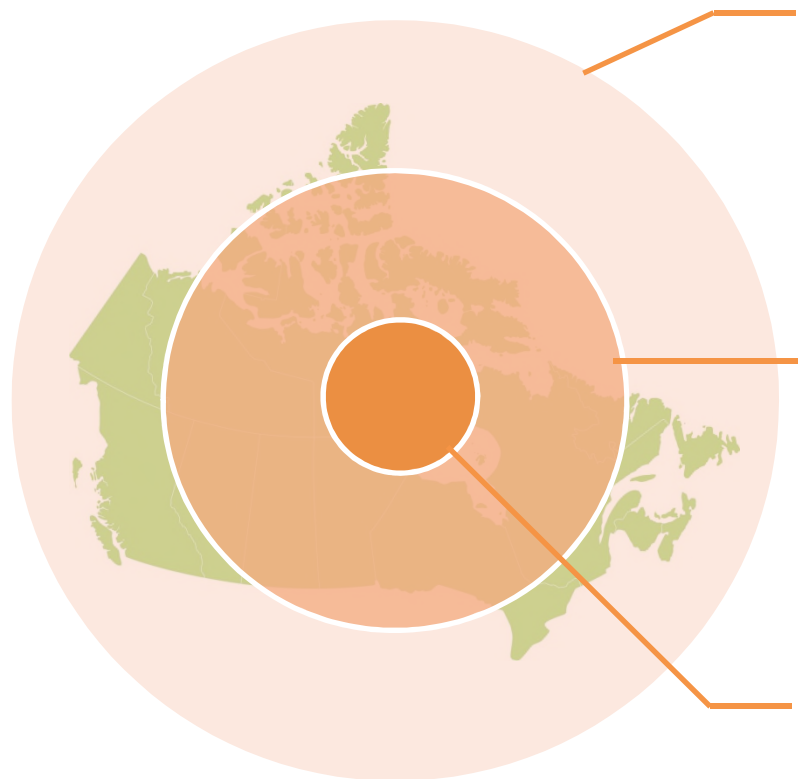


## *Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications*

- 2013 — preliminary feasibility study
- 2015 — preliminary report
- 2017 — first draft of the convention
- 2019 — ready for adoption?

Source: [CICIC's Web site](#).

# Education in Canada



education and the  
Constitution of Canada



21 ministries/departments  
responsible for education  
in Canada



Council of Ministers of  
Education, Canada (CMEC)

# CICIC: Establishment



# CICIC: Mandate

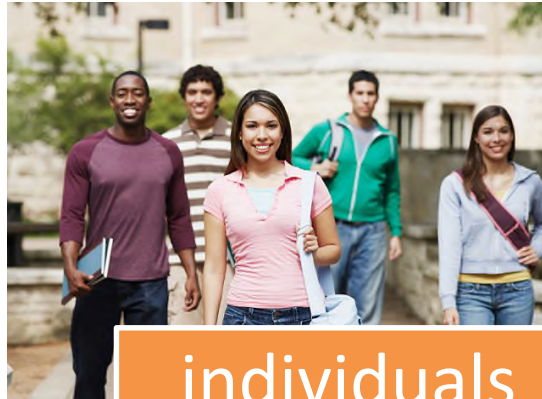


- **information and referral services**
  - assessment and recognition
  - Canada's education systems
  - inbound and outbound mobility
  - develop and manage data sets
- **pan-Canadian and international networks**
- **improve consistency and capacity**
  - develop standards, training, tools, and resources for assessors
- **labour-mobility projects**

Source: [CICIC's Web site](#).



# CICIC: Stakeholders



individuals



assessors



employers



others

# CICIC: Typical inquiries



## newcomers

- What is the comparability of my international academic credential in Canada?

## international students

- Where do I find information on Canada's education systems?

## employers

- Is the applicant's international academic credential legitimate?

## organizations outside Canada

- Was this educational institution from Canada able to issue academic credentials in 1985?

# CICIC: Quick facts (2016)



## CICIC.ca Web site

- 650,000 Web visits
- 2.1 million Web-page visits
- 76% first-time visitors



## Inquiries

- 4,300 by telephone, Web, social media, or in-person
- 9,000 self-generated, tailored on-line reports

Source: CICIC. Between January and December 2016.

# Assessment and recognition in Canada



- documents
- procedures
- purposes
- recognition and assessment bodies
- data hubs and originators of requests



# Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont'd)



## academic credentials

- degree
- diploma
- certificate

## qualifications

- statement of professional standing
- language-test results
- academic credentials

# Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont'd)



## assessment

- authentication of documents
- comparability to Canada

## recognition

- organization decides that applicant's documents meet requirements in Canada

# Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont'd)



## purposes



## immigration

- eligibility for immigration to Canada

## further studies

- gain admission to an educational institution

## employment

- obtain a licence to practise
- job requirement

# Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont'd)



## immigration

- federal and provincial governments

## further studies

- universities
- colleges

## employment

- regulatory authorities and associations
- employers

University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies





# Assessment and recognition in Canada (cont'd)



hub



originator of request



# LRC implementation in Canada



- milestones
- CICIC's information systems
  - individual
  - assessor
  - education
  - mobility

# Milestones





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## ➤ INDIVIDUAL PORTAL

### SETTLE IN CANADA

#### STUDY

Choose Canada

Find an educational institution

Apply to study in Canada

Get financial assistance

Immigrate to Canada

Live in Canada

Work in Canada

#### WORK

Choose Canada

Find the name of your intended occupation in Canada

Learn about qualifications recognition

Find an occupational profile

Immigrate to Canada

Live in Canada

Study in Canada

### SETTLE OUTSIDE CANADA

#### STUDY

Study internationally

Learn about recognition of your academic credentials

Get financial assistance

Emigrate from Canada

Find an offshore schools and international education resources

#### WORK

Work internationally

Find the name of your intended occupation outside Canada

Learn about qualification recognition

Emigrate from Canada

Find international labour-mobility resources

# Individual.CICIC.ca



# Directory of Educational Institutions in Canada



when

- 1990s

where

- Canada — public

who

- assessment services and recognition bodies
- prospective students

why

- confirm the legal status of educational institutions
- list of academic recognition bodies

what

- 4,000 educational institutions in Canada

Source: CICIC. [Directory of Educational Institutions in Canada](#).

# Directory of Educational Institutions in Canada (cont'd)



## Statistics Canada

- Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS)

## International Association of Universities

- World Higher Education Database (WHED) Portal

Source: CICIC. [Directory of Educational Institutions in Canada](#).

Canadian Education Statistics Council (CESC). [Postsecondary Student Information System \(PSIS\)](#).

International Association of Universities (IAU). [World Higher Education Database \(WHED\) Portal](#).

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## ➤ INDIVIDUAL PORTAL

### SETTLE IN CANADA

#### STUDY

- Choose Canada
- Find an educational institution
- Apply to study in Canada
- Get financial assistance
- Immigrate to Canada
- Live in Canada
- Work in Canada

#### WORK

- Choose Canada
- Find the name of your intended occupation in Canada
- Learn about qualifications recognition
- Find an occupational profile
- Immigrate to Canada
- Live in Canada
- Study in Canada

### SETTLE OUTSIDE CANADA

#### STUDY

- Study internationally
- Learn about recognition of your academic credentials
- Get financial assistance
- Emigrate from Canada
- Find onshore schools and international education resources

#### WORK

- Work internationally
- Find the name of your intended occupation outside Canada
- Learn about qualification recognition
- Emigrate from Canada
- Find international labour-mobility resources



# Individual.CICIC.ca



# Directory of Occupational Profiles



when

- 1990s

where

- Canada — public

who

- skilled workers seeking mobility

why

- confirm occupational regulations in Canada
- list of professional recognition bodies

what

- 500 regulated and non-regulated occupations in Canada

Source: CICIC. [Directory of Occupational Profiles](#).



# Directory of Occupational Profiles (cont'd)



## Statistics Canada

- National Occupational Classification (NOC)

Source: Canadian Education Statistics Council (CESC). [Postsecondary Student Information System \(PSIS\)](#).

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## ➤ ASSESSOR PORTAL

### ASSESS AN ACADEMIC CREDENTIAL

#### ISSUED OUTSIDE CANADA

- Receiving documents for assessment
- Confirm the status of the educational institution and/or its academic programs
- Authenticate the documents
- Compare the academic credential to those found in Canada
- Decide on the assessment outcome
- Communicate the result to the applicant

### ACCESS ASSESSMENT RESOURCES

#### USE THE TOOLS

- Quality Assurance Framework
- Alternative qualification-assessment procedure
- Directory of Comparability Assessment Outcomes
- EVALUATION listserv
- Competency Profile
- Terminology Guides

#### DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

- Enrol in Assessment 101
- Seek employment opportunities

# Assessor.CICIC.ca



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# Assessor.CICIC.ca

# Quality Assurance Framework



**when**

- 2012 — periodic reviews

**where**

- Canada — public

**who**

- governance in assessment services and recognition bodies

**why**

- greater consistency of assessment outcomes
- support portability of assessments between organizations

**what**

- 41 guiding principles
- policy tool for organizations

Source: CICIC. 2012. [Pan-Canadian Quality Assurance Framework for the Assessment of International Academic Credentials](#) (QAF).



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# Alternative qualification-assessment procedure



**when**

- **October 2017**

**where**

- **Canada — public**

**who**

- **governance in assessment services and recognition bodies**

**why**

- **to learn from the experience of organizations**
- **to build on their expertise and insights to find solutions**

**what**

- **identification and development of best practices and guidelines in Canada**

Source: CICIC. 2017. [Alternative qualification-assessment procedure](#).



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# Step-by-step guide



## when

- 2017 — periodic reviews

## where

- Canada — public

## who

- academic credential assessors in assessment services and recognition bodies

## why

- practical tool for practitioners, based on QAF

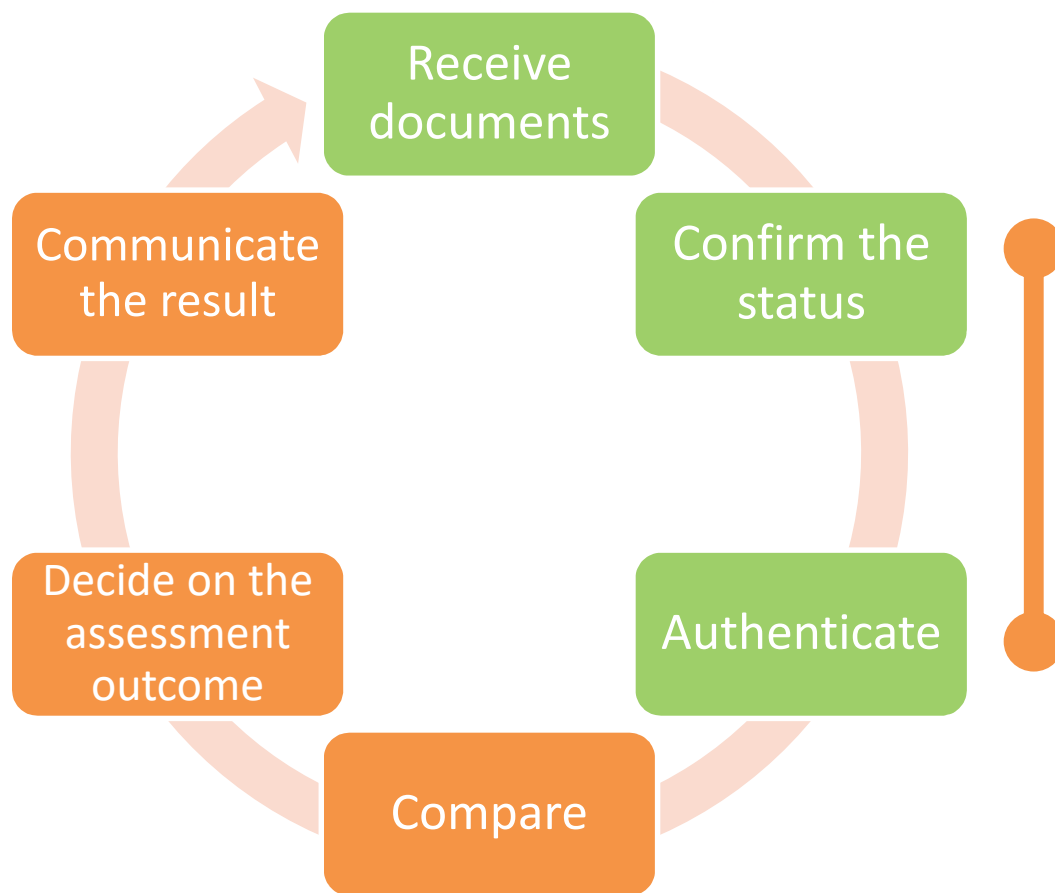
## what

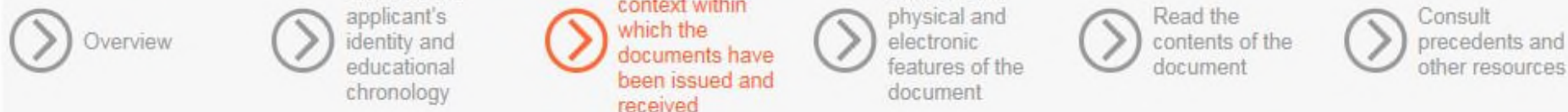
- six-step approach
- suggested procedure with references

Source: CICIC. 2017. [\*Step-by-step guide on how to assess an academic credential issued outside Canada.\*](#)



# Step-by-step guide (cont'd)





Take into account how the documents were issued and transmitted to your organization for processing, as well as the current circumstances of the regional or local education system of the issuing country.

For internal procedures:

- **Assume that the documents are genuine** unless there are strong indications that suggest otherwise;
- **Consider the method used for delivering and receiving authentic documents** in your process. This is explained in the World Education Services' *Best Practices: Strategies and Processes to Obtain Authentic International Educational Credentials* as the "document authenticity continuum";
- **Consider the context of the country and educational institution.** Be mindful of:
  - what is typically expected of all applicants in similar situations;
  - previously reported situations in which fraudulent practices may have been encountered relatively frequently, such as:
    - purchase of documents through bribery;
    - alteration of original documents or forgery.
- **Check for any noticeable inconsistencies**, such as:
  - **physical alteration** and visual elements found on the delivery envelope;
  - delivery service stamp or invoice with the date and postal address;
  - possible **Web spoofing** of the issuing educational institution or competent authority through:
    - its Web URL;
    - its Web-page content; and/or
    - e-mail delivered to your inbox.

In some cases, the educational institution may provide on-line verification services for its graduates. This may facilitate the authentication process for academic credentials issued by its admissions department.

### COMPLY WITH THE PAN-CANADIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS (QAF)

This step complies with **guiding principle 9** of QAF.

Consult **QAF** to get more information.

### CONSULT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

You may find useful information in other resources, such as:

1. EAR Consortium (EP-Nuffic, UK NARIC, ENIC-NARIC France, and ENIC-NARIC Poland). (2012). *European Area of Recognition (EAR) Manual*, chapter 4;



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# Assessor.CICIC.ca

# Competency profile



when

- 2012

where

- Canada — public

who

- governance in assessment services and recognition bodies

why

- improve HR policies and practices
- increase the professionalism of the workforce

what

- 27 key competencies
- 11 key attitudes and values

Source: CICIC. 2012. [Competency Profile for an Academic Credential Assessor](#).



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# Terminology guide



## when

- 2003, 1996, 2011

## where

- Canada — public

## who

- assessment services and recognition bodies
- internationally educated individuals

## why

- facilitate communication with subject-matter experts
- assist individuals

## what

- primary reference source
- 400 terms (English and French)

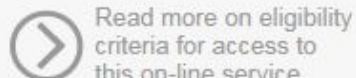
Source: CICIC. 2011. [\*English Terminology Guide to Academic Credential Assessment in Canada\*](#).



## Login



PRINT A+ A-



Access CICIC's tool box by entering your log-in information below.



e-mail

password

LOG-IN

[need help?](#)

### WHAT IS CICIC'S TOOL BOX?

The tool box allows you to **add or update basic information** about:

- your organization;
- a specific contact person.

For **registered members of the pan-Canadian community of academic credential assessors**, it also offers:

- **various tools** to support the assessment and recognition process;
- a **discussion platform** for exchanges among experts in the field.

Initially, users must submit a **registration request**. Once registered, users will be able to access the tool box.

Get **more information about CICIC's tool box** to learn about its content, eligibility criteria, and how to register.

# CICIC's tool box



**when**

- 2017

**where**

- Canada — password-protected area

**who**

- 300 academic credential assessors in assessment services and recognition bodies

**why**

- support organizations and their staff in managing sensitive information

**what**

- on-line hub for the pan-Canadian community

Source: CICIC. [CICIC's tool box](#).



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# Assessor.CICIC.ca

# EVALUATION listserv



**when**

- 2014

**where**

- Canada — password-protected area

**who**

- 300 academic credential assessors in assessment services and recognition bodies

**why**

- encourage collaboration and sharing of information by practitioners

**what**

- get assistance with challenging cases
- networking tool for a solitary job

Source: CICIC. [EVALUATION listserv](#).



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## ➤ ASSESSOR PORTAL

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# Assessor.CICIC.ca



# Directory of outcomes



**when**

- 2017

**where**

- Canada — password-protected area

**who**

- 300 academic credential assessors in assessment services and recognition bodies

**why**

- encourage consistency of assessment outcomes

**what**

- recommended outcome for 360 academic credentials from 12 countries

Source: CICIC. 2017. [Directory of Comparability Assessment Outcomes](#).

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## ➤ EDUCATION PORTAL

### EDUCATION IN CANADA

#### PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES OF CANADA

Alberta  
British Columbia  
Manitoba  
New Brunswick  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Northwest Territories  
Nova Scotia  
Nunavut  
Ontario  
Prince Edward Island  
Quebec  
Saskatchewan  
Yukon

#### AN OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION IN CANADA

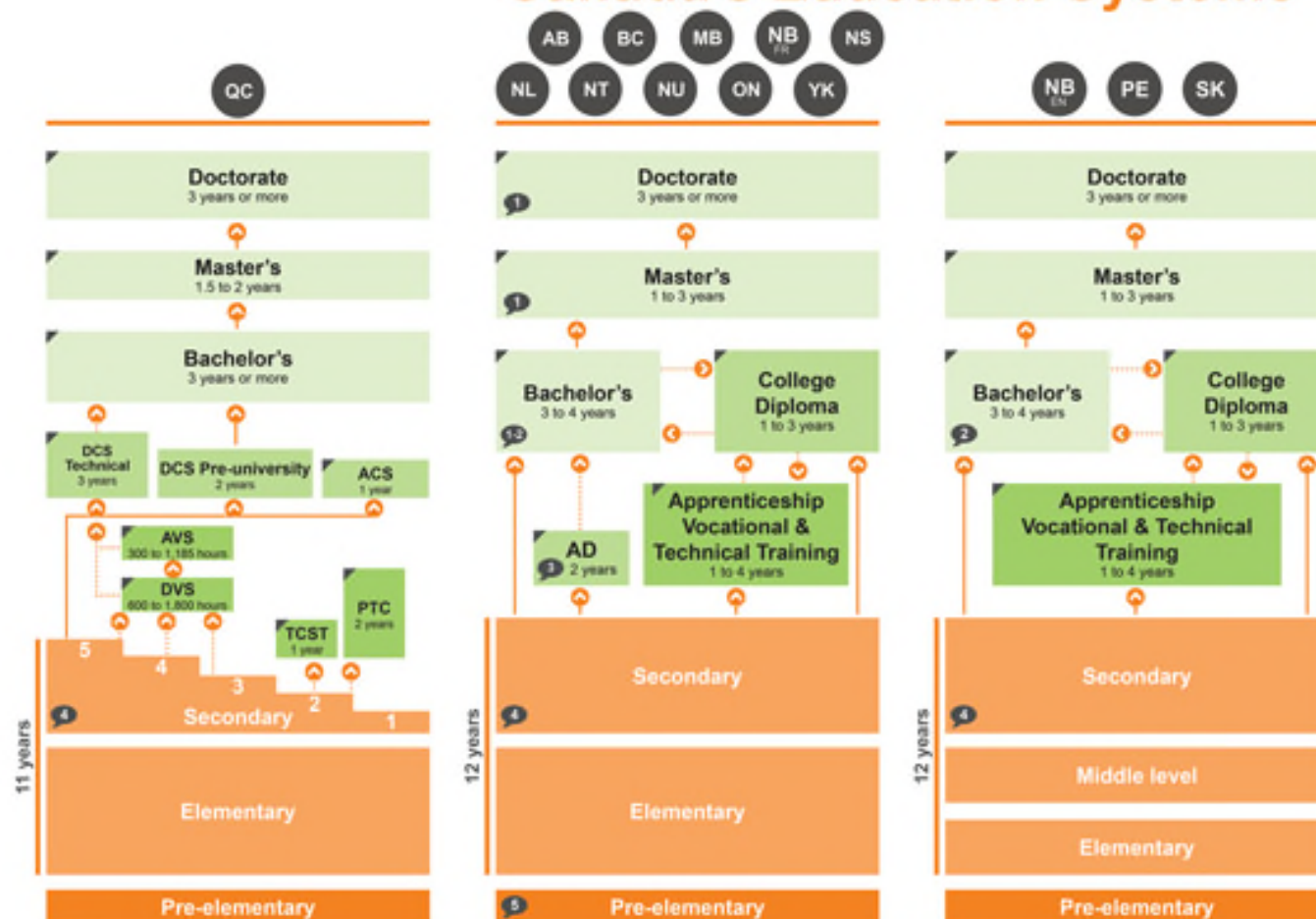
Ministries/departments responsible for education in Canada  
  
Elementary and secondary education systems  
  
Postsecondary education systems  
  
Quality assurance in postsecondary education  
  
Credit transfer and articulation  
  
Qualifications frameworks  
  
Academic credentials  
  
EduCanada



# Education.CICIC.ca



# Canada's Education Systems



## Notes

- Colleges and universities may offer certificate programs of variable length.
- Continuing adult education programs, while not shown on this diagram, may be offered at various levels of instruction.

## Legend

- university education
- college education
- apprenticeship - vocational and technical training
- to the job market
- typical pathway
- alternate pathway

- The right to deliver university-level programs and grant prescribed university degrees and applied bachelor's degrees has been granted to public colleges in Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon through legislation. However, some degree programs delivered are currently offered through partnerships with educational institutions in other Canadian jurisdictions.
- Select colleges and/or institutes in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan also have some degree-granting authority. In British Columbia, all bachelor's degrees are four years in duration.
- Associate degrees (ADs) are offered only in British Columbia. AD holders obtain two years of transfer credit toward a four-year bachelor's degree.
- In all jurisdictions, a secondary-school diploma is issued upon successful completion of the secondary-school curriculum.
- In Nova Scotia, the elementary system consists of seven years, including Grade Primary, followed by Grades 1 to 6.

PTC Pre-work Training Certificate  
 TCST Training Certificate for a Semi-skilled Trade  
 DVS Diploma of Vocational Studies  
 AVS Attestation of Vocational Specialization  
 ACS Attestation of College Studies  
 DCS Diploma of College Studies  
 AD Associate Degree



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## ➤ MOBILITY PORTAL

### INBOUND AND OUTBOUND MOBILITY TO/FROM CANADA

#### AN OVERVIEW

Alliance of Credential Evaluation  
Services of Canada

The Lisbon Recognition  
Convention

Other international agreements



# Mobility.CICIC.ca

# Possible next steps



## legal pathways

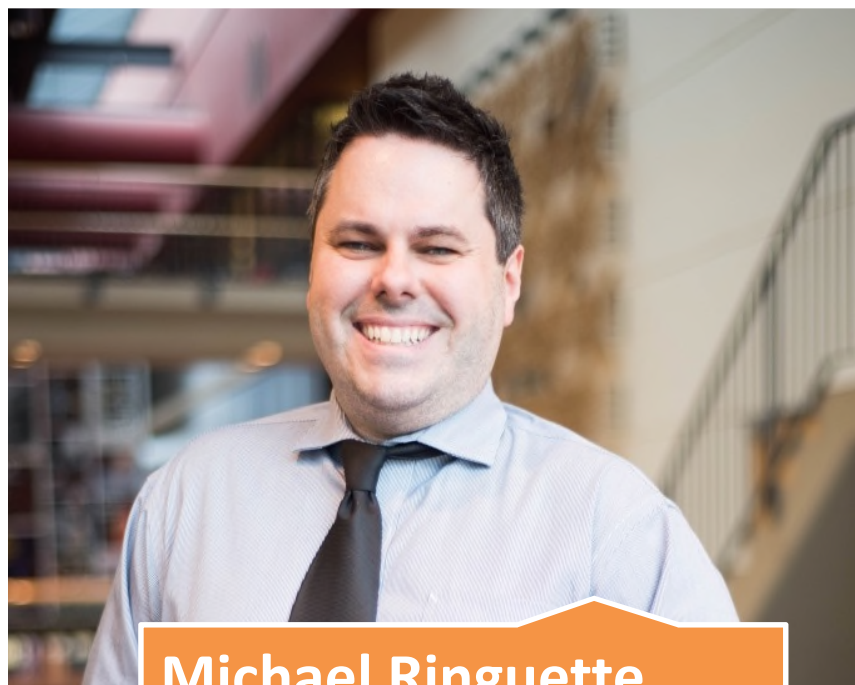
- international treaties
- provincial and territorial legal frameworks

## best practices' pathway

- improve standards, tools, and resources
- endorsement
- facilitate dialogue



# Ask us.



**Michael Ringuette**

- CICIC Coordinator



**Nathanaël Poli**

- CICIC Digital Communications Officer





# Connecting the dots between mobility and credential recognition

